

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room CH-14**  
**October 13, 2011**

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**Voting Members:** Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Tim Gibbs – alt for Ken Tippette (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), 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), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Jordan Cook (Weddington), 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), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), John Rose (CATS), Richard Hancock (NCDOT), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Trisha Henry (NCDOT), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

**Guests:** Todd Steiss (PB), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins)

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**1. Consideration of September Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes to the minutes needed. Hearing none, Mr. Berger made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the September minutes were approved unanimously.

**2. SPOT Prioritization 2.0**

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

**a. Quantitative Scores**

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 provided an overview about what has been completed, and what still needs to be done with regard to the Prioritization 2.0 process (P2.0). Specifically, he noted that the deadline for submitting local input to NCDOT is December 16, 2011. He then outlined, for information only, the following recommendations for each project mode:

- Highway Projects
  - MUMPO projects received the four highest quantitative scores statewide;
  - A TCC subcommittee met October 11 and discussed four possible scenarios for allocating MUMPO's 1300 points, and one of those methodologies is recommended by the subcommittee;
  - The four methodologies were presented to the TCC, including the recommended method;
  - Discussion followed including a concern by Mr. Pleasant that the Independence Boulevard projects are broken into five segments, and each segment ranked differently;
  - Mr. Coxe commented that the equity formula would still ultimately govern

- funding;
- NCDOT Division 10 was asked how they would allocate local points, and Mr. Moose responded that he would like to see how the MPOs distribute their points before he decides, but that he will likely pick 13 projects to which he will allocate 100 points to each;
- The TCC asked if the recommended method could be distributed to them, and Mr. Polimeni responded that he would provide that information;
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**
  - The bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee met in late September and finished ranking the projects in the prioritization database;
  - The results were presented to the TCC without any objections;
- **Transit Projects**
  - CATS staff presented information about the process for prioritizing transit projects;
  - Each MPO is able to allocate 550 points for priority transit projects in the database;
  - Systems and maintenance projects are proposed to receive the highest priority, followed by expansion projects;
  - No points will be given to projects not eligible for state shares;
  - CATS had a project that ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state quantitatively;
  - A presentation will be made to the MTC at its October meeting for an endorsement regarding how to allocate the 550 points, the results of which will be presented to the TCC and MPO in November.

Mr. Polimeni concluded by reminding the TCC that action will be requested with regard to this topic at its November meeting.

#### **b. CMAQ Projects**

##### Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Polimeni informed the TCC that the MPO endorsed a list of CMAQ projects to be submitted to NCDOT for possible funding in FY 2016 and 2017, but that there is still a desire for a call for CMAQ projects. He also noted that the Centralina COG has agreed to lead the CMAQ project selection process. Ms. Rhodes, with Mecklenburg County's Air Quality division, stated that her office would help with emissions calculations due to the shortened timeline. It was also agreed that the projects being submitted (as endorsed by the MPO) still need to be evaluated as part of the new call for projects, and that those project sponsors would be contacted if the subcommittee requires additional information.

##### Motion:

Mr. Wells made a motion to open a call for CMAQ projects for potential funding in FY 2016 and 2017. Ms. Rhodes seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. I-77 North HOV to HOT Conversion – Project Update**

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT

##### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He started by discussing the background of the public private partnership (P3) concept, and the purpose of the project. He stated that it is: 1) To improve congestion and carrying capacity, and 2) It would be a prototype for P3 projects statewide, since it has not yet been done in North Carolina. The following highlights regarding the different scenarios, considerations and potential

next steps were presented:

- The project consists of conversion, and/or expansion, of existing HOV lanes to HOT lanes, as well as potential extension of the project further south, and/or north, of current project limits;
- It would maximize the use of private sector funds to alleviate congestion in the corridor, coordinate operations and maintenance activities in the I-77 corridor effectively, as well as establish a policy and program that defines success;
- Collaboration among stakeholders, analysis of a P3 delivery method for the I-77 project, identifying environmental issues and how they will affect the timing of the project, and determine the scope of work are all steps that contribute to delivery of the project;

Mr. Moose also discussed scenario analysis that has been completed, which assumes a 50 year life for the project. In addition, he indicated that air quality conformity will need to happen now. He noted that all of these factors imply a very aggressive timeline that involves a lot of components. Mr. Coxe suggested that a small team of TCC members be formed to help with the effort. Representatives from each of the north Mecklenburg towns, as well as a representative from the City of Charlotte, volunteered. It was also recommended that a representative from the Town of Mooresville be included on the team.

Ms. Blackburn asked if the proposed Red Line rail project would be considered as part of the overall evaluation of the proposed HOT lanes project, and Mr. Moose indicated that NEPA would focus on the highway project. Mr. Pleasant stated that the modeling will include both facilities. Mr. Steinman noted that a policy decision is important because control of the facility will be relinquished if a P3 delivery method is decided upon. Finally, it was suggested that this item be included on the November TCC agenda for further discussion.

#### **4. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni - presenting on behalf of Anil Panicker (NCDOT) who was not able to attend.

##### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He stated that a CTP staff meeting had taken place in which several consensus items were discussed regarding the classification of highway projects vs. bike/ped projects, and asked the TCC if it would like to weigh in on the issues. The TCC indicated it would, and Mr. Polimeni presented the following five items for consensus:

- I. Needs Improvement designation on the Highway map vs. the Bike/Ped map if a) right-of-way is needed for any type of improvement, or b) only if right-of-way is needed when the improvement relates to the vehicle component of the roadway?
  - Discussion followed in which the TCC could not come to a consensus, and it was agreed that the item would be further discussed at the next CTP staff meeting;
- II. Needs Improvement vs. Recommended for the Pedestrian map if a roadway exists but currently has no sidewalks?
  - There was consensus by the TCC that the designation should be Recommended;
- III. Needs Improvement vs. Recommended for the Pedestrian map if a roadway exists with sidewalk on one side, but not on the other side?
  - There was consensus by the TCC that the designation should be Needs Improvement;
- IV. Needs Improvement vs. Recommended for the Pedestrian map if a roadway exists with sidewalk on both sides, but the sidewalks are substandard, have to be moved or are not ADA compliant?
  - There was consensus by the TCC that the designation should be Needs Improvement;
- V. Should bicycle facilities be shown on the Bicycle map only if they can be realistically constructed within the physical constraints of the proposed location as it exists now, or should bicycle facilities

be shown where they are desired in the future even if it might not be possible within the physical environment as it exists today?

- There was consensus by the TCC that bicycle facilities should be shown where they are desired, regardless of current conditions.

The TCC inquired about the scope and timeline of the overall CTP process, and Mr. Polimeni indicated that he did not have an answer to that question but would pass the request on to the project manager (Anil Panicker) to be discussed at a future staff meeting.

## **5. Matthews Roundabout TIP Amendment**

Presenter: Ralph Messera, Town of Matthews

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Messera indicated that the Town of Matthews had previously applied for a grant to construct a roundabout, and that a match would be required. He indicated that the Board of Transportation has approved the TIP project, but the estimated funding amount is still being worked out. He asked if the item could be deferred to the November TCC meeting, at which time more information would be available. The TCC agreed to move the item to the November meeting.

## **6. Air Quality Update**

Presenter: Leslie Rhodes, LUESA – Air Quality

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Rhodes provided an air quality update, stating that the Metrolina non-attainment status has been based on the 1997 ozone standard, which requires a three-year average of 0.08 parts per million (ppm). She indicated that the Metrolina region now complies with that standard, but will not comply when the new ozone standard of 0.075 ppm goes into effect. The new standard was approved in 2008, but has been on hold for reconsideration by EPA. The President officially stated in September of 2011 that he does not support a further lowering of the standard at this time. She concluded by stating that Metrolina will be non-attainment under the 2008 standard, but will be classified as “marginal,” which is slightly better than what the region is currently classified. She warned that this information is tentative since nothing has been officially approved, but that it should go into effect in mid-late 2012.

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

Presenter: Anna Gallup, CDOT

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Gallup provided the following Travel Demand Model updates:

- A Household Travel Survey (HHTS) is currently underway, and a press released will be issued soon;
- The HHTS survey is controlled and includes some GPS monitoring;
- The analysis of base year data is currently underway, being led by Amy Helms in Union County, and Ruchi Agarwal and Evan Lowry in Mecklenburg County, and work is anticipated to be completed in January;
- After base year data is finished being compiled/analyzed, the projections process will begin, which is an in depth process that will require input from the TCC – TCC members will be contacted as information is needed.

## **8. Environmental Justice – Public Involvement Plan Amendment**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook informed the TCC that the MPO endorsed opening a public comment period for the amendments to the Public Involvement Plan that are required as part of the EJ process. He stated that dates for the public meeting(s) have not yet been selected, but indicated that the TCC would be informed when the dates are chosen. He concluded by stating that work is currently being done on the Limited English Proficiency plan and GIS mapping.

## **9. Local Projects Funding Allocation Process**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook reminded the TCC about a survey that was sent out to solicit information from TCC members about the local projects funding allocation process associated with the development of the UPWP. He highlighted the following results of the survey:

- Cap funding at \$30K per member jurisdiction;
- Objective ranking criteria is desired
  - Staff will pursue the development of such criteria;
  - A committee will be necessary for this undertaking; and
  - Most likely will not be implemented until after the FY 2013 UPWP funding cycle.

Mr. Cook concluded by stating that a call for FY 2013 UPWP projects will be forthcoming, and that TCC members should begin considering ideas. He noted that an email reminder will be sent out.

## **10. Upcoming Issues**

The following announcements were made:

- The census urban area boundary information is anticipated to be released early next year, and will be a topic of discussion at the upcoming CRAFT and NCAMPO meetings;
- MUMPO's Federal Certification has been scheduled for December 5-7, with a public meeting scheduled for the evening of December 5 in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center;
- All FY 2012 bicycle and pedestrian grants need to be endorsed by the MPO upon submittal of an application, which means that any proposed applications will need to be endorsed by the TCC and MPO in November in order to meet the application deadline;
- There is a NEPA webinar scheduled for October 27, 2011, and all TCC members are encouraged to participate;
- An MPO orientation will be scheduled in January (1/11/12 is the likely date), which TCC members are encouraged to attend;
- A public workshop regarding the realignment of Prosperity Church Road will be held on the evening of November 3, 2011; and
- As a follow up to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) workshop that was held on September 29, 2011, a survey will be emailed to all TCC members to be filled out.

**11. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.