

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
January 5, 2012

Voting Members: *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), *TCC Vice-Chair* – Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), 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), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Public Transportation), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Tracy Newsome (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Richard Hancock (NCDOT-Div. 10), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

Guests: Todd Steiss (PB), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Rebecca Yarbrough (Centralina COG), Padam Singh (HNTB), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

1. Election of Officers

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Coxe stated that it is the responsibility of the TCC to annually elect new officers as the first action item of the first meeting of the year. Mr. Coxe opened the nominations for Chair of the TCC.

Chair Nominations

Mr. Pleasant nominated Bill Coxe for Chair of the TCC; Mr. Messera seconded the nomination. No other nominations were put forth.

Mr. McDonald made a motion to close the nominations; Mr. Wells seconded the motion.

Upon being put to a vote, Mr. Bill Coxe was unanimously elected Chair of the TCC for 2012.

Mr. Coxe then opened the nominations for Vice-Chair of the TCC.

Vice-Chair Nominations

Ms. Blackburn nominated Danny Pleasant for Vice-Chair of the TCC; Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. No other nominations were put forth.

Mr. McDonald made a motion to close the nominations; Mr. Wells seconded the motion.

Upon being put to a vote, Mr. Danny Pleasant was unanimously elected Vice-Chair of the TCC for 2012.

2. Consideration of December Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes to the minutes needed. He also reminded TCC members to check the attendance section of the minutes to ensure it is accurate. Mr. Wells noted that he did not attend the December 2011 TCC meeting, and that the minutes should be changed to reflect his absence. Mr. Coxe suggested a minor clarification to the Upcoming Issues item in the December 2011 minutes. Hearing no other changes, the minutes were unanimously approved by acclamation.

3. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Hansen reminded the TCC that a CMAQ call for projects is open. He then outlined the proposed process and timeline, including that there will be a total of four meetings (one each month until April) in which projects will be developed and discussed. He noted one significant change to the CMAQ process, which is that candidate projects on state maintained facilities need to be submitted to NCDOT for review to ensure compatibility with what is intended for those facilities. Mr. Steinman pointed out that the meeting dedicated to emissions calculations was scheduled near the end of the project development process and asked if it could be discussed sooner in the process. Mr. Hansen responded that it could be discussed at each meeting since it is an important factor. Mr. Moose noted that it would be beneficial to submit candidate CMAQ projects to NCDOT as soon as possible.

4. Red Line Trail

Presenter: Ken Tippette, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Tippette stated that a resolution of support for the Red Line Trail project had been prepared which the TCC is being asked to endorse. He reminded the TCC that Gwen Cook, with Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, had presented the details of the project at the December TCC meeting. He reiterated that the project would be beneficial to the region and asked for the TCC's support.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the Red Line Trail resolution of support. Mr. Moose seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant

Presenter: Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Yarbrough noted that the TCC and MPO previously endorsed a resolution in May 2011 for a smaller scale sustainability grant, and that they are now being asked to endorse a similar Consortium Agreement specific to the \$4.9 million HUD grant that was recently awarded, along with appointing a MUMPO representative for consortium meetings, and for the CONNECT Council. Mr. Berger asked if the appointed MUMPO representative needs to be a MPO board member or a TCC member. Ms. Yarbrough clarified that the representative for the consortium meetings would be a TCC member, while the CONNECT Council representative would be a MPO board member (elected official). She also stated that

this process is a work in progress, and the COG wants to make sure that MUMPO has a voice in the process and is participating. Mr. Coxe emphasized how important this effort is, that it is truly regional in nature, and that it is an opportunity to provide a feedback loop that will connect the land use forecasts that have been developed with the transportation projects that end up receiving funding, to ensure the region is achieving the long term goals that have been set forth. Mr. Berger made a motion (see below), seconded by Mr. Pleasant.

Mr. Pleasant then echoed how important this undertaking is, and suggested that staff's role is to provide the most factually correct information possible in order for the political decisions to be well informed. He also noted that some type of blueprinting process, historically, has been important in other cities to ensure healthy growth. Mr. Coxe asked if the MUMPO representatives for the consortium and CONNECT Council need to be appointed at this time. Ms. Yarbrough responded that they do not need to be appointed yet.

Motion:

Mr. Berger made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the Consortium Agreement Amendment as presented. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

a. Miscellaneous Amendments

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook outlined the proposed TIP amendments. He noted that the proposed statewide TIP amendments will only impact regions in which the projects are located, and that the funds outside of the MUMPO region can be spent whether or not MUMPO approves those TIP amendments. He also stated that local jurisdictions in which specific TIP amendments are proposed should already be informed about proposed TIP amendments, including project delays.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the proposed TIP amendments. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

b. McKee Road TIP Amendment (TIP# 4713B)

Presenter: Ralph Messera, Town of Matthews

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Messera introduced the proposed McKee Road TIP Amendment, and stated that the only action requested is to change the name of the project from McKee Road to Campus Ridge Road Extension. He noted that the name change came about during the environmental review because this specific project is one section of a larger project, and because only this section currently has funding, the new name will more accurately describe the work being done. He stated that the FHWA and NCDOT support the name change. Mr. Coxe suggested that MUMPO might want to consider a more productive way in which to handle minor TIP amendments like the ones included for action on the January TCC agenda.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO amend the TIP to reflect the name change of

TIP project U-4713B from McKee Road to Campus Ridge Road Extension. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. NCDOT Title VI Assurances

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook explained that an audit has been conducted by the Civil Rights officer of the state regarding the Title VI practices of MPO's statewide. He noted specific concerns about inserting required language into local contracts that is being requested as a result of the audit. Mr. McDonald, with CATS, and Mr. Moose, with NCDOT, both stated that this is already being done in certain instances. Mr. Cook suggested that it might be in the best interest of MUMPO to invite the Civil Rights officer to attend a TCC meeting and explain what the audit is about, and what the state is requesting regarding Title VI practices. Mr. Pleasant stated that most agencies probably are inserting specific Title VI related language in contracts, but that it would still be nice to hear why it is necessary. Mr. Coxe asked if it would be okay for the TCC to defer action on the item until the February TCC meeting, at which time the Civil Rights officer will be invited to provide more information. Mr. Cook concluded by noting that other Title VI activities, such as a public meeting, will continue. He clarified that those other activities are separate from the audit, but complimentary to MUMPO's Title VI activities, so it will be okay if they continue on a parallel timeline.

8. Functional Classification Changes

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that a functional classification is the process by which streets and highways are grouped according to the character of service they are intended to provide. He noted that it is used primarily for assessing the extent, conditions and performance of the highway system, as a planning tool, for appropriation of funds and to establish jurisdictional responsibility and design criteria. He indicated that a change to the functional classification of a recently completed project in the City of Monroe is being requested – TIP project U-3412, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, from Charlotte Avenue to Lancaster Avenue (Highway 200). The request is to change the functional classification of the roadway to Minor Arterial.

Motion:

Mr. Panicker made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the functional classification change to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Monroe to Minor Arterial, as presented. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Prosperity Church Road – alignment north of Eastfield Road

Presenter: Stuart Basham

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Basham provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He explained the history and location of the proposed realignment, including why the realignment is being requested. He noted that concerns were raised by affected

homeowners at a public meeting, but that the Town of Huntersville Planning Board, at its December 20 meeting, recommended allowing the alignment proposed by the developer. Mr. Coxe asked that the TCC recommend the alignment that is approved by the Huntersville Town Board at its January 17 meeting, assuming it is reasonable and feasible. Ms. Blackburn stated that she is hesitant to support a specific alignment without having knowledge about what the land use in the area will be in the future. Mr. Pleasant stated that it is not within the purview of the TCC to make minor alignment adjustments, such as the one proposed, and suggested that when the MOU is reviewed that this issue be part of that discussion. Several other TCC members echoed his sentiment.

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO support the alignment chosen by the Huntersville Town Board that is reasonable and feasible. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. I-485 & I-77 Project Updates

a. I-485 Widening, R-4902

Presenter: Barry Moose

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose started by stating that he had recently met with NCDOT's Chief Operating Officer, Jim Trogdon, to discuss the widening of I-485 in south Charlotte. He outlined some of the issues, as follows:

- There is concern from FHWA that MUMPO's congestion management process did not evaluate the specific improvements that NCDOT is considering, which is to widen I-485 from I-77 all the way to US 74 – the current TIP project (R-4902) will widen I-485 from Johnston Road to I-77, and add an auxiliary lane and a flyover;
- NCDOT would like to look at the feasibility of widening I-485 to either three lanes or four lanes, including some combination of general purpose and high occupancy toll lanes, from I-77 to US 74;
- NCDOT would like the feasibility study to also consider the possibility of a public-private partnership (P3) as an option for completing the widening;
- Currently, the expanded scope proposed to be studied is not included on MUMPO's draft CTP, or in the Prioritization 2.0 database, so NCDOT suggests that MUMPO write a letter to the state requesting that the feasibility of expanding the scope of TIP project R-4902 be considered;

Mr. Langen asked if the I-485/Weddington Road interchange would be included in the feasibility study. Mr. Moose responded that it will be considered, and that it could possibly be included if a P3 arrangement is pursued. Mr. Coxe asked that Mr. Steinman assist with the letter to be drafted and sent to NCDOT, and that the MPO board be advised that the letter is being sent.

b. I-77 High Occupancy Toll Lanes

Presenter: Barry Moose

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose stated that project I-5405, to widen I-77, is still listed in the currently adopted TIP, but that NCDOT has been pursuing a public-private partnership (P3) to expand the scope of the project. He noted that a meeting has been scheduled to meet with P3 advisors on Wednesday, January 11. Mr. Cook asked if it would be possible for Mr. Moose to discuss the P3 concept, and how it would relate to I-77, at the January 18 education session prior to the MPO meeting. Mr. Moose indicated that he could attend, and

that it might be possible for the chosen P3 advisor to attend as well. Mr. Coxe announced that a P3 workshop is also scheduled on Friday, January 27 at 8:00 AM.

11. Mobility Fund Candidate Projects

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni provided a summary of the Mobility Fund, and stated that the deadline for submitting Mobility Fund candidate projects to NCDOT is Wednesday, February 29. He noted that he has not received any requests from the TCC for which projects it would like to endorse for submission to NCDOT. Mr. Moose noted that a project that currently has equity funds programmed could be considered as a candidate project for the Mobility Fund. He indicated that project I-3802A, to widen I-85 in Cabarrus County, is an example of a project that is currently in the TIP with programmed equity funds that the Division would consider submitting as a candidate project. Mr. McLamb suggested that the MPO be asked to allow the TCC to endorse Mobility Fund candidate projects, on its behalf, due to the imposed timeline and the fact that the MPO does not meet in February. Mr. Coxe, with the consent of the TCC, asked for the item to be placed on a staff meeting agenda for further discussion.

12. 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 and that the public comments have been received and are currently under review. She stated that the next five chapters that make up the rest of the document are anticipated to be released in January 2012. After they are released, there will be a 30 day public comment period for those chapters. She noted that all the comments received for the first four chapters have not yet been incorporated for the release of the entire draft document. She also reminded the TCC that NCDOT would like to test some pilot projects to determine how the guidelines will be applied, and that any jurisdiction that would like to nominate a pilot project needs to submit it to the Division Engineer as soon as possible for consideration.

Mr. Coxe asked if the TCC would like to reconvene a small group, as was done for the release of the first four chapters, to develop collective comments on the remaining five chapters. There was consensus from the TCC and several members volunteered to participate, including Bill Coxe, David McDonald, Jack Flaherty, Ralph Messera, Greg Mahar and Lauren Blackburn. Ms. Newsome agreed to provide support to the subcommittee as they develop comments. Mr. Moose noted that the Board of Transportation will hold its February meeting in Charlotte, and that complete streets will be on the agenda, which will include a tour of examples of complete street design concepts that have been implemented in the Charlotte area.

13. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker provided an update on the status of the CTP, stating that he has received several comments

regarding the draft highway maps. He also noted that he has received the information he requested from CATS to finish the transit/rail map, and that a draft of the map has been completed and was sent out to the TCC for comments. He noted that he has not yet received the heavy rail information he requested from the NCDOT Rail Division, but as soon as he does, he will update the transit/rail map to include that information. Mr. Coxe requested that a schedule update be provided at the February TCC meeting.

14. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- The MPO Orientation will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at 5:00 PM in Room 267 of the Government Center, and reminded the TCC members to RSVP;
- The NCDOT Board of Transportation will hold a meeting in Charlotte on February 1st and 2nd;
- Future TCC meeting dates will be impacted by conflicting meetings, or holidays, as follows:
 - The May TCC meeting is scheduled at the same time as the annual NCAMPO conference, so the TCC agreed to move the TCC meeting to the second Thursday in May
 - The July TCC meeting is scheduled the day after the Fourth of July holiday, so the TCC agreed to move the TCC meeting to the second Thursday in July
 - The September TCC meeting is scheduled the same week that the Democratic National Convention will be held in Charlotte, so the TCC agreed that it would discuss possible options for moving the September TCC meeting date.

Mr. Moose announced that a NCDOT Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) investment summit would take place on February 28 in Albemarle. He noted that everyone is encouraged to participate, and that the main focus of the event will be to discuss projects of all modes of transportation submitted through the P2.0 process, and how funds should be allocated to those project modes. He also stated that equity funding will be discussed at the investment summit.

15. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.