

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

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**Voting Members:** Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), David McDonald (CATS), Richard Hancock – alt for Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Public Transportation Branch), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordon Cook (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County)

**Staff:** Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Matt Magnasco (CDOT), John Mrzygod (Charlotte E&PM), Tonia Wimberly (Charlotte E&PM), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT-Div. 10), Zachary Gordon (Huntersville), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Tom Tasselli (Cornelius), Crissy Huffstickler (C-M Planning), Loretta Barren (FHWA) – phone,

**Guests:** Christy Shumate (NCTA) – phone, Todd Steiss (PB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Padam Singh (HNTB), Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), John Townsend (Davenport Transportation)

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Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Mr. Coxe opened the meeting and stated that two items have been requested to be added to the agenda: 1) The Town of Weddington would like to propose an amendment to the 2009-2015 TIP and 2) The Town of Indian Trail would like to propose an amendment to the FY 11 UPWP. Mr. Coxe suggested that the TIP amendment request be taken as part of item 3 on the agenda, and that the UPWP amendment be taken as part of item 9 on the agenda. He asked if the TCC was amenable to adding the two items, to which the TCC consented.

**1. Consideration of February Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes needed to the February minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Coxe noted the following changes, all under item 5 of the February TCC minutes (Draft Transportation Improvement Program):

- Under the first bullet point, change “eight lanes” to “four lanes”
- The second sub-bullet under the first bullet point is redundant and should be addressed under the first bullet point
- The wording under the first sub-bullet of the bullet point regarding Ms. Blackburn’s comments should be modified to state that a consultant has been procured specifically for project I-4750

Mr. Messera moved to approve the February minutes with the above noted corrections. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Charlotte Streetcar Project**

**Presenter:** Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook noted that the public comment period was extended to Monday, February 28 due to a problem with MUMPO's website. He also pointed out that information regarding the City of Charlotte paying the \$12 million matching funds for the project was added to the website. Mr. Cook stated that approximately 40 comments were received and that nine people attended the public meeting on February 16.

Mr. Coxe noted that there was a lot of similarity among the public comments, and that he would like a few items from the comments to be addressed:

- The funds take away the potential for other projects to be funded
  - Mr. McDonald, of CATS, responded that the funds were awarded as part of a Circulator Grant and that those particular funds can only be applied to a streetcar-type project;
- These funds complete a small segment of a larger streetcar project. In the long term, is there a plan to complete the project?
  - Mr. McDonald stated that the remainder of the streetcar project is in 2035 Horizon year of the LRTP, which was adopted by the MPO;
- These funds pay for construction of the project, what about operating and maintenance costs?
  - Mr. McDonald replied that operating and maintenance costs for the streetcar project will be included in the City of Charlotte's budget, and has been acknowledged as such by both the Charlotte City Council and the City Manager.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO take the following action:

- Amend the 2009-2015 TIP to place project funding for the 1.5 mile segment of the Charlotte Streetcar in FY 2011;
- Amend the 2035 LRTP to place the 1.5 mile segment of the Charlotte Streetcar in the 2015 Horizon Year; and
- Make a conformity determination on the amended 2009-2015 TIP and amended 2035 LRTP.

Mr. Messera seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. CATS 2009-2015 TIP Amendment**

Presenter: David McDonald, CATS

Summary/Action Requested:

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 – the replacement of the fuel tank farm at the N. Davidson Street bus garage. He stated that the \$1.5 million of funds is currently included in the 2012-2018 TIP, as agreed upon previously by the TCC and MPO, but the project is ahead of schedule and the funds are needed in fiscal year 2011 so an amendment to the current 2009-2015 TIP is required, which is what is being requested of the TCC and MPO. He also noted that a correction to the funding structure is necessary due to the fact that the city will contribute a 20 percent local match instead of the 10 percent local match and 10 percent state match identified in the resolution. Mr. McDonald stated that the resolution would be amended to reflect that change prior to the MPO meeting in March.

Motion:

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the proposed 2009-2015 TIP amendment as presented. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3A. Weddington 2009-2015 TIP Amendment**

Presenter: Richard Hancock, NCDOT Div. 10

#### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Hancock stated that NCDOT has been working with the Town of Weddington on improvements to access along the NC 16 corridor (TIP #U-2510A). As a result of that process, the town and the DOT have identified two projects they would like to construct – 1) Relocate the intersection of NC 16 and Weddington Church Rd so the road will no longer bisect the school and the church at that location, and 2) Construct a roundabout with dual lanes on Weddington-Matthews Rd where it intersects with NC 84. Mr. Hancock noted that a new TIP number will be needed instead of including the project with the current Hwy 16 TIP project (U-2510A). He stated that approximately \$1.3 million is currently programmed in the TIP for these improvements. Mr. Pleasant asked if action is necessary now. Mr. Coxe stated that he is uncomfortable taking action at this time. Mr. Hancock and Mr. Jordan Cook agreed that a recommendation from the TCC could be made at its April meeting.

### **4. ARRA Rail Improvements**

Presenter: Robert Cook

#### Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook noted that a grant for approximately \$8 billion was awarded to the state of North Carolina in 2009 to be applied to various rail projects throughout the state, including several in the Charlotte area. He noted that Congress recently discussed rescinding the funds and stated that this would be a good time for MUMPO to voice its opinion. Mr. Messera noted the importance of the rail projects, and emphasized his support for the funding. Mr. Coxe noted that adopting a resolution regarding the ARRA Rail Improvements would put the MPO in the arena of political decision making. Mr. Steinman suggested specifically including I-85 relief in the resolution, which was agreed upon by other TCC members.

#### Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt a resolution of continued support for high speed rail, with the inclusion of relief to I-85. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

#### **a. Draft TIP Status Update and Timeline**

Presenter: Robert Cook

#### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that the timeline for adopting the TIP was still on track and that the TCC would be asked to recommend release of the TIP-related documents for public review in April. He also stated that the MPO would be asked at its March meeting to add special meetings to its schedule for April and June, to ensure approval of the TIP stays on schedule. He then stated that specific issues regarding the TIP needed to be discussed and asked Mr. Coxe to start by discussing the I-77 HOT Lanes project.

#### **b. I-77 Widening and HOT Lanes Conversion**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe summarized a proposal made by NCDOT at the February TCC meeting to 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, as well as the incorporation of TIP project I-3311E to widen substandard lanes on I-77 to the proper width, as part of this project. He also noted that several discussions had taken place since the February TCC meeting regarding this project. Mr. Cook noted that Mr. Moose, of NCDOT Division 10, suggested dividing the project into an A and B segment – A) The original project proposal, and B) The February TCC proposal as planning and design only. A discussion by the TCC resulted in the following:

- There is support for the originally proposed HOT lane project to Catawba Ave, which would be placed in the 2015 horizon year of the LRTP and the appropriate funding year in the TIP;
- There is no support for adding a general purpose lane to this project due to the anticipated adverse impact on the success of the HOT lane;
- There is support for extending the HOT lanes across the causeways (without widening the causeways) to the 6 lane section in Iredell County – the TCC endorsed placing this project in the 2025 horizon year.

Following the I-77 discussion, Mr. Cook noted these other changes to the TIP project list:

- I-485 widening from I-77 to Johnston Rd was accelerated from FY15 to FY13 which will require amendments to the TIP and LRTP;
- Highway 27 improvements from Edgewood Rd to Toddville Rd will be funded by the City of Charlotte but needs to be included in the TIP because it is classified as regionally significant;
- Airport Entrance Rd will be built by the Charlotte-Douglas Airport, but also needs to be in the TIP because it is classified as regionally significant as well;
- The City of Charlotte has requested that CMAQ funds for the Harburn Forest project be shifted from FY13 to FY14 – no CMAQ funds will be lost due to this change.

Mr. Cook then stated that no decision had been made regarding the Rea Rd Extension project due to the fact that the MPO, at its January meeting, agreed to allow 60 days for the town and the property owner to work on a resolution. Jordan Cook, representing the Town of Weddington, stated that a letter from the property owner was received stating that he would donate the land if sewer capacity is allocated, and that the Union County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet March 7 to vote on this issue. Mr. Coxe noted that \$2.3 million is allocated for the project in the TIP, and Mr. Hancock, of NCDOT Division 10, stated that a cost estimate had been done for the proposed Rea Rd project that priced it at approximately \$7 million for a two-lane cross section. The TCC did not feel comfortable making a recommendation to the MPO based on the information provided.

### **c. Prosperity Church Rd/I-485 Interchange**

Presenter: Matt Magnasco, CDOT

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Magnasco provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He summarized a request to shift STP-DA funds from the realignment of Little Rock Rd in Charlotte (TIP project U-5116) to the northwest arc of the Prosperity Church Rd interchange for the following reasons:

- Little Rock Rd is far enough along that using the DA funds would actually delay the project – the City of Charlotte is going to fund the project instead;
- Due to the acceleration of completing the I-485 loop, analysis of the Prosperity Church Rd interchange indicates that the northwest arc will have the highest traffic volume and must be completed prior to I-485 opening in order to ensure that traffic flows properly

- \$4.8 million is requested to be shifted from Little Rock Rd (FY15) to Prosperity Church northwest arc (FY13)
- The LRTP would also need to be amended to include the Prosperity Church project in the 2015 Horizon Year.

Mr. Coxe emphasized that DA dollars are federal funds, not a particular municipality's funds and that the TCC and MPO need to decide if this is the best use for the money. Ms. Helms asked if swapping DA funds had been done before by MUMPO and several examples were cited that it had been done before. It was suggested that this item be discussed at a transportation staff meeting prior to the March MPO meeting.

## **6. 601 South Connector Project**

Presenter: Jim Loyd, City of Monroe

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Loyd stated that the City of Monroe hired a consultant to look at potential alignments for US 601 and introduced John Townsend to describe the possible alternatives. Mr. Townsend presented four possible alignments. He noted that alignments 1-3 were about the same cost but that alignment four would be significantly higher in cost due to restricted access and wider cross sections, along with grade separations. Mr. Coxe asked if any takings would be necessary. Mr. Townsend responded that alignment four would have significant right-of-way impacts but that alignments 1-3 were mostly rural. Ms. Helms noted that alignment one could impact an elementary school and that alignment three goes through park land. Mr. Coxe suggested that the item be discussed at a Wednesday staff meeting prior to the item coming back before the TCC at its May meeting.

## **7. Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model Update**

Presenter: Anna Gallup, CDOT

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Gallup noted that UPWP funds had been previously allocated for modeling work. She stated that those funds have been applied to various tasks, including the following:

- The purchase of travel time data;
- Freight data is scheduled to be purchased this fiscal year, with help from NCDOT;
- The execution of a contract for a Household Travel Survey is in progress and will go before the Charlotte City Council on March 28 for approval;
- Vehicle classification counts are being done by NCDOT; and
- Work on regional counts will begin in early 2012.

## **8. Bicycle and Pedestrian Prioritization Process**

Presenter: Lauren Blackburn, Town of Davidson

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Blackburn provided a summary of the progress of the bicycle and pedestrian ranking subcommittee and distributed preliminary criteria to the TCC to review. She stated that the next step will be to schedule the item for a Wednesday staff meeting to receive input and present the item for information at the March TCC meeting. The item will be on a future TCC and MPO agenda for approval of the criteria.

**9. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that there is no new information from FHWA to report regarding the status of FY 2012 UPWP funding. He noted some significant allocation request changes, and specifically asked Union County to report any updates on its project requests. Ms. Helms stated that the Union County Board would address the proposed project request(s) at its March 7 meeting, and she would have more information based on the outcome of that meeting. She also noted that some estimates have been received, and that they came in under bid.

**9A. FY 11 UPWP Amendment Request**

Presenter: Adam McLamb, Town of Indian Trail

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. McLamb stated that the Town of Indian Trail would like to request a change of use of the \$25,000 allocation of FY 2011 UPWP funds. Instead of using the funds for a joint local transportation plan previously planned with the towns of Matthews and Stallings, the Town of Indian Trail would like to use the funds for an intersection analysis, including looking at multi-modal options at intersections. He stated that the town would provide the match and that he does not foresee a problem with the town spending the funds in FY 2011, as required. Mr. Coxe asked if the towns of Matthews and Stallings would still be able to complete the local transportation plan without the participation of Indian Trail. Both towns indicated they would proceed with the project and Mr. Messera, of Matthews, indicated he did not have a problem taking action on the item.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO amend the FY 2011 UPWP to change the use of the \$25,000 allocated to Indian Trail from a joint local area transportation plan with the towns of Matthews and Stallings to an intersection analysis project in the Town of Indian Trail. Ms. Helms seconded the motion. Upon being put a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker stated that a meeting was scheduled for the following week with representatives from NCDOT to discuss Complete Streets and how it relates to the CTP.

**11. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.