

**MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE**  
**Summary Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center**  
**Room 267**  
**April 4, 2013**

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**Voting Members:** *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan – alt for David Meachum (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Tim Gibbs – alt for Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), David McDonald (CATS), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Dana Clukey (Mint Hill), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Shannon Martel (Stallings) – phone, Joe Lesch (Union County)

**Staff:** Nick Landa (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Jonathan Wells (C-M Planning), Andy Grzynski (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Eldewins Haynes (CDOT), John Rose (CATS), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Dick Winters (Mecklenburg County Health), Keith Sorensen (Indian Trail), Elinor Hiltz (Iredell County), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Neil Burke (Mooresville), Erika Martin (Troutman), John Underwood (NCDOT), David Keilson (NCDOT-Div. 12), Loretta Barren (FHWA)

**Guests:** Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Michelle Nance (Centralina COG), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Todd Steiss (Parsons Brinkerhoff), Ed Toney, Jay Pritchard

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Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. The meeting began without a quorum.

**1. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder**

Mr. Coxe read into the record the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder. No conflicts of interest were stated.

Due to the lack of a quorum, information items were taken first.

**2. CONNECT Our Future Update**

Presenter: Michelle Nance, Centralina COG

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Nance provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She started by stating that the purpose of the CONNECT study is to help the region prepare for the future growth that is anticipated, and to determine how the region wants to grow. She noted that transportation, land use and air quality are all interconnected, and are all impacted by growth. She went on to discuss what is involved with the study, including preferred growth scenarios, and that it covers a 14-county, bi-state area. Ms. Nance also highlighted the timeline of the CONNECT process, noting that it is being funded by a 3-year grant and is currently in the early stages of data collection. The eight programmatic work groups tasked with technical studies were identified, and she focused the TCC's attention on the Blueprinting group that will be tasked with scenario planning, which will include focus groups comprised of local and regional stakeholders. Finally, she indicated that the data collected through the CONNECT study will be integrated into the regional travel demand model, and she directed the TCC to the CONNECT website (<http://connectourfuture.org/>) for more information.

### **3. MPO Census-Related Activities**

#### **a. Planning Area Boundary Expansion – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Subcommittee**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook reminded the TCC about an email that was previously sent outlining two fee allocation scenarios, and requesting that each jurisdiction provide a preference for which scenario would increase its likelihood of MPO participation. One method is population based, and the other is based on vote authority. He noted that only a few responses have been received, and that all responses are requested to be submitted prior to the April 17 MOU subcommittee meeting. Mr. Cook also provided an update regarding the expanded MPO planning area boundary, indicating that the Gaston Urban Area MPO is now considering taking over the planning activities for the entire 3-county region of Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln counties. He stated that a meeting is scheduled for April 15 to discuss that issue. In conclusion, Mr. Cook outlined the following outstanding issues that the MOU subcommittee will be asked to resolve:

- o Mecklenburg County participation on the TCC needs to be clarified due to the restructuring of the County departments that has occurred since the last MOU approval; and
- o The NCDOT Public Transportation Division informed MPO staff that it will no longer be a voting member of the TCC due to a conflict of interest.

A brief discussion followed in which there was consensus that the TCC did not believe that the suggested conflict of interest was a reasonable justification for the NCDOT Public Transportation Division to opt out of its TCC participation as a voting member. It was noted that Teresa Hart has been named the new TCC representative for that Division of NCDOT.

A quorum was established at approximately 10:30 AM. As a result, the TCC Chair suggested taking the action items that were skipped.

### **4. Consideration of March Meeting Minutes**

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

### **5. July TCC Meeting Date**

Presenter: Nick Landa

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Landa informed the TCC that its July meeting falls on the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and; therefore, recommended that the July TCC meeting be moved back one week to Thursday, July 11.

Motion:

Mr. Lesch made a motion to move the July TCC meeting date to Thursday, July 11. Mr. McDonald seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments**

#### **a. Locally Administered Projects**

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Cook provided information to the TCC regarding proposed amendments to the 2012-2018 TIP, outlined in the memo and table [here](#). He informed the TCC that a process was undertaken in which project sponsors were asked to provide status updates on the current locally administered projects programmed in the 2012-2018 TIP. He noted that several staff meetings were held to work out project details, including funding amount, funding year, and whether the project is still viable. Mr. Cox suggested that the Town of Cornelius clarify the split in right-of-way funding versus construction funding for TIP project U-5108 prior to the MPO meeting on April 17. Mr. Cook indicated that the same distinction would need to be made for TIP project U-5115, being administered by the Town of Matthews.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the proposed amendments as presented, noting that a distinction between right-of-way acquisition and construction dollars will be necessary for TIP projects U-5108 and U-5115. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**7. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

**a. Plan Update**

Presenter: Nick Landa

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Landa introduced the LRTP item, and began by providing an update on the activities of the Steering and Advisory committees. He indicated that the Advisory Committee met on March 18 and concluded its discussion and recommendations for the goals and objectives. The Advisory Committee also discussed chapter development. Mr. Landa noted that the MPO approved the project ranking criteria, and that the Tier 1 ranking of the approximately 275 LRTP candidate projects is underway. He then stated that there are other items related to the 2040 LRTP update for consideration by the TCC, including requested action on the goals and objectives and a presentation regarding financial plan assumptions.

**b. Goals & Objectives**

Presenter: Nick Landa

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Landa reminded the TCC that the draft 2040 LRTP goals and objectives were presented at its March meeting, and based on the discussion at that meeting staff was instructed to consult with the LRTP Advisory Committee to make final adjustments to the goals and objectives at its next meeting. He indicated that the Advisory Committee reviewed the goals and objectives at its March 18 meeting, and made the requested adjustment, which are now requested to be recommended for approval by the MPO. Debra Campbell noted that she thought the changes were adequate and made a motion to recommend approval.

Motion:

Ms. Campbell made a motion to recommend that the MPO approve the 2040 LRTP Goals & Objectives as presented. Tim Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**c. Financial Assumptions**

Presenter: Andy Grzymski, Charlotte DOT

Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Grzyski provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He informed the TCC that for the LRTP financial assumptions, the focus will be on equity dollars that are anticipated to be available to fund LRTP candidate projects. It was noted that the assumptions are based on information provided by NCDOT. He then indicated that guidance is requested for the following funding sources:

- Mobility Fund – staff is proposing a lower estimate than was provided by the NCDOT;
- STP-Direct Attributable – a policy recommendation will be necessary to determine if the MPO would like to continue to spend these funds on smaller scale projects, as has been done in the past, or if the funding should be lumped in with the other equity funds allocated to the region;
- Bridge – staff is proposing that of the \$6 million allocated to the MPO, \$4 million go to Division 10 and \$2 million to Division 12;
- Annual Growth – staff is recommending a conservative approach, which is lower than the growth rate assumed for the 2035 LRTP;
- GARVEE – these funds will be subtracted as appropriate based on current allocations, meaning those impacts will be seen in future LRTP horizon years.

Mr. Grzyski stated that this information will be presented to the MPO for information at its April 17 meeting to request guidance. Bjorn Hansen noted that the I-40/I-77 interchange project in Division 12 needs to be included in the GARVEE calculations. Mr. Coxie reminded the TCC that the assumptions being made are based on the proposed future planning area, which is why Division 12 of NCDOT is included. Ms. Campbell suggested developing a list of pros and cons for specific assumptions. Andrew Grant indicated that project descriptions would be helpful, and that a chart displaying a detailed breakdown of proposed revenue would be informative for MPO members. Mr. McDonald was concerned that a conservative annual growth estimate of 0% in the outer years of the LRTP is not appropriate. More discussion about the annual growth rate followed in which it was concluded that several options should be developed to present to the MPO. Mr. Grzyski suggested that the item be placed on the April 10 transportation staff meeting for further discussion.

## **8. New Ozone Standard Conformity Determination**

Presenter: Eldewins Haynes, Charlotte DOT

### Summary/Action Requested:

Mr. Haynes provided the TCC with a brief explanation of the 2008 Ozone Standard, and why it is necessary for the current standard to be changed. He indicated that the MPO's TIP and LRTP need to conform to the new standard due to the MPO's air quality status of marginal. It was also noted that minor typographical errors led to the extension of the public comment period beyond the original end date, to April 8, 2013. Mr. Haynes then suggested that the TCC take action to recommend that the MPO approve the conformity determination, pending any public comments received prior to the MPO meeting.

### Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend that the MPO make a conformity determination on the new ozone standard, pending the close of public comment period. Mr. Lesch seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **9. Draft FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Presenter: Robert Cook

### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook reminded the TCC that work is currently underway to finish the FY 2014 UPWP. He highlighted the following specific expenditures anticipated to be included in the Plan:

- Funds are programmed to support the addition of a GIS analyst position dedicated to MPO work;
- A significant amount of funding is programmed for work on the LRTP update;
- Lake Norman Bike Route Administration funding was added to the Plan in the event that the Lake Norman RPO is no longer able to administer that program;
- Phase II of the Congestion Management Process is programmed for funding; and
- 5303 funds are shown as an even split between CDOT and CATS, which still requires a meeting with both agencies before it is finalized.

Anil Panicker noted that public involvement for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) should be included in the FY 2014 UPWP. Loretta Barren, with FHWA, asked when the Plan is anticipated to be adopted. Mr. Cook responded that it will be scheduled for approval on the May MPO agenda. Ms. Barren then noted that the MPO needs to ensure that the proposed grade separation project in Indian Trail complies with UPWP planning project requirements.

### **10. I-77 HOT Lanes Project**

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

#### Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He first stated that the proposed TIP and LRTP amendments, and accompanying conformity determination, are currently out for public comment until April 22, 2013. He also noted that two public meetings will be held to receive comments on April 10 and 11. An overview of information developed for the public outreach process was provided. The currently approved widening projects for the I-77 north corridor were then presented, as well as what is proposed as part of the public-private partnership (P3) widening project that includes additional HOT lanes. Mr. Coxe outlined the financial details for funding the proposed P3 project, including the necessary equity funding and resulting project delays.

Norm Steinman, with CDOT, then provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He explained the proposed HOT lanes project, including all five scenarios outlined in the TIP and LRTP amendment report, using a series of maps. Current and predicted travel speeds for the existing general purpose lanes in the year 2035 were also presented. Mr. Coxe noted that the HOT lanes should have higher speeds than the general purpose lanes. Mr. Messera asked if a similar scenario has been prepared that would show speeds if only general purpose lanes were added to I-77. Mr. Steinman suggested that the information for the scenario in question is being developed, but is not yet complete. Mr. Coxe reminded the TCC that the MPO will have to determine which scenario it prefers. Mr. Coxe concluded by discussing what information would be available at the public meetings.

### **11. Upcoming Issues**

Mr. Landa reminded the TCC membership that the State Ethics Act requirement to file a Statement of Economic Interest is due April 15.

Mr. Pleasant announced that two conferences will be held in Charlotte from Sunday, April 7 through Wednesday, April 10 – the Southern District Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Annual Meeting & the American Public Works Association (APWA) Snow Conference

Mr. Coxe announced that he will no longer serve on the TCC as of the April 2013 meeting.

**12. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.