

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Uptown Conference Room
April 7, 2011

Voting Members: Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Jim Loyd – alt for Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA – Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), 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), Jordon Cook (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT-Div. 10), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Tom Tasselli (Cornelius), Justin Carroll (Huntersville), Doug Britt (Monroe), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Crissy Huffstickler (C-M Planning)

Guests: Lynda Paxton (MPO Vice-chair), Todd Steiss (PB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

1. Consideration of March Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes needed to the March minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Coxe called for the vote. The March minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Coxe then asked the TCC if it would like to add an item to the agenda regarding legislation to cap the North Carolina Gas Tax. Mr. Messera made a motion to add the Gas Tax Cap as item number eight on the agenda. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to add the item.

2. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook noted that an amendment to the 2009-2015 TIP was endorsed by the MPO at its March meeting to fund two projects in Weddington, based on a recommendation from NCDOT. He then stated that the TCC is being asked to recommend to the MPO that it approve and release for public comment the draft 2012-2018 TIP, the draft 2035 LRTP amendment report and the draft air quality conformity determination report at a special meeting on April 27. Mr. Cook noted that the public comment period will last for 30 days and two public meetings have been scheduled during the 30 day comment period – one on May 16 in Indian Trail and one on May 18 in Charlotte. The following specific TIP changes were then discussed:

a. Rea Road

Mr. Cook noted that the project was not endorsed by the MPO at its March meeting, but that it was determined that it be presented at the TCC meeting for a recommendation back to the MPO. He also stated

that a proposed motion had been prepared. Mr. Moose wondered how the language in the motion would be communicated to NCDOT and suggested that the project be listed in the TIP as participation by others to reflect the donation of right-of-way.

TCC Recommendation:

Mr. McDonald, modifying the language that was prepared prior to the meeting, made a motion to recommend that the MPO include TIP project U-3467 (Rea Road Extension) in fiscal year 2016 of the 2012-2018 TIP and in the 2025 horizon year of the LRTP as a two-lane roadway on a four-lane cross section from NC 16 to NC 84 (sections A and B) with significant right-of-way participation by others, including the following three provisions:

- 1) An environmental study begin as soon as possible;
- 2) The Town of Weddington not approve any further subdivision activity (especially final record plats) until a corridor is defined through the required environmental study;
- 3) All parties recognize that any landowner who has proffered right-of-way must be offered fair market value for that land and must decline that offer in accordance with federal and state laws.

Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed with one vote, from the Town of Stallings, in opposition.

b. I-77 Widening and HOT Lanes Conversion

Mr. Cook summarized the proposed new TIP project that was endorsed by the TCC and MPO at their March meetings to widen I-77 to three lanes in each direction, including conversion of a HOV lane to a HOT lane, to exit 28. Ms. Blackburn inquired about the progress of the environmental document for TIP project I-4750, to widen I-77 from NC 73 to I-40 in Statesville. Mr. Moose responded by stating that a consultant was hired to look at different concepts in which private dollars could possibly be included to help broaden the scope of the project, but that more information would not be available for some time. He also noted that he would keep the TCC updated on the status of the project.

Following the I-77 discussion, Mr. Coxe asked Mr. Gibbs to make an announcement. Mr. Gibbs announced that a Congestion Pricing workshop would be held in Charlotte on April 20 and that spots were still available if anyone is interested in attending.

c. Old Monroe Road

Mr. Cook discussed the desire of the towns of Indian Trail and Stallings to shift funds from two existing projects in each respective town (Indian Trail Road widening – TIP #U-3809, and Stallings Road widening – TIP #U-3825) to Old Monroe Road improvements, which both towns view as a higher priority. He noted that NCDOT encourages moving the funds at this time, as opposed to moving them after the TIP is approved. Mr. Moose stated that the Old Monroe Road project is the 2nd highest sub-regional mobility project in the state, making it a very high priority for NCDOT to complete. He also stated that NCDOT would pay the match and that Section B of the project should be funded first, but that an environmental document would be prepared that encompasses all three sections of the project (sections A, B & C). Mr. Cook added that the Indian Trail Road and Stallings Road projects would be removed from the LRTP.

TCC Recommendation:

Mr. McLamb made a motion to recommend that the MPO transfer the funds from Indian Trail Road (TIP project U-3809) and Stallings Road (TIP project U-3825) to the Old Monroe Road project with funding programmed in FY 2017, and that the LRTP be updated to include the project in the 2025 HY. Ms. Martel seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

d. Prosperity Church Northwest Arc

Mr. Cook stated that at its March meeting the MPO endorsed shifting STP-DA funds from Little Rock Road to the Prosperity Church Northwest Arc to help with the completion of the I-485 interchange at that location.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO release for public review the following TIP-related documents:

- 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Program
- 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan amendments
- Conformity Determination Report

Mr. Tasselli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. MUMPO Conformity Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Presenter: Eldewins Haynes, CDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Haynes provided a brief description of the MOA and its purpose, emphasizing the fact that the MPO had previously approved a similar MOA in 2003 and this is simply an updated version. He stated the document contains provisions that the MPO is already doing. Mr. McDonald asked if the major changes to this MOA compared with the 2003 MOA could be provided at the next TCC meeting, and Mr. Haynes said that it could.

4. Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model Update

Presenter: Anna Gallup, CDOT

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Gallup stated the Household Travel Survey was approved by City Council and that a contract is in the process of being executed with the chosen firm – ETC. She also noted that a RFP is in the process of being released to acquire regional population employment data. She said that a land use subcommittee will be necessary to review the data, after it's acquired, and that she will be contacting local jurisdictions for participation at the appropriate time. Mr. Steinman requested that Ms. Gallup and Mr. McLelland, of CDOT, provide a presentation at the next TCC meeting regarding census data that compares the projected population levels with the actual population numbers recently released.

5. Bicycle and Pedestrian Prioritization Process

Presenter: Lauren Blackburn, Town of Davidson

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Blackburn provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She noted that a subcommittee had convened for two meetings earlier this year to come up with some preliminary ranking criteria to rank bicycle and pedestrian projects. She highlighted the major components, and the basis, of the criteria during her Power Point presentation. Mr. Icard asked how the criterion fits in with what NCDOT is doing regarding bicycle and pedestrian ranking. Mr. Polimeni responded that the Prioritization 2.0, being undertaken by NCDOT, will rank non-highway modes including bicycle and pedestrian, and that MPOs will be allowed to submit up to five bicycle and pedestrian projects. He noted that NCDOT's criteria was taken into account during the development of MUMPO's bicycle and pedestrian ranking criteria, but that MUMPO's criteria would be used to produce its own list of priority projects that could be used for multiple purposes, including the submission of five projects to NCDOT for Prioritization 2.0. Ms. Blackburn stated that the next steps will be to present the draft criteria to the MPO in April and then come back before the TCC and MPO, possibly in May, for endorsement of the criteria.

6. 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 that work is being done on the UPWP and that information will be provided via email in the next couple of weeks, and a more thorough update will be provided at the next TCC meeting.

7. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker told the TCC that a meeting with Mike Bruff and Jamal Alavi, of NCDOT, and the TCC Chair and Vice-chair took place in March to discuss how to move forward with the CTP and if Complete Streets would be included in any way. He also stated that he will continue working with the municipalities in MUMPO to complete the base map of the CTP.

8. North Carolina Gas Tax Cap

Presenter: Bill Coxe, TCC Chair

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe noted that the Gas Tax was discussed at the April 6 transportation staff meeting, and that the purpose for including it on the TCC agenda is to determine if the TCC would like to take a stance on the issue, and if the TCC would like to recommend that the MPO take a stance on the issue. Mr. Coxe briefly outlined the history and purpose of the Gas Tax, concluding that ultimately by capping the tax Mecklenburg County would essentially lose approximately \$34 million per year in revenue. Mr. Messera noted that the tax had been capped one time previously and money was lost. He also stated that because there is a high demand for transportation projects to be completed, the issue should be heard by the MPO. Mr. Steinman suggested that information be presented to the MPO for them to react to, but a recommendation from the TCC is not necessary. Mr. Wells suggested that if the Gas Tax is presented then an update on the Equity Formula legislation would also be appropriate. There was a consensus that a legislative update be provided to the MPO at its special meeting in April, including information related to the Gas Tax, Equity Formula and High Speed Rail.

9. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.