

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Innovation Station, 8th Floor

February 7, 2008

Voting Members: Wayne Herron-Chairman (Monroe), Bill Coxe-Vice-chair (Huntersville), Danny Pleasant (CDOT), Jim Keenan (E&PM), Ken Tippet (CDOT-Bike Coordinator), Jonathan Wells-alt. for Debra Campbell (CMPD), Alan Goins - alt. for Leslie Rhodes (LUESA), David McDonald – alt. for John Muth (CATS), Louis Mitchell (NCDOT-Div. 10), Jack Flaherty (NCDOT-PTD), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Jay Camp (Matthews), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Shannon Martel – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Barry Mosley (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Tim Gibbs (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Anna Gallup (CDOT), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Jason Prescott (Cornelius), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Jennifer Harris-via phone (NCTA), Loretta Barren- via phone (FHWA),

Guests: Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Eileen O’Flaherty (Davidson Elementary School)

Mr. Herron opened the meeting at 10:05 AM and asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

1. Consideration of January Minutes

Presenter: Bill Coxe

Summary/Requested Action:

Danny Pleasant made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jonathan Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Grant Endorsement: Davidson Elementary School Safe Routes To Schools

Presenter: Lauren Blackburn

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Blackburn stated that Davidson Elementary School was pursuing a Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) grant and needed a MUMPO endorsement. She introduced Eileen O’Flaherty with the Davidson Elementary School PTO. Ms. O’Flaherty stated that Davidson Elementary had started Walking Wednesdays on the first Wednesday of every month to try to help reduce automobile emissions and promote walking to school. Ms. Blackburn stated that the Davidson Police have trained the adult volunteers who walk along with the students. Ms. O’Flaherty stated that there were 500 people who had participated the previous day. Mr. Cook stated that although the submittal period for the SRTS will have expired by the time a MUMPO endorsement is issued, the SRTS coordinator had approved the school providing the endorsement after the submittal deadline.

Motion:

A motion was made by Ken Tippet to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the school’s grant request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells and passed unanimously.

3. County-Level Population & Employment Projections

Presenter: Anna Gallup

Summary/Requested Action:

Ms. Gallup showed the group an updated spheres of influence map. The map had been updated based upon information received from Union County TCC members. She asked that all areas have their projections in to her by February 20. Mr. Coxe stated that he feels that there is a little bit of hesitance to project “county” numbers. Ms. Gallup stated that she is trying to work from previous data and add in some more recent data and try to get a round number.

4. Draft 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Grzymiski stated that the allocation of STP-DA funds was the most significant TIP-related issue facing MUMPO. He stated that unfortunately there were more needs than the funds available. Mr. Grzymiski went through the list of potential projects submitted by the following member jurisdictions: Charlotte-three projects, Cornelius-14 projects, Davidson-four projects, Huntersville-one project, Indian Trail-three projects, Matthews-two projects, Mint Hill-two projects, Stallings-one project and Waxhaw-one project. Mr. Grzymiski stated that all of these projects totaled approximately \$55 million but that the MPO had only \$20 million to allocate.

Mr. Grzymiski then noted that there had been six issues identified at a recent Wednesday staff meeting to help select the projects to be included in the TIP. Mr. Herron recommended that the TCC discuss each one and determine if it should be used in the project selection process. Mr. Grzymiski then reviewed the six issues and the TCC discussed each one. It was determined that the following six guidelines should be used to select that projects that would be recommended to the MPO:

1. STP-DA funds should not be used on stand-alone planning and design activities. They can be used for planning and design as part of a construction project.
2. STP-DA funds can be used on any roadway project that is included in the Long-Range Transportation Plan.
3. Roadway projects must be included in the LRTP. Non-roadway projects should be recommended in a publicly-adopted plan, such as a bicycle, pedestrian or greenway plan.
4. STP-DA funds can be used on any public street that has been identified in the Long-Range Transportation Plan.
5. STP-DA funds cannot be used to accelerate any project that would trigger a conformity analysis.
6. The MUMPO should set a goal of using at least 10% of its STP-DA funding on non-roadway projects.

Regarding #4, Ms. Barren cautioned that projects must be Title 23-eligible in order to receive STP-DA funds. Staff committed to working with Ms. Barren to ensure that all selected projects are Title 23-eligible.

It was noted that the project selection process would be handled at the Wednesday staff meeting, with the results to be presented at the March TCC meeting. Mr. Herron urged everyone who submitted a project to attend these meetings.

5. NC 218 Rehabilitation

Presenter: Barry Moose

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Moose was unable to attend the meeting. This item will be discussed at the March meeting.

6. Monroe Connector / Bypass Update

Presenter: Jennifer Harris / Carl Gibilaro

Summary / FYI:

Ms. Harris stated that the NCTA is continuing to work on the draft environmental impact statement and that they have finished soliciting public input on this item. She indicated that comments on 18/18A and 2/2A dominated the comments received. Also noted was that some of the environmental agencies have asked that existing US 74 be carried forward as an alternative. The NCTA will gather information to substantiate its recommendation to drop US 75 as an alternative.

Ms. Harris provided an update on the indirect and cumulative impacts (ICE) study which will be completed by HNTB. This study and what it examines is related to the desire of some of the environmental agencies to have certain interchanges eliminated. HNTB will be setting up interviews with local town staff as part of the ICE development. Mr. Pleasant asked about the role local land use plans play in the ICE. Ms. Harris stated that they play a major role.

Carl Gibilaro noted that PBS&J is working on functional designs for the 16 designated study alternatives.

7. 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that the work to update the long-range transportation plan has begun. Two kick-off meetings were scheduled for February 21 in Charlotte and February 28 in Monroe. These meetings will begin MUMPO's public involvement efforts. The February 21 meeting will be held jointly with the Gaston MPO and will also serve as an opportunity for the environmental resource agencies to review the two MPOs' plans and talk with staff-this is associated with the required Consultation process. Also mentioned were the project ranking meetings that were set to begin on February 13 with the North Mecklenburg sphere.

8. Fast Lanes Project Update

Presenter: Tim Gibbs

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Gibbs invited the TCC to a workshop on February 12 at the Carole Hoefner Center. The corridor screening results will be presented at this meeting.

9. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.