

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**June 7, 2012**

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**Voting Members:** *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan – alt for George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Tim Gibbs – alt for 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), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Jamal Alavi – alt for Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Brandon Watson – alt for Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Ben McCrary (Davidson), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Reid Simons (NCDOT), David Hooper (RFATS) – phone, Andrew Bryant (Lincoln County), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Trisha Hartzell (NCDOT), Tim Boland (NCDOT), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail)

**Guests:** Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Todd Steiss (PB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Tom Kelly (Atkins), Bill Thunberg (LNTC)

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Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no changes proposed.

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

**3. I-77 & I-485 TIP & LRTP Amendments & Conformity Determination**

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe suggested that the item be broken into two parts: I-485 and I-77. He stated that I-485 is the more imminent project, and confirmed the schedule with Mr. Moose with NCDOT and Ms. Barren with FHWA. He directed the TCC to the item on the agenda (subsection 2) and noted that more than one action is necessary. Ms. Barren indicated that the conformity determination is the first action necessary, then the LRTP amendment(s), followed by the TIP amendment(s). It was also clarified that I-485 and I-77 have to be found to be conforming to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as part of the same action. Prior to taking any action, each item was discussed to determine if the TCC is comfortable with the proposed LRTP and TIP amendments.

Mr. Coxe summarized the I-485 project and asked if the TCC had any questions about the proposed amendments to the plan regarding this project. He noted that a cost savings can be accomplished by building a larger cross section of the I-485 project than originally proposed, and specifically drew the TCC's attention to the proposed funding scenario, which is outlined in [this addendum](#). Mr. Coxe noted that the project delays listed in the addendum represent a worst case scenario and that if other funding is available – such as Mobility Funds – then the proposed project delays would be minimized, and possibly eliminated. Mr. Messera asked why these specific projects were chosen to be delayed, to which Mr. Moose responded that the proposed project delays are necessary to balance the TIP, and the projects chosen are probably the most appropriate projects to do so. Mr. Coxe stated that the final issue related to the I-485 project is that the state will be asked to provide an additional four feet of paving on each side of I-485, above and beyond what was originally proposed.

Regarding I-77, Mr. Coxe noted that the key issue is determining which version of the project is recommended. Four scenarios have been proposed and there is an existing TIP project (TIP #I-5405) that has already been approved by the MPO. Mr. Coxe outlined each scenario, and then noted that through discussions with NCDOT, and for a public-private partnership to work, the scenario recommended by NCDOT provides two HOT lanes in each direction between I-85 and Exit 28 with 3+ carpools utilizing the lane for free. He noted that this section of the project is part of a larger project that is proposed to widen I-77 from I-277 in Charlotte to Mooresville in southern Iredell County, which will require future action.

Further discussion followed clarifying which projects would be modified, or removed, from the LRTP related to the I-485 project. Mr. McLamb asked what portion of the I-485 project would be equity funds, to which Mr. Coxe responded it is estimated to be \$38 million. In response to a question regarding the I-77 HOT lanes project, Mr. Coxe and Mr. Moose emphasized the rationale behind increasing the carpools from 2+ to 3+, noting that HOT lane projects throughout the country are all being developed as 3+.

Motion:

Mr. Gibbs made a motion to recommend that the MPO make the determination that the proposed amendments to the LRTP and TIP pass conformity. Mr. Alavi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend that the MPO amend the LRTP and TIP as presented with the modification to the description of the I-485 project as discussed (both of which are included in the minutes [here](#)). Mr. Icard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to endorse the Statement of Principles, including the changes proposed, as well as the supplement presented, and to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the principles (which can be found [here](#)). Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook presented several minor [TIP amendments](#) proposed by NCDOT. He specifically mentioned that Mecklenburg County has been notified that the Irwin Creek bikeway project will be delayed and is okay with the delay. No objections were raised for any of the proposed TIP amendments.

Motion:

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

**5. Planning Area Boundary Expansion**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook introduced this item by highlighting several changes to MUMPO's planning area boundary that are proposed due to the expansion of the Charlotte Urbanized Area (UZA). He noted that a discussion of the boundary issues took place at the staff meeting on Wednesday, June 6. The first item Mr. Cook presented was the Charlotte UZA in York County in which it is recommended that planning authority is ceded to the existing MPO in South Carolina (RFATS) to which there was consensus by the TCC. The second issue he identified is the encroachment of Charlotte's UZA into Gaston County in the Town of Mt. Holly. He noted the complexity regarding this area of the expansion due to the TMA status of MUMPO – Gaston would be required to meet the requirements of a TMA without receiving the benefits of a TMA. Staff suggested that if it were not for the TMA issue MUMPO would likely elect to cede the area to the Gaston Area MPO, but further discussion is necessary due to some of the complexities and confusion related to this issue. Mr. Icard noted that if MUMPO kept that portion of Mt. Holly, it would split the town between the two MPOs requiring participation in both MPOs by town officials. The third issue presented by Mr. Cook has to do with counties that currently are not within an existing MPO's planning area. One such area is in Catawba County, where the Hickory MPO has expressed a desire to take in all of southeastern Catawba County, in which case MUMPO could concede its UZA area in Catawba County to the Hickory MPO (Hickory MPO is a TMA). The other area where this happens is in Lancaster County in South Carolina. Again, this area could be conceded to an existing MPO, the Rock Hill MPO. David Hooper, who represents RFATS, confirmed that it is very likely that RFATS would extend an invitation to officials in Lancaster County to become part of RFATS.

Mr. Cook then raised the issue of the overall boundary expansion, stating that a final planning area boundary will need to be established. He noted that staff has met with officials in Iredell County and it was agreed that the South Yadkin River seems like a logical northern boundary for the new planning area, as well as including the entirety of Iredell County from east to west, south of the river. Finally, a couple scenarios were presented for Lincoln County, which is also currently not included in an existing MPO. Andrew Bryant of the Lincoln County Planning Department was present and suggested that the scenarios depend on whether the City of Lincolnton decides to partner with the Gaston Area MPO. The TCC indicated that either scenario would be acceptable. He stated that ultimately, Lincoln County is aware that it could possibly be represented by two MPOs and a RPO, and is prepared to do so if necessary. Mr. Cook suggested that further discussion regarding Lincoln County is necessary.

The final issue discussed by Mr. Cook is the expansion of the Charlotte UZA into eastern Union County. He stated that it will depend on the fate of the Rocky River RPO, which is pending a change to the state legislation. One question he posed is whether MUMPO should plan for all of Union County. He noted that a meeting is scheduled to discuss this issue with Union County officials. Mr. Cook stated that the TCC's recommendations will be presented to the MPO at its special June 2012 meeting.

Mr. Langen asked if the MPO will be hiring more staff. Mr. Cook responded that an on-call consultant contract is currently being evaluated, which will help alleviate some of the work load issues in the interim, but that additional staff will eventually be necessary.

## **6. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)**

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Hansen informed the TCC that it would be asked to take action on a CMAQ project list at its July meeting. He provided some background information about how the list was developed, and presented the final project list and proposed funding. Mr. Coxe noted that CATS will receive approximately \$15 million of the total estimated \$20 million allocation, and asked if the project selection subcommittee raised any concern about that. Mr. Hansen replied that the issue was discussed, but that the committee determined it was an open competition and the CATS projects proposed for funding scored well.

## **7. MUMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Ranking Methodology Revisions**

Presenter: Adam McLamb, Town of Indian Trail

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. McLamb presented proposed modifications to MUMPO's currently adopted bicycle and pedestrian ranking methodology. He stated that along with the changes, it was determined that an application be developed. He highlighted some of the confusion with the current criteria and what revisions are suggested as a result. Mr. McLamb concluded by stating that the criteria and application will be finalized and sent to the subcommittee for final review, after which time the criteria will be presented to the TCC and MPO to take action to approve the revisions.

## **8. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Coxe suggested that the September TCC meeting date be discussed at the next TCC meeting to determine where and when it will take place.

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