

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 280**  
**May 10, 2012**

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**Voting Members:** *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Alan Giles – alt for Jason Rayfield (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Tim Boland – alt for Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Ben McCrary (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Polimeni (MUMPO), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Brandon Watson (Cornelius), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Reid Simons (NCDOT), Lauren Blackburn (NCDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Division) – phone

**Guests:** Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Todd Steiss (PB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Rebecca Yarbrough (Centralina COG), Bill Thunberg (LNTC)

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Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Coxe stated that Item 4 on the agenda needs to be modified so that the only action necessary will be to request that the MPO hold a special meeting in June in order to take action on the proposed item at that time, instead of at its May meeting. The agenda was adopted with no other changes proposed.

**2. Consideration of April 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 April TCC minutes. Mr. Panicker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. MUMPO Self-Certification**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that MUMPO is required to certify itself annually. He indicated that a checklist of the duties and responsibilities of the MPO was sent out and no comments were received. He also noted that MUMPO was recently certified by the Federal Highway Administration.

Motion:

Mr. Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve MUMPO's certification. Mr. Wells

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

#### **4. I-77 & I-485 TIP and LRTP Amendments & Conformity Determination**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

##### Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe stated that this item is on the agenda for amendments to the LRTP and TIP, and for an air quality conformity determination for both of those documents. He then indicated that several subcommittee meetings have been conducted, and the consensus is that no action is ready to be taken at this time; however, it is recommended that the MPO hold a special meeting in June to act on this item. He emphasized that the I-77 and I-485 projects are very innovative for this region.

Mr. Coxe also noted that the I-485 project is anticipated to be let in July, but that it could be delayed due to the delay of the conformity determination being approved by the MPO. He indicated that the TCC subcommittee and NCDOT are working together to come up with the best solution possible in a timely manner for moving forward with I-485 and I-77. He reminded the TCC that the I-77 project, I-5405 in MUMPO's TIP, is one of three projects that make up a much larger project that could potential be funded through a public-private partnership, and that a corridor vision study for I-77 north is desired. He announced the members of the subcommittee and suggested that if TCC members have comments or questions that they contact a member of the subcommittee. He then asked if others had comments.

Mr. Steinman made the following statement on behalf of NCDOT:

*After an extensive discussion with local, regional, state and federal staff, NCDOT requests that the TCC remove agenda Item #4 from the May 10 TCC agenda. NCDOT projects that this schedule will not materially affect the construction schedule for the widening of I-485 in south Charlotte. NCDOT expects to proceed with the construction contract for I-485 this summer. New information has been developed for both I-485 and I-77, with extensive additional information expected in the upcoming weeks.*

Ms. Simons, with NCDOT, stated that the request made by Mr. Steinman is the request of the NCDOT.

Mr. Langen asked if the Weddington Road interchange will be included as part of the I-485 project being discussed? Mr. Coxe noted that the I-485 project only deals with the widening of the interstate, not the interchanges. Mr. Langen requested that the interchange be studied, specifically the environmental issues, as part of the I-485 project. Mr. Messera, from the Town of Matthews, supported that idea. Mr. Steinman indicated that the section of I-485 being widened from Rea Road to US 74, which includes the Weddington Road interchange, will be part of the next LRTP update. Ms. Barren asked if the Weddington Road interchange is included in the current LRTP, in which case it will be included in the environmental review. It was determined that it is in the LRTP and it could be included as part of a future LRTP amendment, but not part of the current amendment proposed.

Mr. Langen then asked if any public comments have impacted the decision making process? Mr. Coxe noted that many of the comments have been, and continue to be, a concern. He also stated that a Fast Lanes study is being conducted that deals with many of the issues. Mr. Pleasant stated his support for working together, and expeditiously, with the NCDOT to accomplish the I-77 and I-485 projects, and commended NCDOT for its work thus far.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO hold a special meeting in June to discuss, and take action, on the I-77/I-485 LRTP and TIP amendments, and the associated conformity determination. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

**a. Miscellaneous TIP Amendments**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that five TIP amendments are being requested – three of statewide concern, and two specific to MUMPO. The two MUMPO TIP amendments are as follows:

- U-209B, to widen and improve Independence Boulevard – to be delayed from FY 12 to FY 13, which equates to about a 6 month delay;
- U-3850, to add a westbound lane to I-277 through the I-77 interchange – to be removed from the TIP due to a lack of funding to complete the project.

Motion:

Ms. Martel made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the amendments to the TIP as presented. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Bearskin Creek Greenway TIP Amendment (EB-5011)**

Presenter: Lisa Stiwinter, City of Monroe

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Stiwinter stated that the City of Monroe, in consultation with NCDOT, is requesting that the Bearskin Creek Greenway project be added to the TIP in FY 2015. She described the project, and its location, and noted that part of the greenway has already been constructed. She indicated that the project is in the City of Monroe master plan and connects many uses. Ms. Stiwinter also noted that if the project is programmed the City will not be required to pay the matching funds, but will have to meet other NCDOT requirements and acquire the necessary right-of-way.

Mr. Tippette asked which parts of the project do not meet NCDOT standards, and Ms. Stiwinter responded that portions of the existing greenway are gravel and other sections are not wide enough. Mr. Pleasant asked what source of funding is being used for the project. Ms. Blackburn, with NCDOT, stated that state enhancement bicycle funds are being used, which are different than traditional enhancement funds. She also indicated that the Monroe project is a priority project because of the quality of destinations that it links, plus the willingness of the City to work with NCDOT to complete the project. Mr. Coxe asked what the impact to equity funds will be. Ms. Blackburn advised amending the TIP now, or waiting until the draft STIP is released and program it then. Mr. Pleasant stated that he thinks it is a great project and would like more information about the funding prior to the July TCC meeting in order to potentially program it at that time. It was recommended that the item be placed on a transportation staff meeting agenda for further discussion prior to the July TCC meeting.

**6. CONNECT Consortium Agreement**

Presenter: Rebecca Yarbrough, Centralina COG

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Yarbrough stated that the final CONNECT Consortium Agreement is ready to be approved by MUMPO, and that it is requested to be approved at the MPO's May 16 meeting. Mr. Coxe asked if it is also necessary to appoint MUMPO representation to the program and policy forums as part of the action. Ms. Yarbrough suggested that it is not necessary now, but should be done in June. Mr. Coxe asked for an explanation about the responsibilities of appointed members to the two forums. Ms. Yarbrough indicated that the staff representative would be assigned to the Program Forum, which meets several times a year to discuss the results of other groups working on the project, such as the blueprinting group, and determining how to integrate all the working parts together, along with the impacts each will have. She noted that the MPO board member would be assigned to the Policy Forum, which would meet less frequently and discuss the bigger picture issues.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the CONNECT Consortium Agreement. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the FY 2013 UPWP needs to be approved, but asked if the TCC could conditionally recommend its approval to the MPO while a few outstanding issues are resolved prior to the MPO's May 16 meeting. He identified two specific issues that need to be resolved, as follows:

- Section 5303 Funds, used for transit planning – the final numbers were released this week and need to be discussed with CATS and CDOT to determine how the funds will be split up;
- Planning (PL) Funds – the PL funds for the Congestion Management Process are higher than expected, so it needs to be determined where the extra funds will come from.

Mr. Cook stated that he and the TCC Chair will work to resolve those issues prior to the May 16 MPO meeting. Mr. Panicker, with NCDOT, reminded the TCC to make sure all of the funds budgeted for local projects are being used so that the billing works out and is justified.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the FY 2013 UPWP, contingent upon adjustments to the Section 5303 and Planning (PL) funds as presented. Mr. Messera seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**8. Congestion Management & Air Quality**

Presenter: Nicholas Polimeni

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Polimeni reminded the TCC that four CMAQ project development meetings have taken place, led by Bjorn Hansen of Centralina COG, who was contracted by MUMPO to lead the current CMAQ call for projects. He indicated that project applications were due April 27, and that 28 projects – totaling approximately \$51 million – were submitted. He stated that the next steps are to convene a selection

committee to rank the projects received, and that the TCC and MPO are anticipated to take action to endorse a ranked list of CMAQ projects in July 2012. Mr. Berger asked if another call would be necessary prior to FY 2016, to which Mr. Polimeni responded that the list currently being developed should suffice.

## **9. Urbanized Area (UZA) Boundary Expansion**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook began by stating that this item was discussed at a recent Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) meeting. He indicated that the deadline for determining a new MPO planning area boundary is March 2013. Some of the issues highlighted included the following:

- Marshville, in Union County, is now part of the Charlotte UZA; therefore, considerations need to be made about whether MUMPO should take in all of Union County and what would be the impacts to the existing Rocky River RPO;
- A meeting is scheduled near the end of May to discuss the impacts of expansion into Iredell County with staff from various towns affected;
- Other impacts related to counties surrounding Mecklenburg County in which the Charlotte UZA is now located.

Mr. Cook also noted that he would like the MPO board to form a small committee to provide input, and contribute to the decision making process regarding MUMPO's new planning area boundary. Mr. Coxe reminded the TCC members to take good notes as they present to individual Town Boards in order to maintain a record for future use. Mr. Panicker asked if any discussions had taken place with the impacted areas in South Carolina. Mr. Cook responded that South Carolina would be comfortable with the arrangement that followed the 2000 census, in which the Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study assumed the planning responsibilities for the areas in South Carolina.

## **10. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- The Wednesday, May 16 transportation staff meeting will include a CTP discussion, as well as a discussion about the NCDOT 2040 Statewide Plan;
- The annual NC Association of MPOs Conference was held in Asheville from May 2-4, and included several sessions of interest, as well as some presentations about future funding and legislation.

Ms. Simons, with NCDOT, announced that the appeal in the lawsuit associated with the Monroe Bypass project was lost and that the case has been remanded back to the judge in Raleigh who made the initial decision in order to work out the pending legal and environmental issues. The project will move forward with design and right-of-way acquisition; however, construction will be delayed. She also noted that the way in which the project is financed allows for flexibility, and that more information will be provided soon.

**11. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.