

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
July 12, 2012

Voting Members: *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Jason Rayfield (LUESA-Air Quality), Louis Mitchell – 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)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation)

Guests: Todd Steiss (PB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Josh King (Isothermal Planning & Development Commission)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM without a quorum. As a result, information items were taken first.

1. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that the draft TIP is anticipated to be released by NCDOT in September. He noted that one of the issues related to the release of the TIP will be to determine how best to incorporate the new counties that will be added to MUMPO as part of the planning area boundary expansion into the process. Mr. Coxe reminded the TCC that the new area is in a separate NCDOT funding region and will not compete with Mecklenburg and Union counties for equity funds. George Berger suggested inviting new members to be involved in staff meetings and TCC activities as soon as possible. Norm Steinman noted that a conformity determination related to the new TIP will be necessary, to which Mr. Cook responded that discussions are currently taking place among the pertinent agencies regarding a conformity schedule.

2. Planning Area Boundary Expansion

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook introduced this item by outlining the progress of MUMPO's planning area boundary expansion, which is necessary due to the increase of Charlotte's Urbanized Area (UZA). He noted that a work group of the MPO has been formed to look at the necessary revisions to MUMPO's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will conduct its first meeting on July 18. Regarding MUMPO's new planning area boundary, he highlighted the following outstanding issues:

- Discussions among staff in Gaston, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties have led to a preliminary agreement that the planning responsibilities for Lincoln County could be divided between the three agencies involved – the western third to Lake Norman RPO (LNRPO), the central third (including the Town of Lincolnton) to the Gaston Urban Area MPO (GUAMPO), and the eastern third bordering Lake Norman to MUMPO;

- With respect to Gaston County, discussions with the Town of Mt. Holly are necessary to determine its comfort level with regard to dividing planning duties between GUAMPO and MUMPO; and
- A meeting with Union County staff is scheduled for July 20 to discuss several options for the boundary between MUMPO and the Rocky River RPO (RRRPO), which currently both plan for different portions of Union County.

Mr. Coxe asked if a TCC work group is necessary to discuss changes to MUMPO's MOU, to which several members indicated it would be a good idea. He suggested informing the affected jurisdictions outside of MUMPO about the July 18 MOU work group meeting. Norm Steinman suggested that members from neighboring TCCs and MPOs attend each other's meetings in order to strengthen the regional dialogue.

3. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Working Group

Presenter: Nicholas Landa

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Landa stated that it is time to schedule the first meeting of the LRTP work group to begin MUMPO's LRTP update process. He reminded the TCC that several members volunteered at the February TCC meeting to help with this effort, and he also indicated that various other staff members were identified to assist with the process. The TCC was asked to provide input about those included on the [LRTP Work Group list](#). The following suggestions were made:

- Andrew Grant requested that Brandon Watson, with the Town of Cornelius, be included;
- Mr. Coxe suggested adding the TCC's recommended CONNECT Program Forum representative, Jonathan Wells, and a staff member to represent health issues. Dick Winters, associated with Mecklenburg County's Health Department was recommended;
- It was also noted that Jason Wager, with Centralina COG, has been identified to assist with environmental issues, and Loretta Barren has been identified to provide FHWA assistance;
- Bjorn Hansen noted that a freight study is currently underway, and data gathered from the study process, including private sector information, will contribute to the development of the plan.

At approximately 10:30 AM, Mr. Coxe noted that a quorum had been achieved due to the arrival of additional TCC members. He indicated that the action items on the agenda would now be heard.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Coxe proposed that the agenda be modified to add an item after item 10 on the agenda, to recommend the appointment of a TCC representative to the CONNECT Program Forum of the Regional Transportation Study being conducted by Centralina COG. Ms. Martel made a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. the motion passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of June Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the minutes were necessary. Hearing none, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

6. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)

Presenter: Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Hansen reminded the TCC that at its June meeting a list of ranked CMAQ projects proposed for funding in FY 2016 and 2017 was presented. He noted the following changes that have occurred since the list was presented:

- The CDOT application for various Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects was updated to include more specific information, as requested by the CMAQ subcommittee; and
- The CDOT Bike Share application has been modified to remove its request for CMAQ funds for the purchase of bicycles not made in the USA as it is not an eligible use of the funds.

He continued by stating that no other comments were received so the TCC is asked to recommend that the MPO approve the [list of CMAQ projects](#) in rank order with the proposed funding amounts assigned. Gwen Cook noted that several of the projects on the list are duplicates. Mr. Hansen stated he would correct the list before it is presented to the MPO board, but that it does not impact the total funding requested or the rank order of the other projects on the list. Adam McLamb noted that one agency (CATS) is proposed to receive a majority of the anticipated funds available, and suggested that the selection process should be reviewed to account for how much funding one agency receives, and to also look into an equitable geographic distribution of funds. Mr. Hansen noted that the new areas that will become part of MUMPO due to the UZA expansion will also need to be accounted for.

Motion:

Mr. Grant made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the list of CMAQ projects as presented. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook presented several minor [TIP Amendments](#) proposed by NCDOT. He noted one change to the list of projects, stating that the North Community House Road project (TIP #U-5519) requires an administrative conformity determination and the TIP cannot be amended to include that project until the conformity determination is made. Mr. Coxe asked why the roundabout at Shopton Road and Beam Road is proposed to be delayed. Mr. Cook responded that it was a request from the project applicant (CDOT) because the originally proposed schedule was too aggressive and more time is necessary before the project moves forward. Mr. Coxe asked if delaying that project would free up equity funds. Mr. Cook indicated he would find out.

Motion:

Mr. McLamb made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the amendments to the TIP as presented, and move forward with public involvement for the conformity determination for TIP project U-5519 as soon as the appropriate documentation is prepared. Anil Panicker seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. September TCC Meeting Date

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe indicated that the City of Charlotte would be hosting the Democratic National Convention the week of the regularly scheduled September TCC meeting. Due to conflicts related to the convention, he suggested that the TCC meeting be moved to the second Thursday of the month, September 13.

Motion:

Ralph Messera made a motion to change the September TCC meeting date to Thursday, September 13. Mr. Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker provided an update on the status of the draft CTP maps, stating that he sent out the first draft of the pedestrian maps the week prior to the July TCC meeting. He noted that some jurisdictions do not have a pedestrian plan to use as a guide, so policy guidance from those jurisdictions was used to complete the draft maps. Mr. Coxe asked if a subcommittee meeting is necessary to continue work on the CTP. Mr. Panicker stated that a meeting would be useful. Mr. Coxe asked him to arrange it. Mr. Panicker then noted that a discussion with NCDOT staff regarding the bicycle maps resulted in following the state's definition of "recommended" versus "needs improvement" for the draft maps. He clarified that bike lanes would be shown as "needs improvement" for a road that does not currently have bike lanes, but is proposed to have bike lanes. Mr. Coxe suggested it would be helpful if the bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee of the TCC could weigh in on the matter.

10. I-77 & I-485 TIP & LRTP Amendments & Conformity Determination

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe first provided an update on the I-485 south project, stating that a meeting took place with NCDOT and its consultant on Wednesday, June 11 in which the following issue was raised:

- The inclusion of an additional four feet of paving on each side of I-485 – above and beyond what was originally proposed – for the purpose of providing separation between general purpose lanes and HOT lanes.

Regarding the status of the I-77 North HOT Lanes project, Mr. Coxe noted the following:

- A coordination kick-off meeting with NCDOT took place on July 2 to discuss the environmental documents for the widening of the portion of I-77 from the Brookshire Freeway to I-85 (TIP project I-3311C) and project I-4750 HOT, which is currently a subset of project I-4750, proposed to look at adding HOT lanes to I-77 from Catawba Avenue to NC 150 in Mooresville. He noted that the full I-4750 TIP project would widen I-77 from Catawba Avenue to I-40 in Statesville;
- He also noted that the environmental document for project I-5405, to widen I-77 from I-85 to Catawba Avenue, is already underway;
- Ongoing discussions are underway about where the southern terminus of the I-4750 project will be, specifically as it concerns the causeways over Lake Norman and its interaction with the northern terminus of the I-5405 project at Catawba Avenue;
- Lauren Blackburn, with NCDOT, and regional staff concerned with bicycle and pedestrian issues related to the I-77 project met in Huntersville on July 9 to discuss non-motorized crossings of I-77 throughout the study corridor, and a report is being prepared as a result of that meeting;
- Comments from the I-77 Technical Team are being compiled to be included in a memorandum, anticipated to be sent to NCDOT on July 18. The memorandum will also include the non-motorized projects report mentioned previously, as well as a list of highway projects in the corridor that interact with, or could be impacted by, the proposed I-77 HOT lanes projects; and

- The release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to private-public partnership (P3) concessionaires has been delayed. He noted that it is the hope of the I-77 Technical Team that the comments provided in the memorandum to NCDOT on July 18 will be addressed through the RFP process.

Mr. Grant stated his concern about moving the existing bottleneck on I-77 further north if a project that is larger in scope is not considered. Mr. Coxe confirmed that in discussions with NCDOT, and comments provided to NCDOT, the segmentation of an I-77 north project and the functionality of transitions between project segments, has been a recurring issue raised.

11. CONNECT Consortium Appointment

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe indicated that Centralina COG has requested the involvement of MUMPO's TCC as it continues its work on the regional transportation study. As such, the MPO has been asked to appoint a TCC representative to the CONNECT Consortium Program Forum. Mr. Cook stated that Jonathan Wells has expressed a willingness to participate. He also stated that MPO staff can serve as the alternate.

Motion:

Mr. Berger made a motion to recommend that the MPO appoint Mr. Wells as MUMPO's representative to the Program Forum of the CONNECT Consortium, and MPO staff as the alternate. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

12. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- Kevin Icard, with the Town of Pineville, and Reid Simons, with NCDOT, will no longer be serving as staff to MUMPO's TCC. He thanked both for their many contributions; and
- MAP-21 legislation was approved, and an update on its implications will be provided as more information becomes available.

Mr. Pleasant announced that the City of Charlotte would be launching a bike share program today, called Charlotte B-Cycle. He indicated that it has funding for at least the next few years and will be functioning at full capacity in the next several weeks.

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