

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**September 13, 2012**

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**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), Jason Rayfield (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Adam McLamb – alt for Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Travis Morgan (Pineville), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joshua Langen (Wesley Chapel), Amy Helms (Union County)

**Staff:** Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Nick Landa (MUMPO), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Kent Main (C-M Planning), John Rose (CATS), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Dick Winters (Mecklenburg County Health), Will Washam (Cornelius), Zachary Gordon (Huntersville), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Andrew Bryant (Lincoln County), Dick Black (Union County), Loretta Barren (FHWA), Craig Newton (NCDOT) – phone

**Guests:** Todd Steiss (PB), Padam Singh (HNTB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Dan Morrill (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission), Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings)

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Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:05 AM.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. Coxe noted that the order of the items on the latter part of the agenda could change depending on when the presenter arrives, and then asked if any other modifications to the agenda are necessary. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted by acclamation.

**2. Consideration of August Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the minutes are necessary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jonathan Wells made a motion to approve the August TCC minutes. David McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. TIP Project P-5200: Thrift Depot Relocation**

Presenter: Craig Newton, NCDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe provided a summary of the project to the TCC, reminding them that the proposal is to relocate the historic Thrift Depot structure using enhancement funding. He stated that the funding is scheduled to be programmed in the TIP for right-of-way in FY 2013 and construction in FY 2014-2015. Craig Newton, with NCDOT, stated that the environmental work for the project is anticipated to be done by the end of this year, after which time the project can move forward. It was unclear how the funds would be divided over the three fiscal years for programming. Mr. Coxe suggested letting NCDOT figure that out prior to the MPO meeting on September 19. Mr. Newton also noted that he thinks the site will be okay for a park and ride use in the future, pending adequate access to the site. He also indicated that the

proposed Thrift Depot relocation would not interfere with the Freedom Drive project to be carried out by the City of Charlotte. Mr. Coxe stated that since the land on which the building will be relocated is being purchased with money attributable for transportation that he would like to request that NCDOT consider donating the land to the City of Charlotte for the Freedom Drive project that will require a portion of the lot in question for right-of-way. Mr. Newton noted the request.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the TIP amendment as proposed. Shannon Martel seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**4. TIP Project U-5519: N. Community House Road TIP/LRTP Amendments & Conformity Determination**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook informed the TCC that the proposed request is to shift funds from FY 2012 to FY 2013 for the N. Community House Road project. He stated that the request involves the following three actions: 1) air quality conformity determination, 2) long range transportation plan amendment and, 3) transportation improvement program amendment. The reason the amendment is necessary is that there is not enough time to complete the environmental work for the project in the current federal fiscal year, which ends September 30. Mr. Cook concluded by noting that public involvement took place and no comments were received.

Motion:

Norm Steinman made a motion to recommend that the MPO make the necessary conformity determination, amend the LRTP and amend the TIP as presented. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Environmental Justice – Public Involvement Plan Amendments**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook indicated that work has been done to amend MUMPO's public involvement plan to incorporate specific items related to improving public involvement in environmental justice communities, as well as to adopt a limited English proficiency plan. He stated that public involvement was completed for the proposed changes to the public involvement plan, and that the following comment from CATS was provided and is also proposed to be included as part of the requested action:

The MPO's outreach efforts when adopting an updated TIP satisfies the City of Charlotte's requirements of public participation for the program of projects when included in the TIP process.

Motion:

George Berger made a motion to recommend that the MPO amend the public involvement plan as presented. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. MPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion**

**a. Draft Planning Area Boundary**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook discussed the proposed MPO planning area boundary expansion, and indicated that the TCC would be asked to recommend that the MPO endorse a draft boundary. He stated that the draft boundary will not be the final action, but will help guide the process to revise the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Regarding the proposed MPO planning area boundary, he provided the following updates:

- Meetings with Union County staff has led to the agreement to include Marshville and the surrounding traffic analysis zones (TAZs), as well as revise the southern section of the MPO boundary in Union County to follow TAZs as opposed to a natural geographic feature (a stream);
- The Union County Board of Commissioners unanimously endorsed the proposed boundary at its August 30 meeting;
- Iredell County has not officially endorsed the proposed planning area boundary – which encompasses the entirety of Iredell county south of the S. Yadkin River, including I-40 all the way to the eastern county boundary line – but staff and officials in Iredell County have seen the proposal several times and appear to be comfortable with it;
- The Lincoln County Board endorsed a proposed boundary in August, but there is a slight modification to the planning area boundary for Lincoln County that came about recently which would cede a very small portion of the Gastonia Urbanized Area near Iron Station to MUMPO;
- Staff has discussed the change in Lincoln County and all parties are comfortable with it, meaning that Lincoln County will be covered by one MPO and one RPO;
- Andrew Bryant, a planner in Lincoln County, indicated that the proposal will go back to the Lincoln County Board, but does not anticipate any issues with the modified boundary as presented.

Mr. Coxe asked when the final boundary adoption will take place, and how. Loretta Barren, with FHWA, stated that the MPO will adopt the boundary sometime before the revised MOU is adopted.

Motion:

Ralph Messera made a motion to recommend that the MPO endorse the proposed MPO planning area boundary as presented, including the modification to the boundary in Lincoln County. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**b. Regional Agreements**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook informed the TCC that regional agreements with neighboring MPOs and RPOs will be necessary in order for the proposed new MPO boundary to become official. He noted that agreements were done after the 2000 census and that he anticipates these agreements to be similar. He indicated that he hopes to have a draft of the agreements by October, and have final agreements ready by November. Mr. Steinman requested that the following be included in the regional agreements:

- Invitation to each other's board meetings (each of the 4 MPOs and 2 RPOs in the region);
- Provide regularly scheduled presentations for issues of joint concern (among any of the regional transportation planning agencies); and
- Facilitate greater coordination for data collection.

Mr. Coxe noted that CRAFT provides a forum for this type of regional collaboration, but perhaps the suggestions by Mr. Steinman could bring more formality to the process.

**7. Hambright Road & Everette Keith Road Alignment Studies**

Presenter: Zachary Gordon, Town of Huntersville

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe introduced this item by making a brief comparison between a region in the Charlotte metro area and a region in the Atlanta metro area, noting the similarities between the two locations. Mr. Gordon then provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He noted that the request before the TCC is to recommend the authorization of a public comment process to discuss the proposed alignments of Hambright Road and Everette Keith Road, which are both central to the Eastfield Road Small Area Plan currently being developed. He described the location and purpose of the area plan and indicated that it borders the City of Charlotte, so he plans to work with Charlotte and MUMPO staff throughout the process.

Mr. Coxe asked if it should be a multi-jurisdictional effort between Huntersville and Charlotte. Mr. Wells stated that a new planning study – the Prosperity-Hucks Area Plan – is now underway in Charlotte which might tie in nicely. A discussion about impacts to the schedule of both efforts followed. Mr. Coxe suggested including the roadway impacts of both the Eastfield Road Small Area Plan and the Prosperity-Hucks Area Plan be included in the public involvement effort recommended for authorization. Stuart Basham noted that two public meetings are usually necessary for this type of alignment study, and suggested incorporating a second public meeting into the proposed schedule. Mr. Coxe requested that a coordinated presentation involving Huntersville and Charlotte planning staff be presented to the MPO at its September 19 meeting.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO authorize a coordinated public involvement process between the Town of Huntersville and the City of Charlotte to study the alignments of various roadways within the Eastfield Road Small Area Plan and the Prosperity-Hucks Area Plan. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**8. I-77 HOT Lanes**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Coxe updated the TCC on recent activities of the I-77 Tech Team and NCDOT regarding the I-77 HOT Lanes project, as follows:

- The environmental document (Categorical Exclusion) for the central section of the project (TIP No. I-5405) has been signed by the FHWA and NCDOT;
- The environmental documents for the northern (TIP No. I-4750 HOT) and southern (TIP No. I-3311C) sections are underway, and are scheduled to be completed before the conformity determination is made;
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Industry Draft of the RFP is scheduled to be released for review by potential concessionaires in late September;
- Bids for a project could be made by June 2013 under the current proposed project timeline;
- One conformity determination on a preferred alternative has already been made for the central section only, which consists of 2 HOT lanes in each direction between I-85 and Catawba Avenue, including converting the existing southbound HOV lane to a HOT lane;
- Conformity determinations for several project scenarios have been requested in order to give NCDOT flexibility to evaluate the cost/benefit of what a financially feasible project could ultimately be – those scenarios can be found in the attached table by clicking [here](#); and
- The proposed scenarios in the attached table are for analysis only, and are not proposed to go out for public involvement at this time.

Discussion followed about the ability of staff to complete several model runs required to make conformity determinations for the five scenarios proposed in the table, within the time constraints of NCDOT's currently proposed schedule. Several unknown factors led to the TCC acknowledging that progress is being made on evaluating several project scenarios and an update regarding the ongoing work, and schedule, will be provided to the MPO board at its September 19 meeting. No action was taken.

#### **9. Air Quality Conformity Determination Updates**

Presenter: Robert Cook

##### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that the purpose of including this item on the agenda is to give the TCC notice about upcoming conformity determinations that can be anticipated, including the following:

- o I-77 HOT Lanes project(s);
- o 2014-2020 Transportation Improvement Program;
- o New ozone standard; and
- o TIP project I-5507 to add express lanes to I-485 in south Charlotte.

He stated that there could be others and that staff is attempting to figure out where the above conformity undertakings can be combined in order to efficiently use staff resources and schedule public involvement.

#### **10. US 74 Framework Plan**

Presenter: Padam Singh, HNTB

##### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Singh provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He began by providing a brief history of the project, including the purpose and timeline, and indicated that the study is broken into two phases – Phase 1 consisting of a Framework Plan, and Phase II which will build on the Framework Plan to create a Final Plan that is adopted. He then highlighted several components of the study that have gone into the development of the Framework Plan including public involvement, traffic volumes, safety, aesthetics, population, land use and transit. The Framework Plan study area is broken into two sections – the Towns of Stallings and Indian Trail representing one, and the City of Monroe representing the other. He informed the TCC that the Framework Plan (Phase I) is complete, and that Phase II is about to begin. Mayor Paxton, of Stallings, asked why the Monroe Bypass information was used knowing that the project is stalled. Mr. Singh responded that traffic and growth are anticipated to increase whether the bypass project is built or not, and that Phase II will work on fine tuning the main objectives of the study which include land use, transportation and aesthetics. Mr. Coxe asked how the study will address the concerns of the Southern Environmental Law Center, to which Mr. Singh indicated that the focus will be on controlling growth at the interchanges where the main access points to the proposed bypass project will be. Mr. Coxe suggested making the presentation to the MPO, and Mayor Paxton added that the towns would be interested in hearing it too.

#### **11. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

##### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe informed the TCC that at the last CTP staff meeting it was determined that a database which contains consistent project information across MUMPO's planning area is a necessary next step for completing the CTP maps. He stated that the next CTP meeting will be dedicated to creating the appropriate fields for the database.

## **12. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update**

Presenter: Nicholas Landa

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Landa reminded the TCC that two committees have been formed to work on the 2040 LRTP update, and that the committees have now met a couple of times to discuss preliminary issues. He emphasized that the next major topic for discussion to be presented to the Advisory Committee will be project ranking, and he informed TCC members that project ranking will require information and input from those interested in submitting projects for inclusion in the plan. He stated that more information about project ranking, and candidate project submittals, will be distributed in the coming weeks. He then asked Anna Gallup to provide an update on modeling and data collection.

Ms. Gallup noted that the following horizon years are being modeled: 2020, 2030 and 2040. She also indicated that the Household Travel Survey is now complete, and she concluded by stating that the base year data is the information that the MPO provides – the base year is 2010. The collection of base data is currently underway, and projections will be done after data collection is finished. She stated that she anticipates projections to be completed by January/February 2013.

## **13. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- The draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and a report comparing it to the existing TIP have been released by NCDOT;
- NCDOT has announced that it will be holding Complete Streets workshops in the coming weeks and TCC members are encouraged to attend; and
- Ethics requirements that pertain to TCC delegates and alternates, as well as MPO delegates and alternates, have been enacted under new legislation – additional information is forthcoming.

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