

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
September 1, 2011

Voting Members: Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Jonathan Wells – alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div.10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), John Hoard (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation), Brian Horton (CDOT), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Tyler Bray (NCDOT), Jamal Alavi – phone (NCDOT), Zachary Gordon (Huntersville), Dave Nelson (Matthews), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Dana Stoogenke (Rocky River RPO),

Guests: Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Padam Singh (HNTB), Todd Steiss (PB), Jonathan Crowder (Design Craft), Toni Tupponce, Dr. Ken Holtje

1. Consideration of August Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes to the minutes needed. Mr. Wells noted one minor typographical error. Ms. Helms made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the August minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Unified Planning Work Program

a. FY 2012 Amendment

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook summarized the need for a UPWP amendment, stating that MUMPO received \$809,767 to be allocated. He mentioned one change, to reduce the proposed allocation of Planning (PL) funds requested for the Brookshire Blvd/W.T. Harris Blvd classification and cross-section analysis from \$200K to \$100K. He stated that the freed up funds are proposed to be assigned to GIS tasks and the creation of a web-based interactive mapping application. He concluded by asking for the TCC to recommend that the MPO approve the amended FY 2012 UPWP, including the changes presented.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the amended FY 2012 UPWP as presented. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Local Projects Funding Allocation Process

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). The purpose of the presentation was to present the results of a survey that had been previously sent to the TCC, requesting feedback about the PL allocation process. Mr. Cook went through the results, which included several specific comments provided by survey participants. He noted that Loretta Barren, with the FHWA, would be making a presentation at a staff meeting about PL funds, including what they can be used for and what the requirements are for using them. Mr. Coxe asked if a resource guide for transportation funding is available, or could be created. Mr. Moose indicated that he could put something together and send it to MUMPO staff for distribution.

3. SPOT Prioritization 2.0

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

a. Highway Projects

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). Mr. Polimeni updated the TCC about what has been completed thus far in relation to the P2.0 process, including that the highway, bicycle & pedestrian, and transit projects have been submitted to NCDOT. He also stated that all the Problem Statements for the highway projects had been submitted to SPOT. He discussed next steps in the process, as follows:

- Highway Projects
 - Local input ranking needs to be submitted to SPOT in October-November 2011;
 - The TCC subcommittee that was formed to evaluate the highway projects in the database and determine how to allocate the 1300 points available to MUMPO met on August 31 to begin discussing possible strategies, and another meeting will be scheduled prior to the October TCC meeting;
 - TCC and MPO action will be needed in November.

b. Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni provided a summary of the bicycle and pedestrian process as follows:

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects
 - Several bicycle and pedestrian projects were ranked at a bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee meeting held on August 24;
 - The subcommittee will meet again in September to rank the remaining bicycle and pedestrian projects in the SPOT database;
 - TCC and MPO action will be needed in November.

Transit projects were not listed on the agenda, but Mr. Polimeni noted the following:

- Transit Projects
 - CATS is working with staff to coordinate a process for prioritizing the transit projects submitted to SPOT;
 - The MTC will be asked to take action on the prioritization of the transit projects at its October meeting;
 - TCC and MPO action will be needed in November.

Mr. Coxe expressed concern about a policy decision being made prior to a technical decision and asked if the transit project prioritization could be discussed at a staff meeting, to which Mr. McDonald responded that it could.

c. CMAQ Projects

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Polimeni also provided an update on the P2.0 CMAQ process, which included the following:

- CMAQ Projects
 - A new application has been released by NCDOT, and all CMAQ candidate projects will need to be submitted through Partner Connect using the new application;
 - CMAQ projects must be submitted in October 2011, and each MPO is responsible for determining how many projects to submit based on previous target allocations;
 - Projects to be submitted are for funding in FY 2016 and FY 2017;
 - Staff contacted project sponsors for projects not funded during the last call for CMAQ projects (FY2013, 2014, 2015), and indicated that those applicants still desired CMAQ funding for those projects;
 - Staff recommended that those unfunded projects be submitted to SPOT as MUMPO's P2.0 CMAQ projects.

Mr. McDonald raised concerns about the timeline for submitting CMAQ projects. Mr. Coxe noted that the CMAQ process is being handled differently than the other modes in P2.0, in that there is a financial cap on CMAQ projects. Ms. Rhodes stated that CMAQ projects are the only projects that are ranked with air quality in mind, differentiating them from the other P2.0 projects. Mr. McDonald and Ms. Rhodes, among other TCC members, stated general dissatisfaction with the list of CMAQ projects presented by staff and indicated that they would prefer a call for projects for FY 2016 and 2017 CMAQ funds, or that placeholders be submitted until a call for projects could be completed. Mr. Cook noted that staff resources are limited, and another call for CMAQ projects could not be undertaken by MUMPO staff at this time. Mr. Moose, with NCDOT Division 10, confirmed that he had contacted Terry Arellano in NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch office and that the deadline will not be extended beyond October 2011.

The TCC instructed staff to follow up with Terry Arellano regarding the CMAQ submittal guidelines and timeline, and to find out if it would be possible to submit placeholders in October 2011 for FY 2016 and 2017 CMAQ funds, allowing more time to conduct a call for projects in the meantime. It was also recommended that other MPOs be contacted to find out if similar concerns have been raised across the state.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion that MUMPO tell the state that it will conduct its own CMAQ review process using a different timeline. Ms. Rhodes seconded the motion. After further discussion (see above), the motion was tabled. No action was taken.

4. 2040 Statewide Plan

Presenter: Tyler Bray, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Bray provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He outlined a process being undertaken by NCDOT to develop the 2040 Statewide Plan, and stated that comments are encouraged to be submitted regarding the plan-related information that has been released to date. He also presented a timeline, which included a deadline of December 2011 for the release of the draft 2040 Plan. Mr. Bray emphasized that public involvement is an important part of the process. Mr. Coxe commented that constraining the plan would not provide a realistic representation of statewide needs.

5. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker stated that the draft highway CTP maps have been sent out, and that the TCC is requested to review the maps with specific attention to where roadways cross jurisdictional boundaries. No timeline for the review period had yet been identified. He also provided a summary of the CTP staff meeting held on August 17, which included discussion of the following CTP-related issues:

- Preparation of bicycle and pedestrian CTP maps versus a policy statement for bicycle and pedestrian projects
 - There was TCC consensus that bicycle and pedestrian CTP maps should be prepared;
- Designation of a subgroup of the TCC to work on the CTP, or continue to hold open meetings in which all TCC members are encouraged to participate
 - There was TCC consensus that the meetings should continue to be open to all TCC members, with the possibility of smaller groups being formed to complete specific subtasks;
- Development of a scope of work to be completed, and a timeline for completion of the work
 - TCC members were emailed a preliminary scope and timeline and asked to comment on it, and it was suggested that the scope be discussed at the September 21 CTP staff meeting.

6. Northwest Huntersville Transportation Study

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He highlighted the importance of the NC 73 corridor, including the intersection with Vance Road, and he outlined the project history and timeline of events. Mr. Coxe then discussed the four options under consideration and discussed the impacts measures analysis and decision analysis model. The Huntersville Town Board recommended Option 3 on August 23, 2011. The Option 3 issues were outlined as follows:

- Western terminus at entrance to McGuire Nuclear Station – how to connect old NC 73;
- West of Vance Rd – need to shift alignment south of stream, create new Transco crossing;
- How to protect new alignment from access degradation – especially opposite Vance Rd Ext.;
- How to protect 150 feet of right of way;
- Problem statement (aka purpose and need) for new alignment;
- Need area plan for land between Lake Norman and new road; and,
- CTP designation of remnant section of old NC 73.

Finally, Mr. Coxe stated the recommended actions, which include:

- Endorse Opt. 3 in concept, pending:
 - Modifications needed at the McGuire Nuclear Plant entrance;
 - Modifications to the alignment with regard to the Transco pipeline and stream crossing west of Vance Rd Ext.;
- Leave the remnant section of NC 73 designated as a major thoroughfare;
- Charge the CTP committee with discussion of r/w protection and access management issues;
- Recommend that the Town pursue an area plan to develop the public good in creating a new alignment and manage development pressures that will stem from the new road; and,
- Recommend that the area plan include details on the Lake Norman Bike Route, NC Bike Route

6, and the Carolina Thread Trail.

Mr. Pleasant and others expressed concern regarding the triple left turn lanes that would be created at the intersection of the Vance Rd Ext. as a result of choosing Option 3, suggesting a different option be explored, and emphasized the need for an area plan and additional environmental and engineering work to be done prior to the implementation of Option 3.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend Option 3, including the recommended actions listed above. Ms. Blackburn seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. Title VI Analysis

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He provided background information, cited federal requirements and emphasized the need for public involvement. He then introduced Ms. Tupponce, who discussed the public involvement implications. She highlighted the challenges that exist with regard to public involvement, including the fact that MUMPO has limited staff resources, but despite that, there is still a need to get out into the affected communities to conduct meaningful public involvement.

Mr. Cook continued by outlining a proposed quantitative analysis methodology that will be incorporated into MUMPO's Title VI process to assess the following populations:

- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian American and American Indian and Alaskan Native
- Households in poverty
- Carless households
- Limited English proficiency

Mr. Berger suggested that rural communities should also be included in the analysis. Mr. Cook stated that a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan would also be developed as part of the process. He concluded by presenting a possible timeline, and indicated that the TCC and MPO would be updated as the process moves forward.

8. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook briefly noted that work will begin soon on the development of the 2040 LRTP, and that an analysis of MUMPO's current ranking methodology will be one of the first upcoming tasks related to plan development.

9. Eastfield/I-485 Development Proposal

Presenter: Jonathan Crowder, Design Craft

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Crowder provided information to the TCC via a PDF presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He described the history of the development proposal, specifically as it relates to a new alignment of Eastfield Road. He noted that the development is along a proposed rail stop, but because the train project has been delayed due to economic circumstances, the developer has reevaluated the entire project. It is proposed that a new intersection be created within the existing parcel, in order to create a road network within the development which will provide better access to transit and points south and east of the proposed project. Mr. Crowder also indicated that he is working with City departments and NCDOT in order not to interfere with the new segment of I-485 being built.

Mr. Berger stated his concern that this development is just the beginning of a lot of future development in the area, and that a road network would need to be designed to serve all the potential future development. Mr. Messera asked what the timeline is for the project. Mr. Crowder responded that he is working with planning staff to determine a schedule, and he reiterated that he is also working with NCDOT so that the I-485 project is not delayed.

10. October Meeting Date

This item was taken out of order, prior to item number seven on the agenda.

Mr. Coxe stated that the regularly scheduled October TCC meeting date conflicts with the North Carolina APA conference, being held in Charlotte. He asked if there was a motion to change the meeting date to the following week. Mr. Berger made a motion to move the date of the October TCC meeting to Thursday, October 13, 2011. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- There will be a public meeting held on September 15 to discuss the proposed transportation improvements to I-485 from I-77 to US 521, in south Charlotte, which includes widening the roadway and constructing a flyover at the US 521 interchange;
- A census status update, specifically related to the Urban Area Boundary, is a timely discussion for an upcoming TCC meeting; and,
- The MPO's certification review, conducted by the Federal Highway Administration, is scheduled for December 2011.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.