



M E C K L E N B U R G - U N I O N
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

600 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-2853
704-336-2205
www.mumpo.org

CHARLOTTE
CORNELIUS
DAVIDSON
HUNTERSVILLE
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NCDOT
PINEVILLE
STALLINGS
UNION
COUNTY
WAXHAW
WEDDINGTON
WESLEY CHAPEL
WINGATE

TO: Mecklenburg-Union MPO
FROM: Robert W. Cook, AICP
MUMPO Secretary
DATE: March 19, 2010
SUBJECT: **March 2010 MPO Meeting**
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

The March 2010 meeting of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM**. Due to the need to delay the meeting by one week, the meeting will not take place at its usual location. Instead, the meeting will be held in **Room CH-14**, which is located in the basement of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, at 600 E. Fourth St., Charlotte.

The MPO agenda and related material are attached to this memorandum. Please contact me at 704-336-8643 if you have any questions.

Additional comments on several agenda items:

Agenda Item #2: Minutes

The January minutes will be provided under separate cover.

Agenda Item #6: Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization Results

You received an email on February 26 with a link to the strategic prioritization results presented by NCDOT the last week of February. Representatives of NCDOT's Strategic Planning Office of Transportation will attend the MPO meeting to discuss the results. For your convenience, the link included in the February 26 correspondence is provided on the agenda so you can again review the prioritization results.

Agenda Item #10: Unified Planning Work Program

A spreadsheet with draft recommendations of funding allocations will be provided under separate cover.

HOW TO ACCESS THE MEETING LOCATION:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center is located at 600 E. Fourth St. (corner of Fourth and Davidson streets) in uptown Charlotte. Parking is available in the Government Center parking deck located on Davidson St. between Third and Fourth streets; on-street parking is also available.

Enter the Government Center on the Davidson St. side through the ground-level door located to the right of the large staircase. (This is a handicapped accessible entrance.) Use the call box located next to the door to contact security staff. Inform them you are attending the MUMPO meeting. Once inside the building, security staff will assist you to Room CH-14.

AGENDA

Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization

7:00 PM – March 24, 2010

1. Call to Order Ted Biggers

2. Approval of Minutes Ted Biggers
ACTION REQUESTED: Approve January meeting minutes as presented.

3. Citizen Comment Period

4. LRTP & Conformity Determination Report Recommendations Robert Cook
ACTIONS REQUESTED:
a) Find that the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program are in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
b) Adopt the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND: The required 30-day public comment period ended on March 8, 2010. Two public meetings were held in February to solicit comments on the LRTP and CDR. Comments that have been submitted regarding the plan have been posted on MUMPO's website. At its March 11 meeting, the Technical Coordinating Committee unanimously recommended that the MPO make a conformity determination on the LRTP and approve the LRTP. More information can be found at the following website: [2035 LRTP](#).

ATTACHMENT: Draft resolutions; memo.

5. 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Robert Cook
ACTION REQUESTED: Approve the 2009-2015 TIP amendments.

BACKGROUND: A plan to accelerate the construction of the remaining portion of the I-485 Loop (TIP #R-2248E) and the I-85/I-485 Interchange (TIP #R-2123CE) has been proposed by NCDOT. Currently, the TIP shows the construction funding for these projects after FY 2015. In order for the funding to correspond with NCDOT's new construction schedule, TIP amendments are required. At its March 11 meeting, the Technical Coordinating Committee unanimously recommended that the MPO approve the TIP amendments.

ATTACHMENT: Draft resolution.

6. Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Prioritization Results David Wasserman
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The NCDOT's Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) has released the initial results of its strategic prioritization process, as part of the department's Transportation Reform effort. MUMPO's contribution to the list of ranked projects came from the Candidate Projects List that was adopted in March 2009. The rankings are initial results based upon data and need, and have not been subject to funding, legal or scheduling constraints.

These are preliminary results and may be subject to change. More information can be found at the following website: [SPOT](#).

- 7. Charlotte Railroad Corridor Improvements** Patrick Simmons
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: A review of the Charlotte Railroad Improvements and Safety Program (CRISP) and the NCRR Double Track Project in northeast Charlotte will be provided.

- 8. Resolution Supporting the Fast Lanes Study** Tim Gibbs
ACTION REQUESTED: Endorse the Fast Lanes study recommendations.

BACKGROUND: The Fast Lanes study examined the technical, financial and institutional feasibility of dedicating lanes on major highways in the Charlotte region for active traffic management. The study is now complete and a resolution of support from the MPO is being requested. At its March 11 meeting, the Technical Coordinating Committee unanimously recommended that the MPO endorse the study's recommendations. The final report can be downloaded from www.fastlanes.org.

ATTACHMENT: Draft resolution.

- 9. Lake Norman Transportation Commission ULI Panel Findings** Carroll Gray
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The Lake Norman Transportation Commission sponsored an Urban Land Institute (ULI) Advisory Panel focused on north Charlotte and the four lake towns. The panel's mission was to assess the economic potentials of the area given the vital infrastructure needed to facilitate projected investment and resulting jobs.

- 10. FY 11 Unified Planning Work Program** Robert Cook
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The UPWP is adopted annually and identifies the major transportation planning activities to be undertaken during the fiscal year.

- 11. Monroe Parkway Project Status Update** Reid Simons
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: Update on the progress of the Monroe Parkway.

- 12. Rea Road Extension/NC 84 Improvements** Nancy Anderson
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: Portions of this project were included in the financially-constrained 2015 and 2020 long range transportation plans (adopted in 1995 and 1999, respectively), but were not included in the 2025, 2030 and 2035 LRTPs when they were originally adopted (2002, 2005 and 2010, respectively). The 2030 LRTP was amended approximately 18 months after its adoption to include a portion of the project. The MPO approved the amendment due to the release of the 2007-2013 TIP and its inclusion of funding for a portion of the project. Funding was included in the TIP in response to a developer committing to building a portion of the roadway in Weddington. The development proposal is not currently active.

- 13. Adjourn**



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization
FROM: Robert W. Cook, AICP
MUMPO Secretary
DATE: March 19, 2010
SUBJECT: **LRTP & Conformity Determination Report Recommendations**
March 2010 MPO Agenda Item #4

ACTION REQUESTED

The MPO is requested to take the following actions:

- Find that the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program are in compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation. This action constitutes the air quality conformity determination.
- Adopt the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND

Federal regulations require MPOs to adopt long range transportation plans. Regulations also require that those MPOs designated as air quality non-attainment areas determine that their plans conform to air quality standards. The two documents being presented to the MPO for action represent over two years of work to meet the federal requirements.

Taking action on March 24 will allow MUMPO to avoid a conformity lapse. (MUMPO is currently in a conformity grace period.) A lapse would have serious consequences because it would result in halting work on ongoing projects. For example, federal officials would be prohibited from signing the record of decision (ROD) for the Monroe Parkway’s environmental impact statement (EIS). A lapse would also impact the two remaining I-485 projects because MUMPO’s current inability to amend the TIP would continue until the adoption of a SAFETEA-LU compliant LRTP and a determination that the plan conforms to air quality standards. (Action to amend the TIP for the I-485 projects is agenda item #5).

TCC RECOMMENDATION

At its March 11, 2010 meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that:

- the MPO find the 2035 LRTP and the 2009-2015 TIP to be in compliance with the Clean Air Act and SAFETEA-LU
- the MPO adopt the 2035 LRTP

The TCC’s recommendation was conditioned upon both documents being modified in response to comments received by the March 8 deadline for public comments. None of the comments received were of a nature that requires the MPO to delay action. Most comments were related primarily to either minor text changes to improve clarity or to correct inconsistencies. [Please click here to view the comments.](#)

RESOLUTION FINDING THE MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION 2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE 2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1990 AND THE SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT – A LEGACY FOR USERS (SAFETEA-LU)

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) is the duly recognized decision making body of the 3-C transportation planning process for the urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, MUMPO's 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan meets the planning requirements of 23 CFR Part 450.322; and

WHEREAS, the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is a direct subset of the 2035 Long-Range Transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated the region as nonattainment for ozone on April 15, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the transportation conformity analysis of the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan is based on the most recent estimates of population, employment, travel, and congestion; and

WHEREAS, the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan is financially constrained; and

WHEREAS, there are no transportation control measures in the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) that pertain to the MUMPO area; and

WHEREAS, the most recent vehicle emissions model was used to prepare the quantitative emissions analysis; and

WHEREAS, those projects and programs included in the 2035 Long Range-Transportation Plan contribute to annual emissions reductions as shown by the quantitative emissions analysis; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization finds that both the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program conform to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or base year emissions, in areas where no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by EPA) in accordance with Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA) and SAFETEA-LU.

I, Ted Biggers, MUMPO Chairman, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization duly held on the 24th day of March 2010.

Ted Biggers, Chairman

Robert W. Cook, Secretary

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2035 LONG-RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by MPO Member _____ for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires all Metropolitan Planning Organizations to develop and maintain a Long-Range Transportation Plan and; and

WHEREAS, the Long-Range Transportation Plan must address all modes of transportation in an urban area, have a horizon year of at least 20 years, and be financially constrained (23 CFR Part 450.322); and

WHEREAS, the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) has been found to be in conformance with the State Implementation Plan for air quality; and

WHEREAS, the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report for MUMPO is based on the latest planning assumptions and transportation demand model with a horizon year of 2035; and

WHEREAS, the MUMPO 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report were reviewed by the general public in accordance with the MUMPO Public Participation Policy.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization approves the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan.

I, Ted Biggers, MUMPO Chairman, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization duly held on the 24th day of March 2010.

Ted Biggers, Chairman

Robert W. Cook, Secretary

RESOLUTION

**ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE MECKLENBURG-UNION URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR
FY 2009-FY 2015**

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by MPO Member _____ for the adoption of the resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) has reviewed the current FY 2009-FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program and found the need to amend it; and

WHEREAS, the following amendments have been proposed:

- TIP Project R-2248E: advance construction from FY 2015 to FY 2010; and
- TIP Project R-2123CE: advance construction from FY 2011 to FY 2010; and

WHEREAS, the project is consistent with the goals and objectives of MUMPO’s 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Coordinating Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the MPO approve the TIP amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization finds that the proposed amendment conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan for maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan has a planning horizon year of 2035, and meets all the requirements in 23 CFR 450; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mecklenburg-Union Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization that the FY 2009-FY 2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for the Mecklenburg-Union Urban Area be amended as listed above on this the 24th day of March, 2010.

I, Ted Biggers, Chairman of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization, duly held on this the 24th day of March, 2010.

Ted Biggers, Chairman

Robert W. Cook, Secretary

RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE CHARLOTTE REGION'S FAST LANES STUDY
RECOMMENDATIONS

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ for the adoption of the following Resolution and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, traffic volumes are increasing on the Charlotte Region's road network; and

WHEREAS, the widening and building of major highways has become more complicated due to environmental, financial and physical constraints; and

WHEREAS, the need to provide additional travel capacity through the use of innovative methods has become more compelling; and

WHEREAS, managed lanes provide a choice for users to pay for bypassing congested roadway segments; and

WHEREAS, transportation planning agencies within North Carolina and South Carolina joined together to complete a Study evaluate managed lanes on freeways and arterials region-wide; and

WHEREAS, the Study recommends further study of managed lanes facilities in the region on segments of I-77, I-85, I-485 and US 74.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization endorses the Fast Lanes Study results and supports further evaluation of projects in suggested corridors for inclusion in area long-range transportation plans and future roadway project design.

I, Ted Biggers, Chairman of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization, duly held on the 24th day of March, 2010.

Ted Biggers, Chairman

Robert W. Cook, Secretary