

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room CH-14
February 2, 2012

Voting Members: *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Jim Loyd – alt for Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jason Rayfield (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-Public Transportation), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Andy Grzymski (CDOT), Leslie Rhodes (LUESA-Air Quality), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Dana Stoogenke (Rocky River RPO) – phone

Guests: Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Scott Lane (JS Lane), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Jonathan Crowder (Design Craft)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

1. Consideration of January Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the minutes were necessary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Berger made a motion to approve the January TCC minutes. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Mobility Fund Candidate Projects

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/Requested Action:

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 TCC members were asked to submit candidate projects from the MUMPO region to be endorsed by the TCC, on behalf of the MPO, and that two projects were received – TIP project U-209B in Charlotte, and TIP project U-4714 in Matthews, Stallings and Indian Trail. He indicated that the projects were discussed at the February 1 staff meeting, and that those present at the meeting suggested endorsing both projects; U-209B as a statewide tier candidate project, and U-4714 as a regional tier candidate project. Mr. Coxe added that he would consult with the Chair and Vice-chair of the MPO before drafting a letter of endorsement for the proposed Mobility Fund candidate projects recommended by the TCC. Mr. Polimeni concluded by stating that the action requested by the TCC is to endorse both projects as presented.

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the TCC, on behalf of the MPO, endorse TIP project U-209B as a statewide tier project and TIP project U-4714 as a regional tier project for submission to NCDOT as Mobility Fund candidate projects, prior to the February 29 deadline. Ms. Martel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Transit TIP Amendments

Presenter: David McDonald, CATS

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. McDonald explained that several TIP amendments for funded transit projects are being requested in order to program the funds in the current TIP. He stated that the projects were funded in the previous TIP, but due to administrative delays, some funds were not brought into the current TIP. He also stated that all the funding was previously approved by the MPO. Mr. McDonald specifically recommended that the funds be programmed in FY 2012. Mr. Coxe asked if the TIP amendments would impact any other project schedules or project funding, to which Mr. McDonald responded they would not. Mr. Flaherty stated that NCDOT supports the proposed TIP amendments.

Motion:

Mr. Flaherty made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the TIP amendments as presented. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Proposed Nonattainment Boundary for new Ozone Standard

Presenter: Eldewins Haynes, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Haynes provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He stated that a new air quality standard was promulgated in 2008, and that a new non-attainment boundary is proposed by the NC Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ), which would exclude four townships in Union County. He noted that a public meeting was held by NCDAQ regarding the proposed boundary, but few elected officials were in attendance. He also indicated that a letter from NCDAQ, requesting comment on the proposed boundaries, was inconclusive. He then outlined the timeline for providing comments to NCDAQ, and noted that staff had voiced concern about the timeline being very brief, not allowing adequate time for public comments. He concluded by stating that the recommendation is for the TCC to send a letter addressing its concern over the comment process, and short timeline, and that MUMPO would provide comments directly to EPA, if necessary.

Mr. Rayfield, Mecklenburg County's air quality representative, stated that he would look into the EPA's public comment process. It was also suggested that the EPA be informed about how staff interacts with elected officials, which would help explain why more time is needed for public comments. Mr. Steinman stated that nothing was sent to staff about the proposed boundary changes. Mr. Coxe indicated that there is not much difference in air quality that would result from changing the boundary, but that there are economic factors that could result from a different boundary. Mr. Berger suggested that the TCC be proactive and tell NCDAQ its preference is not to change the boundary. Ms. Rhodes stated that elected officials might not agree with that position, and that there is not enough time to engage elected officials

before comments are due to NCDQAQ.

Motion:

Mr. Steinman made a motion to recommend that the TCC Chair send a letter to NCDQAQ which outlines the following points:

- There is concern on the part of MUMPO regarding a lack of sufficient time provided to comment on the proposed nonattainment boundaries;
- MUMPO will send comments directly to the EPA, if deemed necessary; and
- The request for comments letter was only distributed to the elected officials in the MUMPO region, and not to technical staff.

Mr. Mahar seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Presenter: Scott Lane, JS Lane

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Lane provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He presented an overview of the CMP workflow and highlighted the performance measure feedback process. He stated that the CMP provides a wholistic list of all the projects in the MUMPO region, and the impacts from each project. He described a few corridors as examples for how it works, and concluded his presentation by indicating that all the separate components he discussed lead to a complete CMP, and that once complete the CMP needs to be managed properly to be useful and efficient. Mr. Cook reminded the TCC that the only action requested is to form a small task force comprised of TCC members and relevant staff to keep moving forward with the CMP until it is completed. The following task force members were identified: Loretta Barren (FHWA), Bob Cook (MUMPO), David McDonald (CATS), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Ken Tippetts (CDOT), Justin Carroll (Huntersville), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), a representative from NCDOT's Division 10 Office, and a representative from the City of Charlotte's Engineering and Property Management Department. Mr. Steinman emphasized that it is important for the CMP to be a part of the development of the next LRTP. Ms. Barren commented that the CMP is set up to determine strategies for solving short-term issues, and that all options should be considered prior to constructing a capacity adding project. In addition, the goals for improving a congested corridor – whether it is a short-term non-capacity adding or a long-term capacity adding solution – should be compatible.

Prior to Item No. 6 on the agenda, Mr. Cook noted that the TCC will be dealing with several major issues in the coming year and that it might be necessary to think about formalizing the transportation staff meeting process in order to be as productive as possible. Further discussion on the issue will be necessary.

6. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that work on the next LRTP will need to begin soon, so a working group of the TCC needs to be formed to guide the process. The working group will be responsible for outlining tasks to be accomplished, beginning detailed plan preparation, and ensuring plan progress stays on track, among

other things. He indicated that the LRTP will need to be adopted in the spring of 2014. Mr. Steinman noted that the framework for this LRTP will be different from the last LRTP, and that adjustments will need to be made in order to develop a plan that is more satisfactory than the currently adopted LRTP. The following individuals were identified as working group participants: David McDonald (CATS), Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Amy Helms (Union County), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Bob Cook (MUMPO) and Nick Polimeni (MUMPO).

7. Eastfield Road/I-485 Development Proposal

Presenter: Stuart Basham

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Basham provided information to the TCC via a PDF presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He started by discussing the proposed Eastfield project location and current alignment. He then described the requested realignment as it relates to the development proposal. He stated that the project would include a roundabout, and that the new road would be constructed so that an additional lane could be added in the future, if necessary. Mr. Basham concluded by noting that a public hearing had taken place and that no opposition was expressed at that meeting. Mr. Steinman asked if CDOT and the Charlotte Planning Department have been involved with this project. Mr. Basham and Ms. Osborne, the Planning Department staff member working on the project, both replied that they have. Mr. Coxe asked if the Charlotte City Council would be asked to take a directed vote. Mr. Basham indicated that he is working on that now.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the proposed amendment of the Thoroughfare Plan to realign Eastfield Road. Ms. Blackburn seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Lawyers Road TIP Amendment

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the Budget Bill sets aside up to \$2 million for FY 2013, 2014 and 2015, for a total of up to \$6 million, for Lawyers Road improvements in Mint Hill from I-485 to NC 51. He noted that a mall development proposal is what sparked the issue and that if MUMPO approves the project, it will need to amend the TIP and LRTP, and a conformity determination will be necessary, assuming the project qualifies as regionally significant. In addition, due to the fact that the set aside funds are equity funds, other projects in MUMPO's currently adopted TIP would need to be delayed in order to get the \$2 million for Lawyer's Road.

Mr. Moose stated that the set aside funding is law, because it is in the approved budget. He indicated that the developer would like to open the mall sometime in late 2013 or early 2014, so action by the MPO will be necessary soon. He stated that it is an earmark because it is considered an economic development project. He also noted that one intersection that is included in the project scope – at Bain School Road and Lawyers Road – just made the NCDOT high-hazard list, so NCDOT would be looking to make improvements at that intersection either way.

Mr. Bailey, with the Town of Mint Hill, stated that the set aside funding was initiated by the developer and officials in Raleigh, and that the town was not involved. Mr. Panicker asked when the money needs to spent, to which Mr. Moose indicated that it must be spent before the budget expires, or it must be included in the new budget, or it goes away. Ms. Barren, with Federal Highway, stated that a formal request is necessary to make a determination on regional significance. Ms. Blackburn asked if any other financial options have been considered, or if the developer would be willing to pay for the required conformity work? Mr. Bailey replied that he did not know. Ms. Martel inquired about the environmental work being done. Mr. Moose responded that the developer has been engaged in the environmental process.

Mr. Coxe stated that his opinion is that this situation is no different than federal earmarks, in that someone else is telling the MPO how to spend money without going through the local process. He noted that in the past, the jurisdiction who is the beneficiary of the earmarked funds has been asked to give up other projects to make up the difference in the TIP. Mr. Cook noted that the Lawyers Road project is not ranked in the LRTP. Mr. Coxe suggested using a staff meeting to rank the project to see where it would fall on MUMPO's prioritized list of highway projects. He then asked that the item be placed on a transportation staff meeting agenda in the near future, as requested. Mr. Cook indicated it would be place on the February 8 staff meeting agenda.

9. I-77 North Project Update (I-5405)

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe informed the TCC that a Categorical Exemption has been released by NCDOT for comment regarding TIP project I-5405, to widen I-77 North and add high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. He stated that a working group, led by Mr. Gibbs of CDOT, has been assembled to compile comments. He noted that the comments are due March 5, and that the TCC would be asked to endorse the comments at its March 1 meeting. He asked that TCC members wishing to provide comments send them to him or Mr. Gibbs. Mr. Coxe also stated that a public-private partnership (P3) is being considered for the project. He concluded by announcing that on Thursday, February 16, a webinar regarding P3 will be made available in the Government Center in Charlotte, and also in Huntersville. He stated that a workshop for the Redline Rail project, but which will also include a P3 discussion, will take place on February 23. Mr. Moose announced that if any MUMPO member jurisdictions would like a P3 presentation made to their councils, it would be available.

10. I-485 Widening Project Update (R-4902)

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT Div. 10

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose stated that NCDOT is still working on ways to expand this project from what is listed in the TIP (R-4902), but that nothing new has happened since his update at the January TCC meeting. He noted that a public-private partnership (P3) is still being considered.

11. FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program

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 noted that the funding amounts from the FY 2012 UPWP will be used as a starting point for developing the FY 2013 UPWP, because the amount of funding for FY 2013 is not yet known. That being the case, MUMPO will have approximately \$2,043,544 to program. He then outlined the proposed local projects for funding, which can be found by clicking the link for the previously referenced Power Point presentation. Mr. Cook indicated that the projects would be reviewed at a staff meeting and that a draft of the UPWP will be presented at the March TCC meeting.

12. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker stated that no further work has been accomplished on the CTP since he last updated the TCC at its January meeting. Mr. Steinman noted that a dinner briefing will be scheduled in March to begin discussing the CTP with the Charlotte City Council.

13. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- Due to the volume of locally administered projects in MUMPO (CMAQ, STP-DA, PL, etc), it would be helpful to come up with a way to track the progress of those types of projects, and that the Capital Area MPO (CAMPO) in Raleigh has developed such a program called the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP). He stated that a representative would be available directly following either the March or April TCC meeting and that all TCC members are encouraged to stay after the meeting for lunch and a LAPP presentation and discussion. Mr. Moose added that NCDOT is also going to be more aggressive in the future about keeping track of project progress, and the funding associated with discretionary projects;
- Comments regarding the remaining Complete Streets Design Guidelines that were released in January are due February 21, electronically, but written comments can be submitted following the March 1 TCC meeting. He encouraged the TCC subcommittee tasked with developing comments to meet and compile comments for the TCC to consider at its March meeting;
- The Urbanized Area (UZA) boundary shapefile information is anticipated to be released near the end of March, which will have major implications to the MPOs and RPOs throughout the region, so the TCC should anticipate future discussions regarding this topic;
- On February 28, in Albemarle, an Investment Summit to discuss the results of Prioritization 2.0 will be held by NCDOT and all TCC and MPO members are encouraged to attend to provide input. Mr. Moose added that the summit will be comprised of two half-day sessions – the morning session will focus on funding statewide, and the afternoon session will focus on equity funding.

Ms. Barren, of FHWA, announced that pre-applications for a fourth round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) discretionary grant funding are due February 20. She stated that approximately \$500 million will be available for construction projects.

14. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.