

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
July 7, 2011

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), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Public Transportation Division), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), John Hoard (Mint Hill), Travis Morgan – alt for Kevin Icard (Pineville), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordon Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Matt Magnasco (CDOT), Tracy Newsome (CDOT), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Reid Simons (NCTA), Van Argabright (NCDOT) - phone

Guests: Carroll Gray (LNTC), Todd Steiss (PB), Nikki Honeycutt (STV)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

1. Consideration of June Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe noted one minor change to the June minutes and asked if there were any changes needed. Hearing none, Mr. Coxe asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Pleasant made a motion to approve the minutes with the minor correction noted. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the June minutes were approved unanimously.

2. MUMPO Website

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni presented the new MUMPO website to the TCC. He explained some of the new features, and stated that staff will work to fix minor issues and continue to improve the site. Other Planning Department staff was acknowledged for helping with the development of the new website.

3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook stated that the TCC is being requested to act on the 2012-2018 TIP, the associated LRTP amendments and the Conformity Determination for both documents. He noted that the public comment period was originally scheduled to end on June 15, but due to a minor error in the Conformity Determination Report, it was extended to June 30. He stated that the only comments received were from the NC Division of Air Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Cook then stated that one change to the

TIP is requested by NCDOT regarding an I-485 widening project (TIP# R-4902), which is to add a flyover to the interchange design as part of the project. No objections were raised, but comments were made by the chair and vice chair of the TCC that allocating funding for those projects is acceptable, but that they would like NCDOT to be open to discussion regarding the design of the flyover and that a prescribed design concept not be embedded in the adopted TIP.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the conformity determination for the 2012-2018 TIP, and the associated 2035 LRTP amendments. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pleasant then made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the amendments to the 2035 LRTP, which are associated with adopting the 2012-2018 TIP. Mr. McDonald seconded that motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Finally, Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the 2012-2018 TIP, with the change to project number R-4902. Mr. Pleasant seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. I-485 Clark's Creek Greenway Crossing

Presenter: Matt Magnasco/Tim Gibbs, CDOT

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Magnasco informed the TCC that NCDOT has requested a resolution of support from MUMPO to upgrade the currently planned double box culvert under I-485 at Clark's Creek to a full bridge. He noted that the funding would be split approximately fifty-fifty between the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, and NCDOT, totaling approximately \$1.5 million. Mr. Coxe described the bridge project as being a better design and reiterated that the crux of the issue rested on which type of funding should be used, Loop or Equity. Mr. Gibbs noted that at the June TCC meeting action was taken to prepare a letter to NCDOT emphasizing MUMPO's desire to use Loop funds for the project, and that the letter would be sent pending MUMPO's action regarding the resolution. Ms. Barren, from FHWA, stated that the 2009-2015 TIP would need to be amended to accommodate a shift in Equity funds.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt a resolution of support to endorse the use of Loop dollars to fund the Clark's Creek bridge project, and reluctantly, to use Equity funds if necessary, and to adopt the associated amendment to the 2009-2015 TIP. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. SPOT Prioritization 2.0

a. Highway Projects

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Polimeni provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). Mr. Polimeni highlighted the various aspects of the Prioritization 2.0 process, including the ability of each MPO to add 15 highway projects to the database. He noted that the prioritization database is available for project submittal July 5-29. He reminded the TCC of its consensus in June to use a methodology involving the adopted LRTP project lists. Mr. Polimeni continued by stating that a highway project list was reviewed at a staff meeting on June 22,

and noted that two changes to the project list were included in the TCC agenda packet as follows:

- 1) The NC 73 Widening Project (TIP# R-2632AB) is an existing project in the database from P1.0; the next project on the LRTP list that will replace that project is the Church Street Extension
- 2) The I-77 flyover project is the same project as the Bridgeford/Northdowns Connector, which is already proposed for inclusion in the database as part of the list of 15 new projects; the next project on the LRTP list that will replace that project is the Potts-Sloan Connector.

Mr. Polimeni concluded the discussion of highway projects by stating that the TCC is being asked to recommend that the MPO endorse the list of 15 highway projects presented. Hearing no questions, the discussion shifted to bicycle and pedestrian projects, with the TCC preferring to take one action regarding all the project lists presented.

b. Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Polimeni stated that 10 bicycle and 10 pedestrian projects are able to be added to the prioritization database, which will be in addition to approximately 20 bicycle and pedestrian projects already in the database from P1.0. He reminded the TCC that a bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee was formed, conducted a call for projects and reviewed the projects received. Only 10 eligible projects were submitted (6 bicycle and 4 pedestrian), so the TCC is requested to recommend that the MPO endorse all 10 projects for inclusion in the prioritization database. Hearing no objections, transit projects were discussed.

c. Transit Projects

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Polimeni informed the TCC that a limited amount of transit projects are in the database from P1.0, and that an unlimited number of new transit projects could be added with the following restrictions:

- Must be major capital projects that can be funded in fiscal years 2013, 2014 and/or 2015
- A local match must be made for all transit projects submitted

Mr. Polimeni noted that a list of transit projects had been provided to the TCC and asked Mr. McDonald, of CATS, to explain why those projects were contained in the list. Mr. McDonald noted that even though NCDOT is only asking for projects in the near term, he thought it was relevant to provide projects through fiscal year 2020. He also explained the projects listed came from existing project lists maintained by CATS and represent priority transit projects. Mr. Polimeni then stated that the TCC is requested to recommend that the MPO endorse the proposed list of transit projects for inclusion in the database.

Ms. Helms asked if NCDOT Division 10 had any feedback to provide. Mr. Coxe stated that Division 10 confirmed its intention to include the Eastern Circumferential project, which is a priority due to the timing of a related rail project, on its list of projects to be submitted. If Division 10 provides any duplicate projects, it was suggested that MUMPO use the LRTP list to pick replacement projects, which would follow the methodology agreed upon at the June TCC meeting.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO endorse the project lists, as presented, for inclusion in the prioritization database, with the exception that if NCDOT Division 10 submits any duplicate highway projects that the next project on the LRTP list be used as the replacement project. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. 2009-2015 TIP Amendment for the Monroe Connector/Bypass

Presenter: Reid Simons, NC Turnpike Authority

Summary/Action Requested:

Ms. Simons stated that the NC Turnpike Authority is requesting that the MPO support changing the existing financial structure of the Monroe Connector/Bypass project by including the use of Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE) bonds, as outlined in a table prepared by NCDOT which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). She explained that the main objective for making the change is to save money on the overall cost of the project by refinancing after the project is open in 2015, at which time it is anticipated that interest rates will be more favorable. Mr. Coxe asked how the bonds will be serviced, and Mr. Argabright of NCDOT stated that equity funds will be used to service the bonds. Mr. Grant inquired about the State's history of selling GARVEE bonds, and Mr. Argabright responded that it's been very good and that excellent interest rates have been acquired. Mr. Cook noted that the 2012-2018 TIP, after it is adopted, will have to be amended to reflect the GARVEE bonds associated with this project.

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO amend the 2009-2015 TIP to include GARVEE bonds as part of the funding for the Monroe Connector/Bypass project (TIP# R-3329) per the funding chart attached above. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. NCDOT Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines

Presenter: Tracy Newsome, CDOT

Summary/Action Requested:

Ms. Newsome provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She stated that chapters 1-4 of the NCDOT Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines were released on June 17 for public review and comment, and provided a brief summary of what is contained in each of the first four chapters. She also informed the TCC that the entire document, which will contain seven total chapters, is anticipated to be released in the Fall of 2011 for additional public review and comment. Finally, Ms. Newsome suggested some possible next steps from the MPO, including that the TCC recommend that the MPO endorse a resolution of support to continue work on the guidelines, and that the TCC collectively develop technical comments to submit during the public comment period. Mr. Coxe reiterated the importance of providing comments collectively since the opportunity is being provided, especially since MUMPO is the largest MPO in the state. He also suggested the following two changes to the proposed resolution of support:

- 1) Add the statement "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT MUMPO expresses its sincere appreciation for NCDOT's efforts to broaden its vision for our public streets to appropriately design for all users."
- 2) Revise the last statement in the resolution to include the word implement so that it reads "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT MUMPO will continue to work collaboratively with NCDOT to plan, design and implement complete streets."

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO endorse a resolution of support regarding the NCDOT Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines, with the modifications noted above, and to direct the TCC to form a subcommittee to develop collective technical comments. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Prosperity Church Road/Eastfield Road Intersection Realignment

Presenter: Stuart Basham

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Basham provided information regarding the location and circumstances of the Prosperity Church Rd/Eastfield Rd intersection realignment project. He stated that a minor modification of the project has been proposed that would move the proposed curve in the road in order to allow for a more developable parcel adjacent to the project. He noted that public comment will be underway soon.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker stated that he is in the process of finalizing the draft CTP highway maps, and that the complete draft set would be complete by the end of July. He noted that after the draft highway maps are completed, work will start on the CTP transit maps. The next CTP subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August.

Mr. Coxe announced that there would be two additional items added to the agenda for information only.

10. NCDOT 2040 Plan

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni announced that NCDOT is currently in the process of developing the 2040 Statewide Plan. He referenced a handout that was distributed to all TCC members present, stating that it contained a proposed timeline for the development of the plan, and that more information could be found on NCDOT's website. He also noted that Tyler Bray, from NCDOT, has been asked to provide a presentation at the August TCC meeting.

11. FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook announced that MUMPO will be receiving approximately \$800,000 more for FY 2012 as part of its UPWP funding allocation. He stated that process will begin soon to determine how the funds should be spent, including a call for projects from TCC members. It was noted that a 20% match is required from jurisdictions that wish to use the funds, due to the fact that it is federal money.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.