

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 267
February 7, 2013

Voting Members: *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), David Meachum (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), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT-Div. 10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Jim Loyd – alt for Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Joe Lesch (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Nick Landa (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Andy Grzynski (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Tracy Newsome (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), Dan Leaver (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), John Rose (CATS), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Wayne Herron (Cornelius), Elinor Hiltz (Iredell County), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Andrew Bryant (Lincoln County), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe) – phone, Neil Burke (Mooresville), Sherry Ashley (Statesville) – phone, Erika Martin (Troutman), Scott Cole (NCDOT-Div. 10), David Keilson (NCDOT-Div. 12), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

Guests: Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Beverly Davis (RS&H), Lynn Purnell (PB), Todd Steiss (PB), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:00 AM, and read into the record the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Coxe noted that one item needs to be added to the agenda, regarding the need for the MPO to release for public comment a conformity determination report on the proposed new ozone standard. He then asked if any other modifications to the agenda are necessary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ralph Messera made a motion to adopt the agenda. David McDonald seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

2. Consideration of January Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the minutes are necessary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Messera made a motion to approve the January TCC minutes. Joe Lesch seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Presenter: Radha Swayampakala, RS&H

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Swayampakala provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). After outlining what the CMP is and how it is applied, he reminded the TCC that the task force has been working on developing CMP goals, objectives and performance measures. He noted that after further discussion of the task force, and based on

comments received, the goals and objectives have been streamlined as follows:

- Goal – Manage Congestion
- Objectives
 - 1) Develop congestion management measures
 - 2) Reduce non-recurring congestion duration
 - 3) Consider full range of congestion management strategies
 - 4) Improve the resiliency, redundancy and reliability of the transportation network

Mr. Swayampakala also presented the proposed timeline going forward, for evaluation of capacity adding projects using the CMP filter, assuming it is approved by the MPO as recommended. He noted that the CMP will be reviewed and updated every few years as necessary, as recommended by the FHWA.

Motion:

Anil Panicker made a motion to recommend that the MPO adopt the Congestion Management Process as documented in the memorandum attached to the TCC agenda, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Prosperity Church Road NW Arc Transportation Improvement Program Amendment (TIP #U-5507)

Presenter: Dan Leaver, Charlotte Engineering & Property Management

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Leaver provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He first noted the purpose for the proposed amendment and presented an overview of the project to the TCC, including the location and funding history. Specifically, he indicated that the project is integral to the operation of the final leg of the I-485 project currently under construction, at its interchange with Prosperity Church Road. He stated that the project is currently programmed for construction with STP-DA funds in the 2012-2018 TIP. Due to the fact that the project bisects an Environmental Justice community, and construction bids came in under the originally anticipated estimates, it is being requested that approximately \$1.7 million of the programmed funding be moved to right-of-way, and that all construction and right-of-way funding be made available in FY 2014.

Motion:

Norm Steinman made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the proposed amendment to the 2012-2018 TIP to program a portion of the funds for project U-5507 for right-of-way in fiscal year 2014, as presented. David Meachum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook noted that several amendments to the FY 2013 UPWP are necessary due to funds becoming available that will need to be reallocated to other MPO tasks. He highlighted the proposed amendments, which can be found by clicking [here](#), and clarified that funds are proposed to be allocated to Phase III of the Fast Lanes study, which was included in the language on the February 7 TCC agenda but was inadvertently omitted from the attachment to the agenda packet.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the proposed amendments to the FY

2013 UPWP, as presented. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

a. Plan Update

Presenter: Nicholas Landa

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Landa introduced the LRTP item, noting that the process to update the LRTP is currently underway and two committees have been formed to help guide the process. He provided an update on the activities of the committees, including that draft Goals & Objectives are ready to be released for public comment and that over 250 candidate project have been submitted to be evaluated for inclusion in the Plan. He continued by stating that the main focus of recent committee meetings has been developing a highway ranking criteria that can be recommended to the MPO for approval to rank the highway candidate projects for the 2040 LRTP. He indicated that this is an important task to be completed in order for the plan update to remain on schedule, and cited the following reasons for reviewing and updating the MPO's existing ranking criteria:

- There are a lot of projects to be ranked in a constrained amount of time;
- The qualitative process that was used previously was cumbersome and, at times, inconsistent;
- The former process seemed not to favor interstate projects in particular; and
- NCDOT, since the previous LRTP was adopted, has moved to a quantitative process for evaluating projects to be considered for inclusion in the TIP, and it could benefit the MPO to have a process that positions its projects to compete favorably for available statewide funds.

Mr. Landa also noted that several months' worth of work has gone into developing new criteria, and he identified several TCC members who have assisted with the process as members of the LRTP Advisory Committee. He then introduced Radha Swayampakala, from RS&H, the lead consultant contracted to assist with the development of a new ranking criteria.

b. Highway Ranking Methodology

Presenter: Radha Swayampakala, RS&H

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Swayampakala provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). Highlights of his presentation consist of the following:

- Outlining the schedule and background, including that ranking criteria used by peer MPOs nationally and statewide were reviewed;
- NCDOT's prioritization process was reviewed and considered;
- It is anticipated that the TCC and MPO will be able to approve the proposed methodology in March in order to keep the LRTP update schedule on track;
- A two-tier approach is being proposed consisting of a quantitative Tier 1 evaluation that will funnel projects into Tier 2, with a cutoff point (i.e. not all projects will make it into Tier 2, based on how well they do in Tier 1);
- Tier 1 will consist of three quantitative criteria – congestion, safety, and accessibility to employment – each of which was described;
- Tier 2 will consist of a combination of quantitative and qualitative criteria – Environmental Justice impacts, natural impacts, historic impacts, cultural impacts, connectivity, and benefit/cost – each of which was described;

Mr. Swayampakala entertained questions following the presentation. Mr. Panicker asked if all the

projects from NCDOT's Division 10 and Division 12 would be evaluated together, or separately. Mr. Swayampakala indicated that they would initially be ranked all together; however, he also noted that because the projects in each Division are also in separate funding regions, they will have to be evaluated separately when considering financial constraint. Sherry Ashley, from Statesville, asked for clarification on the difference between ranking the projects and funding the projects. The response being that the equity funding from each funding region will remain separate, but the MPO will maintain a final ranked list of all candidate projects, as well as a fiscally constrained project list that will identify project funding from each funding region (i.e. from each Division too).

Loretta Barren, with FHWA, asked if the accessibility to employment criteria will consider future employment, to which Mr. Swayampakala indicated it would not. Ms. Barren followed her initial question by asking if the criteria would consider the nearest employment in each Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ), or if it would consider all TAZs. The response being that it would consider all TAZs. Mr. Steinman stated that he supports the Tier 1 criteria. Mr. Panicker asked how the safety score would be considered for projects on new location, to which Mr. Swayampakala answered that a comparable parallel facility would be used instead. Neil Burke asked if the connectivity criteria would include access to other modes. Mr. Swayampakala stated that the Advisory Committee considered an intermodal component to the criteria, but that ultimately it was determined that there was not an adequate way, and not adequate data available, to evaluate access to transit and other modes.

Mr. Coxe suggested that congestion seems to be heavily weighted based on the way the criterion has been presented, and that it is an important component, but the MPO should also evaluate how the project benefits the community. He also noted that the Tier 2 criterion only evaluates negative aspects of a project, not the positive. Mr. Swayampakala went on to discuss the proposed point structure that coincides with the criteria presented. Mr. Lesch asked why a ¼ mile was used as the determining factor for the Tier 2 criteria of natural, historic and community resource impacts, to which Mr. Swayampakala indicated that it was based on best practices from reviewing the criteria of peer MPOs. He concluded by noting that the cutoff between Tier 1 and Tier 2 (i.e. which projects would make the cut from Tier 1 to Tier 2) will be based on a combination of how much funding is anticipated to be available based on financial forecasting, and how many projects the MPO was able to fund in the 2035 LRTP. It was also noted that a ranking subcommittee of the TCC will be formed to help guide the ranking process, and assist with making recommendations to the TCC and MPO.

7. MPO Census-Related Activities

a. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Revisions

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook noted that several MOU issues are yet to be resolved, and that a special staff meeting of the TCC is scheduled for February 18 to focus on those issues, which include voting structure, staff resources, member dues and local match, among others. He also indicated that at the last MOU subcommittee meeting, one issue that was tentatively resolved is the new name for the MPO. He stated that the new name agreed upon by the subcommittee is the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

8. Managed Lanes Study – Phase III Update

Presenter: Lynn Purnell, Parsons Brinkerhoff

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Purnell provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He first gave the TCC an overall definition and description of managed lanes. He also reminded the TCC about the history of the Fast Lanes study in the MUMPO region, beginning with Phase I looking at the entire network, continuing with Phase II narrowing down the viable corridors, and concluding with Phase III which looked at the specific corridors of US 74 in Southeast Mecklenburg County and I-485 in South Mecklenburg County, which were identified based on the results of Phases I and II. He noted the scope of work and highlighted the recommendations that came out of three different workshops held in 2012, and also provided the results of a survey conducted as part of the study. Finally, he noted issues affecting implementation, next steps and directed the TCC to www.fastlanes.org, where more information could be found.

9. I-77 HOT Lanes Project

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Coxe began by announcing a workshop being held by the Lake Norman Transportation Commission (LNTC) on February 13, the intent of which is to provide general information about managed lanes and I-77. He then noted the need for the LRTP and TIP to be amended, and a conformity determination to be made on both documents in order for the I-77 HOT lanes project to proceed. Mr. Coxe then drew the TCC's attention to a draft schedule which had been updated several times, and proposed that the TCC recommend that the MPO permit the TCC to initiate a public comment period for the proposed improvements to I-77 North pending the receipt of relevant information to be presented to the public. He also asked that the TCC endorse comments on the project scoping document associated with the Environmental Assessment (EA) being prepared for the project.

Mr. Wells, commenting on the proposed information identified to be developed for the purposes of the public comment period, suggested that dates be assigned for when those deliverables are expected to be completed. Mr. Panicker, with NCDOT, stated that the LRTP and TIP amendment reports, identified as deliverables, are the responsibility of the MPO staff. Mr. Lesch suggested adopting the proposed schedule with an "if" statement (i.e. if the documents are completed, a public comment period will be initiated), and suggested striking the responsible parties identified for each deliverable. Mr. Coxe indicated that the I-77 Tech Team will have to further discuss how to accomplish the deliverables. He then addressed the proposed EA comments that had been prepared. Carl Gibilaro, with Atkins, noted that the EA has not been released so the comments should be framed as project scoping comments.

Motion:

Mr. Lesch made a motion to recommend that the MPO undertake the proposed schedule outlined for the I-77 North widening project, when, and if, the requested deliverables are complete. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McDonald made a separate motion to endorse comments for the I-77 North widening project scoping, as presented. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook indicated that this item is on the agenda to request that the TCC release the draft CTP maps to NCDOT for review, and that the maintenance of the maps is requested to be turned over to the CTP database team that has been formed by the TCC. He also noted that a meeting to discuss the report that will be prepared to accompany the maps is requested to be scheduled. He stated that these actions are being requested in order for the MPO to keep on schedule with not only the CTP, but also with the LRTP update process. Mr. Panicker, with NCDOT, asked what the timeline is for completion of the map legend and map summary report. Tracy Newsome, with CDOT, indicated that she hopes it can be complete within two weeks, assuming a staff meeting can be scheduled to clarify the outstanding issues. Mr. Panicker stated that he cannot send the maps to Raleigh for review until all proposed changes to the maps are made. Mr. Coxe suggested that this item be placed on the March TCC agenda. Mr. Cook asked if it could be handled similarly to the I-77 issue, releasing them for review at which time they are ready. A motion was made to that effect.

Mr. Coxe indicated that the second part of the requested action is to turn over maintenance of the maps to the CTP database team that has been formed. Mr. Panicker stated that he can provide copies of the data to the database team, but that maintenance would be shared by the MPO and NCDOT, not turned over to the MPO. Mr. Lesch made a motion to share the files, which was seconded. Further discussion included Mr. Landa asking who would be responsible for the GIS data behind the maps. Mr. Panicker stated that it would be shared. Andy Grzyski, with CDOT, noted that delaying the review of the maps by NCDOT will delay the timeline for public involvement. Mr. Coxe recommended that the issues be further discussed at a CTP staff meeting. Mr. Steinman agreed that the discussion should be continued at a staff meeting, but that a date needs to be determined in which the CTP will be available for defining the LRTP, in order for there to be a resolution on this topic. There was consensus that further discussion is necessary to resolve the issue.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to release MUMPO's draft CTP maps to NCDOT for review and comment, as soon as the draft maps are ready. Mr. Lesch seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lesch had made a previous motion to recommend that the maintenance of the CTP maps be shared by NCDOT and the MPO. That motion was subsequently withdrawn.

11. Ozone Standard Conformity Determination

Presenter: Eldewins Haynes, Charlotte DOT

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Haynes described to the TCC that a new Ozone Standard (the 2008 Ozone Standard) was enacted in 2012, and that a conformity determination for the new Ozone Standard is necessary within a year of the new standard being approved. In other words, the region would enter into a conformity lapse if the determination is not made. For this reason, he stated that it is important that the conformity determination to be made prior to June, 2013. Mr. Steinman indicated that he supports the motion with the clarification that the conformity determination is not specific to any particular project, but rather it impacts the overall LRTP and TIP in their current forms.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO release the conformity document for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS for public comment, noting that the conformity document is not related to specific projects but rather to the overall plans (LRTP and TIP) of the MPO. Mr. Steinman seconded the motion. The

motion passed unanimously.

12. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Landa announced that he would be sending a survey via email, requesting input about MUMPO's website. He noted that the survey would be requesting information about usage, format, functionality, appearance, etc.

13. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.