

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 280**  
**December 1, 2011**

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**Voting Members:** Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippette (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), David McDonald (CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Dawn Blobaum – alt for Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Shannon Martel – alt for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation), Tracy Newsome (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Sara Familian (CDOT), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Zac Gordon (Huntersville), Geoff Steele (Huntersville), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Loretta Barren (FHWA) – phone

**Guests:** Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Todd Steiss (PB), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Rebecca Yarbrough (Centralina COG)

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**1. Consideration of November Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes to the minutes needed. Hearing none, the minutes were unanimously approved by acclamation.

**2. Comprehensive Transportation Plan**

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Prior to Mr. Grzymiski's presentation, Mr. Coxe stated that there is a roadway designation issue for the CTP maps with regard to widening a roadway for motor vehicle improvements, versus widening for bicycle improvements, that remains unresolved. He suggested that the TCC come to a consensus on the issue so the maps are consistent among all jurisdictions. Mr. Pleasant noted that a discussion about which thoroughfares are appropriate for bike lanes needs to take place. Mr. Steinman suggested that all four maps together represent a complete street, and the maps need to be aggregated when reviewed.

Mr. Coxe then asked: If a roadway is widened only for bike lanes, does it need to be included on the highway map? Mr. Pleasant stated that if there is a map intended to represent only changes that affect motor vehicles, then the title of the map should reflect that, and suggested changing the name of the map from highway map to motor vehicle map. Mr. Moose suggested including a note at the bottom of each map that indicates a desire to create a complete street. After further discussion, it was suggested that a fifth map be produced that includes the layers from each of the four modal maps.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to co-name the highway map the motor vehicle map, to only show a needs improvement designation on the bicycle map when widening a roadway to add a bike lane, and to include a

general note on every map noting that each map needs to be referenced to determine the proposed improvements and recommendations for a roadway. The motion was seconded by Mr. Messera. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed with one abstention from NCDOT's TPB Coordinator.

Following that discussion, Mr. Grzynski summarized a scope and timeline for completing CTP-related work that had been developed over the course of several transportation staff meetings. He highlighted several tasks outlined in the schedule, including the due dates for each transportation map that will be produced (highway, bicycle, pedestrian and transit/rail). He also reiterated that if the TCC agrees to endorse the timeline then deadlines will need to be met or the overall approval of the CTP will be extended to a later date.

Mr. Coxe noted that the Thoroughfare Plan is out of date, but because all local ordinances still point to the Thoroughfare Plan for right-of-way protection, he suggested amending it to be consistent with the CTP, and completing public involvement for the Thoroughfare Plan and CTP at the same time. Mr. Moose suggested that a discussion regarding the legal implications of maintaining both maps is necessary. Mr. McDonald asked if NCDOT could look into it, and Mr. Panicker stated that NCDOT does not get involved with land use issues. It was determined that more information is necessary, but that the issue will need to be addressed at a future date.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to approve the scope and timeline as presented. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. I-485 & I-77 Project Updates**

Presenter: Barry Moose

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose announced that he will be providing a comprehensive update about what has taken place so far regarding managed lanes on I-77, and I-485, at a staff meeting on December 14. He encouraged all the TCC members to attend. He continued by stating that the let date for the I-485 project is tentatively July 1, 2012, and that a 6 lane cross section has been discussed (from Rea Rd to Johnston Rd), as well as an 8 lane cross section (from Johnston Rd to I-485) as part of TIP project R-4902 to widen I-485. He stated that funding is still not certain and managed lanes are still being discussed as an option. Funding could come from a portion of the I-77 North project if a private public partnership (P3) arrangement is agreed upon. He also stated that equity money could also be requested to complete the widening of I-485. Mr. Moose indicated that he expects a decision in the spring of 2012 regarding the I-77 North project, but also stated that caution must be taken to ensure North Carolina gets a good deal with regard to the financial model of the project. Mr. Coxe announced that an education session regarding P3 financing will be held the last week of January.

**4. HUD Sustainable Communities Grant**

Presenter: Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Yarbrough provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She started by thanking everyone for their continued efforts in the region, and stated that the Centralina COG got the total grant funds requested (\$4.9 million) to work on a sustainability plan that includes a 14 county region. She emphasized that the plan will address sustainability in multiple ways and that it will answer the fundamental questions: How should we grow? How will it help the economy? Ms. Yarbrough also emphasized that everyone in the region needs to benefit

from the plan, so regional involvement is necessary. She highlighted a “Blueprinting” process as being a key to the success of the plan, which will include scenario-based planning that identifies indicators to study and evaluate. Public involvement will be important to develop consensus and to identify the appropriate indicators to evaluate for this region. It was also noted that other regions around the country have completed similar plans, and that we can use their work as a guide. She concluded by discussing the timeline, and reiterated that regional participation is extremely important. She encouraged MUMPO members to be involved.

## **5. Red Line Trail**

Presenters: Gwen Cook, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Cook provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She indicated that the proposed Red Line Trail project will start in Mooresville and continue into Charlotte, where it will tie into Irwin Creek Greenway. This project would create a north-south off road pedestrian corridor, which currently does not exist in the region. Ms. Cook highlighted several benefits of the project and also discussed next steps for moving forward. She stated that the project has received a great amount of support. Mr. Coxe asked what type of endorsement activity is being done, and Ms. Cook responded that she is presenting the project to each Town Board in which the project is located. Mr. Grant asked Ms. Cook if she has been working with the railroad on the project, to which she replied that she has.

## **6. Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model**

Presenter: Anna Gallup, CDOT

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Gallup highlighted some of the model activity currently underway in the region, including:

- The Household Travel Survey went out to the public on November 28 – the first round of public surveys will conclude on December 17 due to the holidays, and begin again in January;
- The land use, base year data regional deadline has been extended to the end of February; and
- Two RFPs are scheduled to go out in December – one for vehicle classification counts, and one for the regional totals update.

## **7. NCDOT Complete Streets Planning and Design Guidelines**

Presenter: Tracy Newsome, CDOT

### Summary/FYI:

Ms. Newsome provided an update on NCDOT’s Complete Streets initiative, indicating that the first four chapters of the Planning and Design Guidelines were released in the summer for public comment. She noted that the comments that were received are currently under review, and are being categorized to help inform development of the guidelines. She stated that the next chapters are underway, and a release of the full document for public review is expected early next year. She concluded by noting that NCDOT would like to test some pilot projects to determine how the guidelines would be applied, and that the Division is requesting that the TCC nominate projects and send them to the Division Engineer.

## **8. Environmental Justice**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook provided an update on what has been accomplished to enhance how MUMPO accounts for environmental justice issues. He stated that a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan is being developed. He also noted that the MPO has endorsed a public involvement effort which will take place after the first of the year. Mr. Cook concluded by mentioning that NCDOT recently performed a desk audit of all MPOs in the state to determine how environmental justice issues are being addressed. Responding to the audit will require additional staff work.

## **9. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- A Federal Certification Review of MUMPO's activities will take place December 5 and 6, which will include a public meeting on the evening of December 5 from 6:00-8:00 PM in Room 266;
- On December 5 from 4:00-8:00 PM, a public workshop regarding the Monroe Parkway will take place in Monroe;
- On December 13 there will be a Red Line Workshop from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Mooresville;
- An MPO Orientation will be held on January 11 which all MPO and TCC members are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Gibbs announced that on December 13 from 5:00-7:00 PM in Charlotte, a meeting about the North Carolina Railroad Double Track project (TIP# P-5208) will be held.

Mr. Cook announced that new funding opportunities have recently become available, and that an email will be sent that contains more details.

Ms. Yarbrough, with Centralina COG, stated that she would like MUMPO representatives to be a part of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant process, and that she will attend the January TCC meeting to provide a status update.

Mr. McDonald announced that a call for Mobility Fund projects has been issued. Mr. Polimeni added that projects are due February 29, 2012 and that the item will be placed on a staff meeting agenda for further discussion.

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