

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
February 3, 2011

Voting Members: Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt. for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe) – phone, Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Public Transportation Branch), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Tom Tasselli – alt. for Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Bill Sherrill – alt. for Ralph Messera (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), John Rose (CATS), Richard Hancock (NCDOT-Div. 10), Trisha Henry (NCDOT-Dist. 3), Justin Carroll (Huntersville), Crissy Huffstickler (C-M Planning)

Guests: Carroll Gray (LNTC), Angela Schlottman (Centralina COG), Christy Shumate (NCTA) – phone, Todd Steiss (PB)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:10 AM.

1. Consideration of January Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes needed to the January minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Coxe asked for a motion. Mr. Tasselli moved to approve the January minutes. Ms. Blackburn seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. JARC Project Selection

Presenter: Angela Schlottman, Centralina COG

Summary/Action Requested:

Ms. Schlottman noted that there had previously been two calls for projects to submit applications for JARC and New Freedom grant funds, and that there was still approximately \$130K of JARC funding available so CATS subcontracted with Centralina COG to facilitate a third call for projects. There was a one week turnaround for applications to be submitted and two applications were received – one from CATS and one from Aminah Ministries. Ms. Schlottman indicated that the application from Aminah Ministries was incomplete so the selection committee chose to award the CATS project – which is an extension of the existing Gold Rush Red Line – with the remaining JARC funds. Mr. Coxe suggested that an outreach opportunity prior to the next round of JARC and New Freedom funding to provide potential applicants with information about the programs and the application process would be useful.

Motion:

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to approve the JARC application submitted by CATS, as recommended by the selection committee. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. CMAQ Follow Up

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Polimeni stated that this item was on the January TCC agenda, and at that time it was recommended that further discussion take place at a transportation staff meeting. He noted that the item was discussed at the January 19 staff meeting, and outlined the results of that meeting. Finally, he suggested that based on the discussions and input regarding the CMAQ process to date, the only action before the TCC is to recommend that the MPO endorse clarifications to the CMAQ criteria and not open the CMAQ criteria for discussion at this time. Mr. Steinman stated that he would like to see more points assigned to the Pollutant Reduction category in the criteria, that innovation should be considered in the criteria, that a list of project nominations be submitted long before the next CMAQ call for projects, and that a panel of outside experts provide the emission reduction calculations for all applications submitted. Mr. Polimeni responded that these issues were discussed at the transportation staff meeting on January 19, except the issue of providing a list of project nominations before the next CMAQ call for projects. He stated that those represented at the staff meeting, including several CMAQ subcommittee members, believed the point structure to be sound, that innovation is difficult to evaluate so should not be included and that involving a panel of outside experts to provide calculations would be time consuming and costly and was not recommended. Ms. Rhodes added that members of the LUESA air quality staff not involved with the TCC are asked to review the applications for correctness and are available to help make calculations for all applicants, if requested. Mr. Coxe suggested that the criteria could be looked at in the future, if necessary, but for the time being asked if the TCC was comfortable making a recommendation to the MPO to endorse the clarifications.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO endorse the proposed clarifications to the CMAQ ranking criteria as presented. Ms. Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with 14 votes in favor and two votes opposed.

4. CATS 2009-2015 TIP Amendment

Presenter: David McDonald, CATS

Summary/FYI:

Mr. McDonald informed the TCC about an amendment regarding TIP project number U-5210, described in the TIP as "Flex STP funding to CATS" to be used for a capital project – replacement of the fuel tank farm at the N. Davidson Street bus garage – as agreed upon previously by the TCC and MPO, to be included in the 2012-2018 TIP. The funds are designated for fiscal year 2011, so an amendment to the current 2009-2015 TIP will be required also. Mr. McDonald indicated that the TCC will be asked to take action on the amendment at its March meeting.

5. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook informed the TCC that the MPO, at its January meeting, endorsed the project list as recommended by the TCC with the exception of the Rea Road project. He stated that the MPO received information at its meeting that compelled it to extend the decision on the Rea Road project for 60 days (to the March MPO meeting). Mr. Coxe asked if the TCC would receive information prior to its March meeting, and Mr. Moose

stated that those involved with the project are aware of the sensitivity of the deadline and will be providing information as soon as possible. Mr. Cook also noted that the MPO will have a special meeting in April to release the documents related to air quality conformity for public comment. He also announced that the public meeting for the Streetcar TIP amendment is scheduled for February 16. He then stated that Barry Moose, with NCDOT's Division 10 had an announcement related to the draft TIP.

Mr. Moose stated that funding had become available to advance the proposed I-77 HOT lanes project, and also allow other I-77 projects currently in the TIP to be included as part of the HOT lanes project. He apologized for the short notice, but indicated that he just became aware of this possibility and wants the input of the TCC before he proceeds. The proposal, as well as comments and questions regarding the proposal are summarized as follows:

- Use funds currently programmed in the outer years of the TIP to widen I-77 to four lanes in each direction, including conversion of a HOV lane to a HOT lane, to exit 28
 - Incorporate TIP project I-3311E to widen substandard lanes on I-77 to the proper width, as part of this project
- Total project cost would be about \$100 million
- One concern relates to a Feasibility Study that was completed regarding the HOT lane and whether the demand for the HOT lane would be as high with this proposed concept; one solution is to build the infrastructure for eight lanes, but only open six lanes until the demand is there
- The NCTA will help with the environmental review for the I-77 project(s)
- The funding for the project could be moved to fiscal year 2014, with construction possibly beginning in October 2013
- Ms. Blackburn asked how the environmental review could be expedited as part of this proposal, and stated concerns about the proposed project stopping at Exit 28 which will impact traffic at the causeway across Lake Norman
 - Mr. Moose responded that a consultant has already been procured for project I-4750, which would help speed up the process, but that the scope for the project could change
 - He also stated that including the causeway across Lake Norman as part of the environmental review for this proposal would affect the timeline, and that a bottleneck is inevitable regardless of where the proposed project stops
- Mr. Steinman suggested that if new funds are available, perhaps other projects should be considered for funding – such as Independence Blvd
 - Mr. Moose responded that most of the funding for the I-77 proposal is existing money programmed in the TIP for future year I-77 projects, and that those funds would be shifted to accelerate the proposed project – about \$30 million of the total cost are new funds
- Mr. McDonald asked if overspending now would impact the region's ability to fund future year projects
 - Mr. Moose indicated that he did not envision that happening unless there were some unforeseen budget impacts
- Mr. Langen asked if discussions led to a determination of no HOT lanes being included in the I-77 project, would that free up funds
 - Mr. Moose stated that it was possible that about \$30 million in equity funds could be available, but that he has other priorities in his division that he would have to consider for application of those funds
- Mr. Coxe concluded the discussion by stating that he would like to have a subcommittee meet to discuss the proposal presented and report back to the TCC prior to a final decision on the matter – the following people were identified to participate on the subcommittee: David McDonald, Norm Steinman, Lauren Blackburn, a Cornelius representative, a MUMPO staff representative, Jack Flaherty and Bill Coxe. Mr. Moose would also be included in the meeting.

Mr. Moose also stated that TIP project R-4902, to widen the south leg of I-485 from I-77 to US 521 to six lanes, could be advanced too. Mr. Cook added that changes to the timeline of project R-4902 and Airport Road (which will now be a city funded project) would require amendments to the LRTP. It was also noted that modeling will be a concern regarding the timeline of the TIP.

6. Draft 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook provided an update regarding the draft 2012 UPWP, stating that no information has yet been provided by FHWA regarding the amount of funds to be allocated. He provided a spreadsheet that included information about Planning (PL) fund local project allotments from previous fiscal years. Ms. Helms provided an update on the Union County projects proposed for UPWP funding. She stated that those involved are leaning toward the Highway 74 revitalization project, and if it is feasible, breaking the project into two phases. Ms. Helms noted that discussions with local boards in Union County had begun and that the scope of the project would be discussed at a February transportation staff meeting. Ms. Stiwinter indicated that Monroe's Board supports the project.

7. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker was not present at the meeting, so no update was provided.

8. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.