

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room CH-14
April 5, 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), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Travis Morgan – alt Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County-Park & Recreation), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Tim Boland (NCDOT), Reid Simons (NCTA)

Guests: Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Rebecca Yarbrough (Centralina COG), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Bill Thunberg (LNTC)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Coxe stated that Item 6 on the agenda needs to be removed. He also asked if there was a specific discussion topic planned for Item 10 on the agenda, regarding the CTP. Mr. Panicker responded that it will simply be a quick update, to which Mr. Coxe asked that if a specific discussion topic is not identified in the future, the item should be taken up at a staff meeting instead of the TCC meeting. Hearing no other changes, Mr. Berger made a motion to adopt the agenda as modified. Mr. Panicker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of March 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. Wells made a motion to approve the March TCC minutes. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Barton Creek Greenway TIP Amendment (C-5537)

Presenter: Gwen Cook, Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Cook began by describing where the Barton Creek Greenway is located, and highlighted some of the existing greenway projects in the area. She also described two major projects – a CATS bridge project for the future Blue Line extension, and a North Tryon bridge project – that will impact the existing pedestrian network around the University area. She stated that Barton Creek Greenway currently has CMAQ funding for FY 2015 in the 2012-2018 TIP, but that by accelerating the project it could serve as a solution to the pedestrian connectivity problem that will be created by the CATS and North Tryon bridge projects.

She indicated that Barton Creek Greenway could be completed in 2014 if the funds are moved to the current fiscal year in the TIP.

Mr. Coxe stated that the project was discussed at the April 4 staff meeting, and that two primary concerns were raised: 1) Would other CMAQ projects in the TIP be impacted, and 2) Can bridge funds be used for the project instead of CMAQ funds. Mr. Moose indicated that NCDOT is still looking into using bridge funds for a portion of the project cost, but that little leeway has been made. Ms. Cook stated that other alternatives have been discussed, but that most were not feasible because the costs were too high.

Motion:

Mr. Tippetts made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve an amendment to the 2012-2018 TIP to fund project C-5537 (Barton Creek Greenway) in FY 2012, as presented. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. CONNECT Consortium Agreement

Presenter: Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Yarbrough provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She indicated that the final version of the CONNECT Consortium agreement is ready, aside from a few minor non-substantive changes. She then provided a presentation that outlined the following:

- Challenges facing the community, and the purpose and need of the CONNECT Consortium effort;
- The Charlotte bi-state region received a HUD grant for \$4.9 million to create a framework and develop a plan that addresses the sustainability needs of the region;
- The importance of participation, notably from elected officials throughout the region;
- The geographic region, which includes 14 counties, as well as other organizations involved; and
- Responsibilities of the Consortium members.

Ms. Yarbrough also noted that members of the Consortium will be asked to appoint a staff representative and an elected official representative to participate, and she reminded the TCC that this will be a three-year process. Mr. Steinman asked what the venue will be for the modeling staff to become involved with the initiative, to which Ms. Yarbrough stated she thought the Blue Printing team meetings would be a good place to start that discussion. Mr. Messera asked how this process will impact MPO staff time, to which Mr. Cook stated that it is important enough that staff will find a way to be involved. Mr. Coxe suggested that the TCC would be more comfortable recommending endorsement of the Consortium at its May meeting, but in the meantime candidates who will participate as representatives for MUMPO should be considered.

5. I-77 & I-485 TIP and LRTP Amendments & Conformity Determination

Presenter: Barry Moose, NCDOT-Division 10 Office

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Moose informed the TCC that a public comment period for a conformity determination for the I-77 North HOT project and the I-485 South widening project is in progress, and two public meetings are scheduled – April 17 in Pineville and April 18 in Huntersville. He also stated that he has discussed the I-77 project with NCDOT's Strategic Planning Office of Transportation and with the Federal Highway Administration regarding additional funding possibilities for the project.

Ms. Reid Simons stated that a staff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, in which a lot of information will be provided, and that draft FAQs will be sent to the task force later today. Mr. Coxe noted that a public workshop for the Categorical Exclusion for the I-77 project is being scheduled concurrently with the conformity process, but that no date has been set. He suggested that it would be a good idea to allow citizens to comment on both conformity and the environmental document at the same meeting, if possible.

Mr. Steinman indicated that the City of Charlotte would likely need a directed vote, which involves several meetings and would not be possible in April due to the fact that the public comment period for conformity does not end until May 2. He proposed a revised schedule in which the MPO holds a special meeting on June 20 to take final action. Ms. Barren stated that the MPO's action will trigger a 30-day clock for FHWA approval, to which Mr. Moose responded that the change in schedule would, at a minimum, delay the I-485 project approximately one month. Mr. Moose also stated that NCDOT would be ready to make a recommendation to the TCC and MPO in May, and suggested that NCDOT and the TCC review the public comments together in order to have a recommendation ready by the May 10 TCC meeting. Further discussion followed, concluding with Mr. Coxe suggesting that the April 11 staff meeting be held at 3:30 to allow more time for discussion.

Mr. Moose introduced Mr. Tim Boland, with the Division 10 Office, as the replacement for Richard Hancock, who left Division 10 to take over as the Division 8 engineer.

6. Item 6 was removed from the agenda.

7. Charlotte Urbanized Area Expansion & MUMPO Impacts

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook informed the TCC that the Urbanized Area Boundaries (UZA) for the 2010 census have officially been released by the Census Bureau. He stated that the population of MUMPO's urbanized area has increased, and that it now contains approximately 1.2 million people. He clarified that the UZA is designated by the Census Bureau and cannot be appealed, but that the MPO planning area boundary can be negotiated and will be a process involving all affected parties in the region. Mr. Cook noted some of the major changes from the 2000 UZA, including the additions of Statesville, West Port, Marshville and Lancaster County in South Carolina. He also noted that MUMPO's UZA now encroaches into the following counties: Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba, Cabarrus and Iredell in North Carolina, and York and Lancaster in South Carolina. He outlined some next steps as follows:

- The Metrolina Travel Demand Model will have to be expanded to incorporate new urbanized areas that are not currently included in the model;
- A work plan will need to be developed to determine all the steps necessary to finalize MUMPO's new planning area boundary; and
- A CRAFT meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17 to begin discussing how the region will proceed to determine new MPO boundaries.

Mr. Coxe requested that TCC members take good notes as they present this information to the Boards in their respective jurisdictions, in order to maintain a record of the process.

8. Certification Review

Presenter: Loretta Barren, FHWA

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Barren explained that a certification review is required every four years for a MPO that also qualifies as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) – meaning its population exceeds 200,000. Since MUMPO is considered a TMA, a certification review is required, and was held on December 5th and 6th of 2011. Ms. Barren stated that the official report was released and contains one corrective action – that MUMPO complete a Congestion Management Process by March 2013. She indicated that if the CMP is not complete by the deadline, MUMPO will not be able to construct any capacity adding projects. Mr. Coxe asked if a toll only lane could be constructed without a completed CMP, to which Ms. Barren replied that it could. She also noted that both CATS and the CDOT Modeling team received excellent reviews for the work they have accomplished.

9. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that a consultant has been selected to assist MUMPO with the development of its CMP. He noted that a TCC task force has been constituted to help with the process and that the task force will hold its next meeting on April 13. He stated that the Federal Highway Administration will be represented at the April 13 meeting. Mr. Cook concluded by indicating that the consultant that was chosen is fully aware of the implications of completing the CMP by the March 2013 deadline.

10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker informed the TCC that the second draft of the CTP highway map was sent out for review earlier in the week. He also indicated that the second draft of the transit map is currently being prepared, along with the second draft of the bicycle and pedestrian maps. Mr. Steinman urged that a CTP staff meeting be held as soon as possible to discuss the status of the process.

11. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- MUMPO is currently soliciting projects for potential CMAQ funding in FY 2016 & 2017. Project submittals are due Friday, April 27;
- The annual NC Association of MPOs Conference will be held in Asheville from May 2-4, 2012;
- NCDOT is concluding work on its 2040 Plan. At a future staff meeting, a project update will be provided and this topic will be discussed in more detail;
- MUMPO will begin the update of its LRTP very soon. Several TCC members have been identified to participate in a working group that will be tasked with leading the plan update process.

Mr. Moose announced that Tim Boland, with NCDOT's Division 10 office, would be taking over the duties

of Richard Hancock.

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