

MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267
November 18, 2009 Meeting
Summary Minutes

Members Attending:

Anthony Foxx (Charlotte), Jim Bensman (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Brian Sisson (Huntersville), Jeffrey Goodall - alt. for John Quinn (Indian Trail), Lee Myers (Matthews), Ted Biggers (Mint Hill), Bob Smith (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Daune Gardner (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Bill Braswell (Wingate) **Non-Voting Members:** Greg Phipps (Char-Meck Planning Commission)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Myers called the November 2009 MUMPO meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Summary:

Chairman Myers asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the September 2009 minutes and called for a motion.

Motion:

Bob Smith made a motion to approve the September 2009 minutes as presented. Ted Biggers seconded the motion. The September 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Citizen Comment Period

Summary:

Three people addressed the MPO:

1. Reese Untz discussed several issues: a road relocation issue involving the MPO that took place several years ago; completing the final segment of I-485; the inability to fund the region's road needs.
2. Phil Conrad, executive director of the Cabarrus-Rowan MPO, voiced support for MUMPO's "no new revenue" LRTP funding scenario and requested that the travel demand model development report be made available.
3. Martin Zimmerman, representing the Charlotte Area Bicycle Alliance (CABA), discussed the rescission of federal funds and stated that he was seeking more information on that topic.

4. Monroe Parkway Project Status Update

Presenter:

Carl Gibilaro

Summary:

Ms. Simons updated the MPO on the following topics:

The name "Monroe Parkway" is a working title and suggestions and comments on the name were requested
An announcement on the NC Turnpike Authority's preferred alternative would be made quite soon
Work on the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) is proceeding
Work continues on the design/aesthetics of the project

5. Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Grant Endorsements

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook stated that five communities in MUMPO's planning area planned to submit applications for the planning grants, and that the application requirements mandate that the affected MPO endorse the application. He noted that at its November meeting, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) unanimously recommended

that the MPO endorse four of the five proposals. The fifth proposal, submitted by the Town of Wingate, was not submitted in time for the TCC's consideration; however, the TCC chairman and vice-chairman were contacted and approved the project being presented to the MPO without a recommendation. The projects from the following municipalities were then briefly reviewed by Mr. Cook, with Bill Braswell of Wingate providing the overview of his community's proposal:

- Town of Cornelius-pedestrian plan*
- Town of Huntersville-pedestrian plan*
- Village of Marvin-bicycle plan*
- Town of Waxhaw-pedestrian plan*
- Town of Wingate-pedestrian plan*

Motion:

Brian Sisson made a motion to endorse all five proposals. Ted Biggers seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Draft LRTP Recommendation

Presenter:

Norm Steinman, CDOT

Summary:

Mr. Steinman presented information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The purpose of the presentation was to obtain the MPO's endorsement/approval of the following:

- a. Endorse the "No New Revenue" scenario and accompanying project list*
- b. Approve the release of a draft LRTP for public review*
- c. Approve the release of a draft air quality conformity report for public review*
- d. Approve the release of a draft model development report for public review*

Mr. Cook noted that the 2015 horizon year project list includes three I-485 projects, reflecting NCDOT's recent announcement concerning accelerating I-485. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Steinman noted that at its November meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended to the MPO that it endorse/approve the four items listed above, but that it had also committed to working on the next LRTP as soon as the document was approved.

Mr. Sisson asked about the impact of removing the NC 115 Two-Way Pair (index #3193) project from the list. Mr. Steinman replied that since the project was not regionally significant, it would not have an impact. Lynda Paxton asked about keeping the Stallings Road and the Indian Trail Road projects on the project list when Stallings and Indian Trail were both working with NCDOT to shift the funds to the Chestnut Connector project. Barry Moose stated that at this time it would be best to keep the list in its present form as details associated with the Chestnut Connector are worked out.

Motion:

Mr. Sisson made a motion to:

- endorse the "no new revenue" scenario and the project list with the provision that the NC 115 Two-Way Pair (index #3193) project is removed from the project list; and
- approve the release the draft LRTP, draft air quality conformity report and the draft model development report for public review.

Daune Gardner seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

7. TIP Amendment: I-485 & I-85 Projects

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook explained that the request was to authorize the start of a public involvement effort. Formal action was not requested because the TIP cannot be amended until an air quality-conforming LRTP is adopted. The public

involvement effort would run concurrent with similar efforts for the LRTP. The following projects are the subject of the proposed amendments:

- R-2248E: I-485 construction from NC 115 to I-85
- R-2123CE: I-485/I-85 interchange construction
- I-3803B: I-85 widening from I-485 to NC 73

The TIP needed to be amended for the I-485 projects due to NCDOT's announcement that construction would begin ahead of schedule. The proposed schedule would result in the two projects (R-2248E and R-2123CE) being moved in the first four years of the TIP. In the case of I-85, the TIP amendment was necessary due to the project scope changing by the addition of a northbound lane from Mallard Creek Church Road to Poplar Tent Road.

Motion:

Anthony Foxx made a motion to authorize the start of a public involvement effort. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

8. Un-obligated Funds Rescission

Presenter:

Unwanna Dabney, Federal Highway Administration

Summary:

Ms. Dabney presented information to the MPO via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes. The reason for the rescission was to meet federal budgeting parameters and was a part of the current federal funding legislation (SAFETEA-LU) when it was approved in 2005. The rescinded funds were those not obligated by state DOTs.

Mayor Paxton asked if obligating all the funds was an option. Mr. Dabney replied that it was, and that Nevada had done so. Brian Jenest asked if it was known which projects were affected and if MUMPO would have to reprioritize projects. Mr. Cook responded that specific project impacts were not known, but that reprioritization might be necessary. Jim Bensman stated that the MPO should get a report from NCDOT on why North Carolina did not obligate all of its funds. Mr. Moose volunteered to get someone to attend the next meeting to explain why the funds were not obligated. Bob Smith asked if any major projects were affected. Mr. Moose replied that the Independence Boulevard project had STP-DA funds, but that any losses could be covered. He added that the projects to be concerned about are those fully-funded with STP-DA funds.

9. Small Project Ranking Methodology

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook reminded the MPO that at its September meeting, it requested the TCC to work on a small project ranking methodology. He stated that the matter was raised at the TCC's November meeting and the result was that the TCC unanimously agreed to work on such a project following completion of work on the LRTP.

10. MPO Orientation

Presenter:

Robert Cook

Summary:

Mr. Cook directed the MPO members to a draft orientation agenda included in their agenda packets. He stated that the orientation, scheduled for Wednesday, January 13 at 4:00 PM was designed to be a high-level overview of the MPO process, with the goal of providing a better understanding of the "what and why" of MPOs in general and MUMPO specifically and to ensure continued positive relationships between MPO and TCC representatives.

11. Other Business

Summary:

Chairman Myers stated that two long-serving MPO members, Bob Smith of Monroe and Brian Sisson of Huntersville, would not be serving in elected capacity in 2010 and therefore this meeting would be their last. He presented them with plaques acknowledging their service and thanked them for their hard work.

TCC Vice-Chairman Bill Coxe requested the MPO's attention. He stated that this meeting would be Lee Myers' final meeting after 20 years of service, including many as chairman. He presented Chairman Myers with a plaque acknowledging his service and thanked him for his dedication to transportation issues in the community. Chairman Myers thanked everyone for their support over the years, and encouraged MPO members returning in 2010 to work as a team.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.