

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Summary Meeting Minutes

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

Innovation Station, 8th Floor

May 1, 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 Giles – alt. for Leslie Rhodes (LUESA), David McDonald (MTC), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Division 10), Jonathan Parker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Lauren Blackburn (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Lee Bailey (Mint Hill), Kevin Icard (Pineville), Lynne Hair – alt. for Brian Matthews (Stallings), Amy Helms (Union County), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Mary Jo Gollnitz (Weddington), Justin Krieg (Wesley Chapel)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Barry Mosley (MUMPO), Norm Steinman (CDOT), Andy Grzymiski (CDOT), Crissy Huffstickler (CMPD), Jim Loyd (Monroe), Steve DeWitt (NCTA), Jennifer Harris (NCTA), Christy Shumate (NCTA-GEC), Loretta Barren – via phone (FHWA), Julie Clark (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Richard Hancock (NCDOT-Division 10), Jason Mann (Indian Trail)

Guests: Carl Gibilaro (PBS&J), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Laurie Guy (Queens University), Bill Nichols (Queens University), Adin McCann (HNTB), Greg Boulanger (HNTB), Mayor Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Clayton Howell

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

1. Consideration of April Minutes

Presenter: Wayne Herron

Summary/Requested Action:

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

2. Draft 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program

Presenter: Andy Grzymiski, CDOT

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Grzymiski gave a presentation that went through the key issues associated with the draft TIP. The two key issues that required a decision from the TCC were whether or not to fund the Marion Diehl earmark and funding of the recommended STP-DA projects.

A discussion of the Marion Diehl earmark took place and concluded with Mr. Herron asking for a motion on this issue. Andrew Grant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it fund the Marion Diehl earmark in the 2009-2015 TIP. Mr. Coxe seconded the motion, but requested that it be amended to note the TCC's serious reservations about the earmark, and earmarks in general. Mr. Grant agreed to the amendment. Upon being put to a vote, 17 in attendance voted for the motion and three voted in opposition. The motion carried. The three member jurisdictions voting in opposition were Stallings, Waxhaw and Weddington.

Barry Moose then asked to discuss a funding proposal for NC 218. He reminded everyone of the serious problems with the roadway that were discussed in detail at previous meetings, and requested the TCC to recommend to the MPO that it delay two, funded TIP projects in order to accelerate the improvements to NC 218. One project (R-3820) is located within the jurisdiction of the Rocky River RPO. The other project is

located within MUMPO and is U-4024, and involves a widening of US 601 between the future Monroe Bypass and US 74. Since the funds for U-4024 are not programmed until 2012 (ROW) and 2014 (Construction), and the improvements to NC 218 are needed sooner, FY 09 Monroe Bypass funds will be used since that project will not need construction funds in 2009. The Bypass will be paid back with the U-4024 funds. Mr. Moose noted that he will make this recommendation to the Board of Transportation (BOT). Mr. Herron asked that, since this was the first time the TCC had been presented with this NC 218 funding concept, if immediate action was necessary? He also expressed concern with not having an opportunity to discuss this with Monroe's transportation committee. David McDonald asked if the BOT is being presented with a draft TIP that differs from what has been presented thus far to the MPO. Mr. Moose stated that the most recent version of the draft included this recommendation. Loretta Barren stated that if the MPO is not provided with a revised TIP by the time of its meeting, it will have to act on this item as an amendment at a later date.

Mr. Coxe asked the NC Turnpike Authority staff about its thoughts on using Bypass funds. Steve DeWitt stated that TIP funds may be needed for bond package financing, and noted that good progress is being made on the environmental document, and therefore did not want to get to the record of decision (ROD) only to discover financial problems with the project. Danny Pleasant expressed concern with the process, and that a decision such as this one requires more deliberation.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made the following motion:

- Recommend to the MPO that it approve the TIP as presented
- Including the STP-DA projects as listed in agenda packet
- Defer action on the NC 218 issue

Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The TIP was therefore recommended to the MPO with the above stipulations, including the previously mentioned approved motion to include funding for the Marion Diehl earmark.

3. Draft 2009-2015 TIP Conformity Determination

Presenter: Jonathan Parker, NCDOT-TPB

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Parker reviewed the content of the conformity determination report and asked the TCC to recommend to the MPO that it be approved as presented.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it make a finding that the conformity determination report is in compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and SAFETEA-LU. Mr. Wells seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. County-Level Population & Employment Projections

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. Cook stated that he was filling in for Anna Gallup who could not attend the meeting due to an unexpected conflict. He noted that there had been considerable work with the MPO's municipalities on this project, and that the projections reflect a great deal of input from the cities and towns. Greg Mahar commended Ms. Gallup on her diligence with the project, and Norm Steinman expressed his gratitude for her patience with this difficult project.

Motion:

Mr. Pleasant made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the projections as presented. Mary Jo Gollnitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. 2007-2013 TIP Amendment: New Rail Car Purchase

Presenter: David McDonald

Summary/Requested Action:

Mr. McDonald discussed the LYNX Blue Line exceeding ridership projections, and the need to purchase additional rail cars sooner than expected. An order for the cars needs to be placed during the current fiscal year.

Motion:

Ms. Gollnitz made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it approve the TIP amendment as presented. Greg Mahar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. FY 09 Unified Planning Work Program

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that the UPWP had been discussed at a number of TCC and Transportation Staff meetings, and asked the TCC to recommend approval as presented.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the FY 09 UPWP as presented. Mr. Pleasant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. MPO Self-Certification

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook stated that the self-certification process was undertaken annually with the adoption of the UPWP, and is a statement that the MPO adheres to all federal regulations, statutes, etc. that govern the metropolitan planning process.

Motion:

Mr. Wells made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it adopt the self- certification resolution as presented. Mr. Mahar seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Draft 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan Project List

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Cook explained to the TCC that the list was the total of all projects presented for ranking and potential inclusion in the 2035 LRTP, and that the requested endorsement was merely to have an official list for public review and for modeling purposes. Mr. Coxe stated that he recommends the endorsement, but at a later date would request that the proposed I-77/Westmoreland Road interchange be stricken from the project list if it ends up in the LRTP.

Motion:

Mr. McDonald made a motion to recommend to the MPO that it endorse the project list as presented. Ms. Gollnitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan Development

Presenter: Jonathan Parker

Summary / FYI:

Mr. Parker gave a presentation that provided background on comprehensive transportation plans (CTP), stating that NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) wants to begin the preparation of MUMPO's CTP. The TPB recognizes that local staff had many other obligations that have prevented it from taking on this task. Mr. Pleasant expressed a concern with Raleigh-based staff preparing a plan for the MUMPO region. Mr. Cook stated that this had been the subject of a number of conversations with Mr. Parker, and that if the TCC wished to approve the TPB moving forward, that a great deal of local oversight would be crucial. Mr. Herron recommended that this topic be discussed in more detail at an upcoming Wednesday staff meeting.

10. Mayors Transportation Task Force

Presenter: Andrew Grant

Summary / FYI:

This item was delayed to a later meeting.

11. Davidson-Concord Road Small Area Plan

Presenter: Lauren Blackburn

Summary / FYI:

This item was delayed to a later meeting.

12. Other Business

Mr. Moose updated the TCC on the work of the 21st Century Transportation Task Force.

13. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.