



600 East Fourth Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
704-336-2205
www.mumpo.org

TO: TCC Members
FROM: Nicholas Landa
MUMPO Principal Planner
DATE: September 7, 2012

**SUBJECT: Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Agenda
September 2012 TCC Meeting—September 13, 2012**

The September TCC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 13** at **10:00 AM** in **Room 267** of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center (600 East Fourth Street). Attached is a copy of the agenda.

Please call me at (704) 336-8309 if you have any questions.

MUMPO TCC

AGENDA

September 13, 2012

1. **Adoption of the Agenda** Bill Coxe

2. **Consideration of August Meeting Minutes** Bill Coxe
ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as presented, or with amendments.

3. **TIP Project P-5200: Thrift Depot Relocation** (10 minutes) Craig Newton
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend that the MPO approve the amendment to the TIP as presented.

BACKGROUND: NCDOT provided information to the TCC at its August meeting about a TIP project to relocate and stabilize the vacant Thrift Depot along the former P&N Railroad line in northeast Charlotte. The MPO is being asked to amend the TIP to allocate \$800,000 in Enhancement funds, matched with \$200,000 in state funds, in order to accomplish the proposed relocation of the historic structure. One outstanding issue raised at the August TCC meeting was with regard to the proposed realignment of Freedom Drive and its impact to the relocation site for the Thrift Depot. Attached are documents that address the Freedom Drive issue.

ATTACHMENT: Thrift Depot and Freedom Drive Memorandum

4. **TIP Project U-5519: N. Community House Road TIP/LRTP Amendments** (5 minutes) Robert Cook
& **Conformity Determination**
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend that the MPO amend the TIP and LRTP as presented, and make a conformity determination on the amended plans.

BACKGROUND: This project will result in the construction of a bridge over I-485 in south Charlotte. It is not in MUMPO's TIP, but is in the LRTP's 2025 horizon year. The requested action will amend the TIP to fund the project in FY 2013, and amend the LRTP to modify the project description to accurately reflect the project's scope. See attached memorandum for more information.

ATTACHMENT: N. Community House Road Memorandum

5. **Environmental Justice – Public Involvement Plan Amendments** (5 minutes) Robert Cook
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend that the MPO approve the amendments to the Public Involvement Plan as presented.

BACKGROUND: See attached memorandum for more information. [Click here](#) to review documents associated with the proposed amendments.

ATTACHMENT: Environmental Justice – Public Involvement Plan Memorandum

6. **MPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion** (15 minutes) Robert Cook
a. **Draft Planning Area Boundary**
ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend that the MPO endorse a draft planning area boundary.

BACKGROUND: See attached memorandum for more information.

b. Regional Agreements

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The metropolitan planning process must be implemented in urbanized areas (UZA). The Charlotte UZA extends into five counties (Cabarrus, Catawba, Gaston, Lancaster and York) served by existing MPOs, or by MPOs that plan to expand their planning areas. Based upon direction provided at previous MPO and TCC meetings, MUMPO will enter into agreements with the region's other MPOs to transfer its planning responsibilities.

7. Hambright Road & Everette Keith Road Alignment Studies (10 minutes) Zachary Gordon

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend that the MPO authorize a public involvement process under the Town of Huntersville's leadership.

BACKGROUND: The Town of Huntersville has started the process for the preparation of a small area plan for the Eastfield Road area. As part of this plan, the Town is working with MUMPO staff to complete alignment studies for Hambright Road (from Everette Keith Road to Eastfield Road) and Everette Keith Road (from Eastfield Road to Verhoeff Drive). An overview of the scope of work and timetable for these studies will be provided.

8. I-77 HOT Lanes (20 minutes) Bill Coxe

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend that the MPO endorse the proposed project scenarios for analysis.

BACKGROUND: An update on the status of the I-77 HOT Lanes project will be provided. In addition, NCDOT has requested that the following two new scenarios be considered for the widening of I-77 from I-277 in Charlotte to NC 150 in Mooresville:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) Northern section (I-4750 HOT) | 1 HOT lane (in each direction) |
| Central section (I-5405) | 2 HOT lanes (in each direction) |
| Southern section (I-3311C) | 0 HOT lanes |
| 2) Northern section (I-4750 HOT) | 1 HOT lane (in each direction) |
| Central section (I-5405) | 1 HOT lane (in each direction) |
| Southern section (I-3311C) | 0 HOT lanes |

In addition to these two scenarios proposed by the state, other scenarios could be discussed.

9. Air Quality Conformity Determination Update (10 minutes) Robert Cook

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: Update on proposed, upcoming conformity determinations that the MPO will be undertaking.

10. US 74 Framework Plan (20 minutes) Padam Singh

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The US-74 Corridor Revitalization Study provides a vision for the future of the 15 mile segment of the US-74 corridor. The objective of this plan is to prepare a coordinated land use, urban design, economic development, and multi-modal transportation plan, suitable for implementation by the four local governments and NCDOT. The framework plan was recently completed and provides an overall vision of the land use, transportation, esthetics, and market conditions of the corridor.

11. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (5 minutes)

Anil Panicker

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: Update on the status of this plan.

12. LRTP Update (10 minutes)

Nicholas Landa

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The LRTP Advisory Committee meets on Monday, September 10. A recap of the Advisory Committee meeting, as well as information related to the socio-economic data collection and modeling related to the plan will be provided.

13. Upcoming Issues

14. Adjourn

MECKLENBURG - UNION TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Summary Meeting Minutes
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
Room 280
August 2, 2012

Voting Members: *TCC Chair* – Bill Coxe (Huntersville), Norm Steinman – alt for Danny Pleasant (CDOT), George Berger (Charlotte Engineering & Property Management), Ken Tippet (CDOT Bicycle Coordinator), Jonathan Wells – alt for Debra Campbell (C-M Planning), Lisa Stiwinter (Monroe), Jason Rayfield (LUESA-Air Quality), David McDonald (CATS), Barry Moose (NCDOT-Div. 10), Anil Panicker (NCDOT-TPB), Andrew Grant (Cornelius), Ben McCrary (Davidson), Scott Kaufhold (Indian Trail), Ralph Messera (Matthews), Shannon Martel (Stallings), Greg Mahar (Waxhaw), Jordan Cook (Weddington), Amy Helms (Union County)

Staff: Robert Cook (MUMPO), Stuart Basham (MUMPO), Jennifer Harris (NCDOT), Craig Newton (NCDOT), Rick Baucom (NCDOT), Trisha Hartzell (NCDOT), Pate Butler (NCDOT), Bjorn Hansen (Centralina COG), Gwen Cook (Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation), Adam McLamb (Indian Trail), Van Argabright (NCDOT) – phone

Guests: Todd Steiss (PB), Steve Blakley (Kimley-Horn), Carl Gibilaro (Atkins), Radha Swayampakala (RS&H), Bill Thunberg (LNTC), Toni Tupponce, Dan Morrill (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission)

Bill Coxe opened the meeting at 10:00 AM.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Coxe noted that Item 3 on the agenda might need to be delayed until the presenter arrives, and then asked if any modifications to the agenda are necessary. Norm Steinman recommended adding an item to acknowledge the service of Barry Moose, NCDOT's Division 10 Engineer, and the contributions he has provided to the region during his tenure. The agenda was approved by consensus, as modified.

2. Consideration of July Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if any changes to the minutes were necessary. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. George Berger made a motion to approve the July TCC minutes. Shannon Martel seconded the motion. Upon being put to a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Recognition of Barry Moose

Mr. Coxe announced that Barry Moose is resigning his post as Division Engineer for NCDOT's Division 10 Office. He stated that Mr. Moose, in his capacity as Division Engineer, served remarkably and very fairly, and has been a great advocate for this region. Mr. Steinman added that the Division Engineer position is important, and there is great appreciation for the job Mr. Moose has done throughout his time in that role. Mr. Moose acknowledged the comments and expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the recognition given by the TCC.

4. TIP Project P-5200: Thrift Depot Relocation

Presenter: Craig Newton, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Newton introduced the item by providing some historical context for the Thrift Depot located in western Mecklenburg County, including that it is the last existing structure of its type in the county. He noted that similar structures in surrounding counties have been preserved, or are in the process of being preserved. He informed the TCC that CSX owns land on which the structure is currently located and that it plans to destroy the building for safety and liability reasons. Having learned that, NCDOT wants to relocate the historic building for preservation purposes. He stated that Enhancement funds in the amount of \$800,000 have been identified for that purpose. He added that the state is willing to pay the required match of \$200,000, which has already been approved by the Board of Transportation; however, MUMPO's TIP would need to be amended in order for the Enhancement funds to be used for the purpose of relocating the historic structure.

Mr. Coxe suggested that any impacts related to the Freedom Drive project adjacent to the proposed site where the structure will be relocated need to be resolved to make sure the relocation will not interfere with the Freedom Drive project. Mr. Newton indicated that NCDOT is aware of that issue and is working on a solution. Mr. Coxe asked NCDOT to provide something in writing that ensures the Freedom Drive project will not be impacted. Mr. Newton agreed to do that prior to the September 13 TCC meeting.

Mr. Steinman asked if the proposed relocation site is the only site that was considered for relocating the Thrift Depot structure. Mr. Newton responded that the size and location of the proposed relocation site make it an ideal spot. He also noted that adverse impacts would be reduced if the structure stays in close proximity to its current location. Dan Morrill, of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission, stated that CSX has no desire to restore the current building or to allow the state to lease the parcel on which the structure currently stands. He restated the importance of preserving the last remaining P&N station left in Mecklenburg County.

Mr. Coxe indicated that the funding for the proposed relocation of the Thrift Depot currently exists without impacting other projects, but that it is funding that will ultimately impact equity in future years. He stated that the item will be on the September TCC agenda.

5. Monroe Connector/Bypass

Presenter: Jennifer Harris, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Harris provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She highlighted the history of the project, focusing on the environmental review and the lawsuit that was filed by the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) in late 2010, as follows:

- SELC filed a lawsuit, and a motion to stop the Monroe Bypass project from moving forward during the lawsuit, in November 2010;
- In December 2010, Judge Dever denied the SELC's request to stop the project;
- The Judge ruled in favor of NCDOT in October 2011, followed shortly after by an appeal from the SELC;
- In May 2012, the appeal was upheld and in June, NCDOT's petition for a rehearing was denied;

- Environmental documents were prepared using socio-economic projections developed by the MPO, and the Turnpike Authority researched the information before using it for environmental review purposes;
- The lawsuit was based on the fact that the SELC disagreed with the projections, essentially claiming that the proposed project was included in the “no build” projections;
- Whether the project was included in the “no build” scenario is based on a technicality that NCDOT argues is insignificant to the conclusion of the environmental review, which Judge Dever agreed with;
- NCDOT verified its assumptions, and the MPO agreed that the socio-economic assumptions were representative of a “no build” scenario;
- Ultimately, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal disagreed with the District Court Judge and found that the government should have done a better job of disclosing information to the public;
- The Record of Decision (ROD) was rescinded by FHWA.

Ms. Harris concluded by outlining NCDOT’s next steps for resolving the issues presented in the lawsuit in order to continue the Monroe Bypass project, highlighted by the following:

- Completion of right-of-way acquisitions with offers through May 2012 on a case by case basis, based on hardship;
- The model will be rerun to find the difference between what was done and the changes to the model based on the SELC complaints;
- Hope to get a new ROD in February 2013 and begin work on the project in April 2013, keeping in mind that after a ROD is achieved the SELC is eligible to file a new lawsuit.

Carl Gibilaro, with Atkins, noted that no direction for restarting the process was given by the Court of Appeal so the plan is to strengthen the data that is said to be inefficient then reapply for the ROD. Ms. Harris added that the environmental work that is planned to be accomplished will supplement the approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) and address the concerns of the Court of Appeal, also stating that the Draft and Final EIS documents are still valid. Mr. Gibilaro clarified that the environmental work to be completed will bridge the Final EIS and ROD by providing the appropriate supplementary information. Mr. Coxe requested an update to the MPO board and a summary of the current status of the project in writing. Ms. Harris agreed to present to the MPO in September and provide the summary.

6. Environmental Justice – Public Involvement Plan Amendments

Presenter: Toni Tupponce

Summary/FYI:

Ms. Tupponce provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). She stated that she has been working on updating MUMPO’s Public Involvement Plan (PIP) in order to incorporate better practices for engaging Environmental Justice (EJ) populations. The following aspects of the process she undertook were highlighted:

- Major tasks included providing historical context and education to EJ communities, as well as building relationships and engaging people in those communities;
- The strategy for accomplishing the work is to meet people where they are comfortable, engage broad-reaching organizations and share information in the appropriate audience’s language;
- Lessons learned include using surveys only for short term results, radio is especially beneficial in the Latino community, there are certain perceptions and fears that need to be addressed, and the process has to be relevant to the community’s concerns and culture.

Ms. Tupponce also noted that the amendments to the PIP and the development of a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan have been completed, and were made available for public comment from April 26 to June 13. She stated that this is a first step and more work will be necessary, including continued outreach as the MPO expands, engaging the Asian community, and engaging children when possible. Finally, she indicated that the TCC and MPO will be asked to take action to amend the PIP in September.

7. Congestion Management Process

Presenter: Scott Kaufhold, Town of Indian Trail

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Kaufhold provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). He started by reminding the TCC what the Congestion Management Process (CMP) is, and how it relates to other plans and processes that the MPO is responsible for. He indicated that the CMP task force recently met and worked on developing goals and objectives, identifying study areas and case studies, and determining which performance measures are appropriate for this region. The next steps include data collection and performance evaluation, and the target deadline for completion of the CMP is January 2013.

8. MPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion

Presenter: Robert Cook

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Cook provided information to the TCC via a Power Point presentation, the contents of which are incorporated into the minutes [here](#). Regarding the new MPO planning area boundary, he highlighted the following updates:

- The northern boundary of the reconstituted MPO will likely be the South Yadkin River in Iredell County, and also include all of Iredell County south of that from its east to west borders.;
- In Lincoln County the new MPO boundary will likely stop at Lincoln's current eastern Comprehensive Transportation Plan boundary;
- It is not likely that the new Gaston Area MPO boundary will include any portion of Lincoln County;
- Progress is being made with regard to the new boundary in Union County, including the likelihood that Marshville as well as its extra territorial jurisdiction will be included in the MPO, and the TAZs will be used to smooth the remaining boundary in Union County – the MPO would not include the entirety of Union County; and
- The proposed MPO boundary will not include any portion of Gaston County, but the portion of Charlotte's UZA in Gaston County will be planned for in the Congestion Management Process.

Mr. Cook continued by stating that the TCC and MPO will be asked for formal agreement on the proposed new planning area boundary, after which time regional agreements will be executed with the other planning agencies in the region (i.e. the other MPOs and RPOs). He then provided an update on the progress of the subcommittee tasked with revising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as follows:

- He informed the TCC of the membership of the subcommittee and indicated that the next subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 15;
- Participation, especially from the expansion areas that will be new to the MPO, is important and all are welcome to attend as observers of the process; and

- The subcommittee, at its first meeting, indicated that it prefers to receive guidance from technical staff on which its decisions can be based.

Mr. Cook concluded by stating that the next steps in the process includes presentations to the boards of the jurisdictions in the expansion areas, as well as continued work on the MOU through the subcommittee process and technical staff input at transportation staff meetings. Mr. Steinman asked what the anticipated timeline is for the regional agreements regarding the new planning area boundary, to which Mr. Cook responded that he hopes to have them completed by November 2012 for MPO approval. Mr. Coxe suggested that it is reasonable to ask TCC members to present information related to the new MPO boundary to their boards since each will be impacted by the constitution of a new MPO boundary.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Presenter: Anil Panicker, NCDOT

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Panicker provided a working schedule to the TCC and gave an update on the progress of the CTP process as follows:

- The draft pedestrian maps were sent out on June 20 and comments for those maps have been received from most jurisdictions, but not all;
- The draft bicycle maps were also recently sent out, meaning that all the draft maps are now available for comment (highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit & rail);
- A meeting has been set up with Union County to discuss the draft maps, and Mr. Panicker will also meet with other impacted jurisdictions as necessary;
- A request was made to hold another CTP staff meeting to discuss the overall timeline of the CTP – August 15 was suggested by Mr. Coxe as a possible meeting date.

10. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Working Group

Presenter: Nicholas Landa

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Landa provided information about the LRTP update process, stating that the LRTP work group met on July 21 at which time organizational decisions were made, including the designation of an Advisory Committee and Steering Committee. The Advisory Committee will consist of the full working group and will meet monthly, and the Steering Committee will be a small subset of the Advisory Committee that will be composed of core MPO staff, which will meet more often to organize materials, create agendas, etc. Mr. Landa then stated that several issues that will need to be addressed as part of the plan update process were also identified at the July 21 meeting, and that a resource library was suggested, which would include relevant information that other MPOs have developed as well as general resource materials. He indicated that the resource library will be added to the MUMPO website. It was also stated that acquiring the services of a consultant to assist with the process remains a possibility, but that the details require further discussion. Mr. Landa concluded by noting that the TCC and MPO will be updated regularly and asked to provide input, reminding the TCC that the plan is due in March 2014, and announcing that the next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for September 10.

Mr. Cook noted that it was Anna Gallup's intent to attend the TCC meeting and provide an update on the progress of socio-economic data collection to be used for the development of the new plan, but due to a

conflict she was not able to attend. He indicated that Ms. Gallup would provide the information at a later date.

11. Mobility Fund

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe reminded the TCC that the Mobility Fund was created by the legislature and the governor to fund projects of statewide importance, outside of the equity fund. He noted that \$45 million of Mobility Funds are programmed for the current fiscal year, and that \$58 million are programmed for the next fiscal year. In addition, he directed the TCC's attention to the [draft Mobility Fund project list](#) and pointed out that several MUMPO projects fared well. He reminded the TCC that the list is always subject to change, but noted that the criterion was codified by the General Assembly. Mr. Messera asked if funding originally proposed for Independence Blvd would be freed up due to the fact that Independence Blvd is anticipated to receive Mobility Funds, to which Mr. Coxe responded that it is not yet known.

12. I-77 & I-485 TIP and LRTP Amendments & Conformity Determination

Presenter: Bill Coxe, Town of Huntersville

a. Project Status Update

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe announced that the environmental documents related to the northern and southern legs of the proposed I-77 HOT lanes project (TIP#s I-3311C and I-4750 HOT) are currently being prepared, and workshops are being held to comment on the environmental work, including one which took place Wednesday, August 1 and another one that is scheduled for Thursday, August 2. The project limits include the stretch of I-77 from I-277 to I-85 in Charlotte (I-3311C), and from Exit 28 in Cornelius to NC 150 in Mooresville (I-4750 HOT). He also indicated that the I-77 Tech Team prepared comments reacting to the second industry draft of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project and that Rodger Rochelle, the NCDOT project manager, responded to the comments in writing. Finally, he noted that the concessionaire submittals are anticipated in February 2013.

b. TIP Project I-5507: I-485 South Express Lanes TIP Amendment

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe noted that the August TCC agenda incorrectly states that a conformity determination and LRTP amendment will not be necessary for new TIP project I-5507. He stated that because the project description for the programmed project differs from the project description in MUMPO's current LRTP, the conformity determination and LRTP amendment are required. The proposed TIP project programs Mobility Funds for the widening of I-485 in south Charlotte from I-77 to Rea Road by adding one express lane in each direction.

c. TIP Project U-5519: N. Community House Road TIP & LRTP Amendments and Conformity

Summary/FYI:

Mr. Coxe informed the TCC that a required 30-day public comment period for the conformity determination for the N. Community House Road TIP project U-5519 is currently open and a public meeting for this project will be held on Wednesday, August 15. The MPO will be able to make a conformity determination for the project at the conclusion of the public comment period, in September.

13. Upcoming Issues

Mr. Coxe made the following announcements:

- The draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is anticipated to be released in October, as opposed to September as originally scheduled; and
- The September TCC meeting will be held on September 13 to avoid potential conflicts with activities related to the Democratic National Convention, being held in Charlotte the first week of September.

14. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

DRAFT



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE E
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.
SECRETARY

August 10, 2012

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley
NC Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

Subject: Thrift Depot Relocation
Mecklenburg County; Charlotte NC

Dear Renee:

As we discussed previously, the NCDOT Rail Division proposes to relocate the historic Thrift Depot to a new site, using FHWA Enhancement Funds, and will soon commence NEPA procedures. The MUMPO meets on September 13th, and will consider whether to endorse the funding. However the City of Charlotte has raised a concern regarding the Thrift Depot project impact on its Freedom Drive Relocation project (NC Highway 27).

The attached plan shows a proposed alignment of Freedom Drive in Charlotte, which does impact the proposed Thrift Depot site. However the impact is minimal as far as the depot is concerned. The City asked me to determine whether the Freedom Drive project would face Section 106 impacts if it is aligned as shown impacts this parcel, which will be the new home of a historic structure. I would appreciate your feedback on this issue prior to the MUMPO meeting. If you determine the City will not face Section 106 impacts if the alignment is as shown, there is more assurance the Thrift Depot funding will be approved.

Please contact me at 919-707-4731 if you have any questions or require additional information to complete your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig M. Newton".

Craig M. Newton, P.E.
Senior Project Engineer

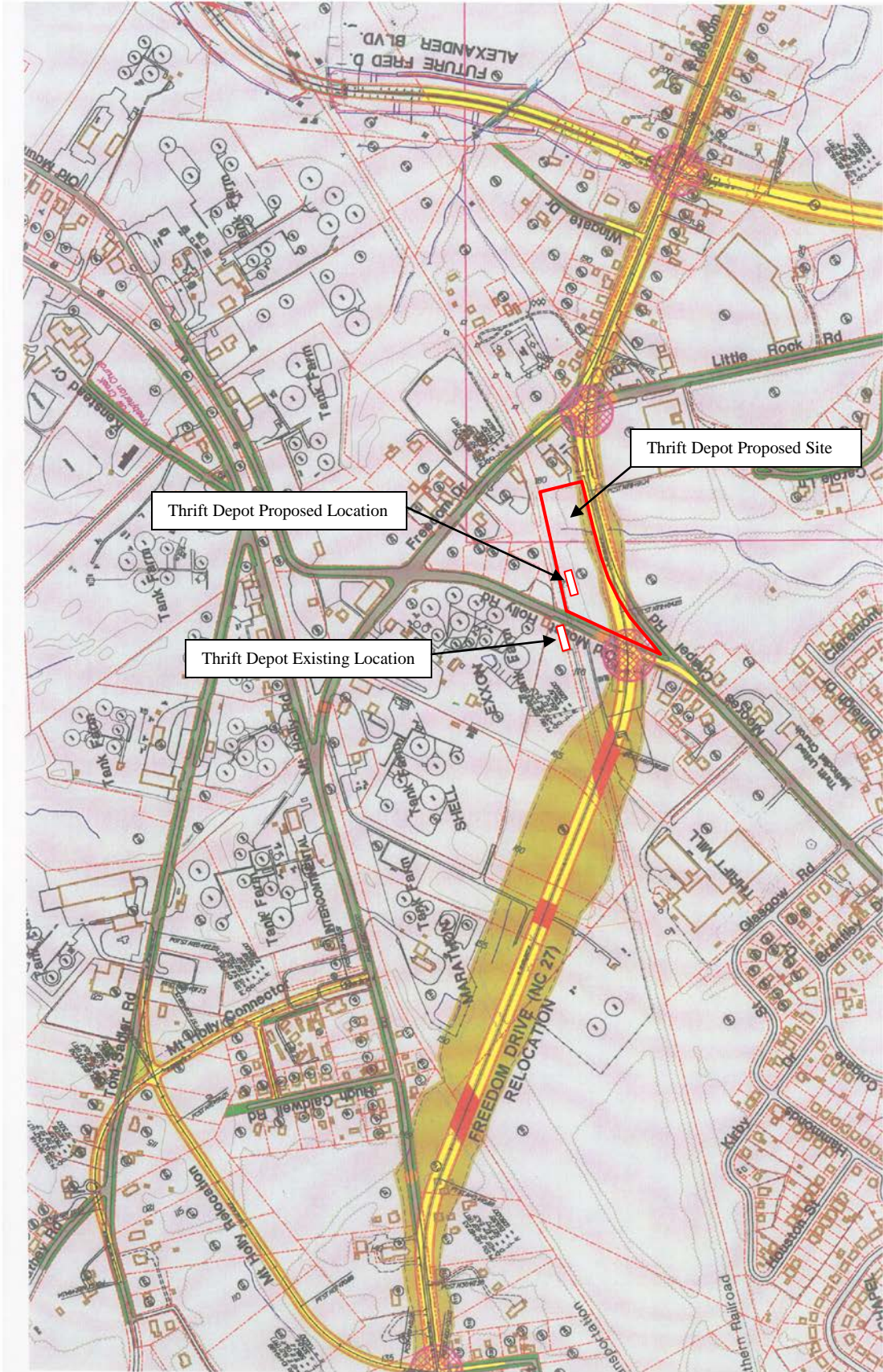
cc: Allan Paul
Marc Hamel
Ryan White

MAILING ADDRESS:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RAIL DIVISION
1553 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1553

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WEBSITE: WWW.BYTRAIN.ORG

LOCATION:
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH NC 27601





North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Division of Historical Resources
David Brook, Director

September 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Craig M. Newton, PE
NCDOT/Rail Division cmnewton@ncdot.gov

From: Rence Gledhill-Earley *RGE*
Environmental Review Coordinator

Re: Thrift Depot site, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, ER 12-1395

Thank you for your letter of August 10, 2012, and follow-up email message of August 29, 2012, about the minor use of land from the proposed new location/parcel for the Thrift Depot. As I understand the question, the City of Charlotte would like to know if its plans to relocate and upgrade Freedom Drive might be affected by the need to use a small portion of the parcel, to which the Department of Transportation's Rails Division proposes to move the Thrift Depot. Having reviewed the proposed realignment and information about the move and reuse of the historic depot, we offer the following comments.

The Thrift Depot is a contributing element in the Piedmont and Northern Railway Linear Historic District, a property determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is currently unused and in disrepair. However, there are plans to move the building to a new location in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of the railroad tracks and Old Mount Holly Road. Because the depot will remain within the historic district and be oriented towards the tracks, it will remain a contributing element in the district following the move. The boundaries for the historic depot will likely be the footprint of the building, plus a surrounding buffer of about ten feet. While the effect of the relocation and improvement of Freedom Drive on the relocated depot must be considered, as we currently understand the project, it should not adversely affect the historic depot nor should it trigger compliance with Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.

That said, it will be important to consider the amount of land that will remain in the depot parcel and access to that parcel. As we discussed, to ensure the preservation of the depot at its new location, it will be crucial that the parcel on which the depot sits (not its footprint and buffer area) has easy access to and from the neighboring streets and adequate parking. A historic building without these elements will not be useable and, without a use, a historic building has little hope of preservation.

I hope that these comments will be of use and provide the necessary information to assure the City that both projects are doable and mutually beneficial. Please contact me, if you need any additional assistance.

cc: Stewart Gray, CMHLC stewart.gray@mecklenburgcountync.gov



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Charlotte, NC 28202
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TO: TCC Members
FROM: Robert Cook, AICP
MUMPO Secretary
DATE: September 4, 2012

**SUBJECT: N. Community House Road Bridge & Extension, U-5519
TIP & LRTP Amendments and Conformity Determination**

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend that the MPO:

- amend the 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Program to place the project in FY 2013*;
- amend the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to shift the project from the 2025 horizon year to the 2015 horizon year; and
- make a conformity determination on the amended 2009-2015 TIP and amended 2035 LRTP.

BACKGROUND

N. Community House Road is an existing two-lane road classified as a minor thoroughfare. MUMPO's Thoroughfare Plan recommends that existing segments north and south of I-485 be linked with a bridge crossing the freeway; the proposed project that will link the two sections. The bridge is not a funded project in the TIP, but is in the 2035 LRTP's 2025 horizon year. Although the bridge is to be constructed with private funds, the MPO must act because the impact on the interstate triggers a federal action.

*The original NCDOT request was for MUMPO to amend the TIP to fund the project in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012; however, NCDOT is now requesting that it be funded in FFY 2013. This change is due to a lack of time to authorize the project between the MPO's scheduled action on September 19 and the start of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 on October 1. The shift from FFY 2012 to FFY 2013 will not result in a construction delay.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- A 30-day public comment period ended on Thursday, September 6; no comments were received.
- A public meeting was held on Wednesday, August 15.
- Notice of the public meeting and comment period was provided by:
 - o advertisements in the Mecklenburg Times and South Charlotte Weekly;
 - o distribution of a media release;
 - o a posting on MUMPO's website; and
 - o an e-mail blast via MUMPO's stakeholders list.



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TO: TCC Members
FROM: Robert Cook, AICP
MUMPO Secretary
DATE: September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: Environmental Justice – Public Involvement Plan Amendments

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend that the MPO amend the Public Involvement Plan to:

- Address how it will engage low-income and minority communities in the metropolitan planning process; and
- Establish a limited English proficiency (LEP) plan to assist in providing an opportunity for all citizens to participate in the planning process fully – regardless of their proficiency in speaking English.

In addition to the two actions noted above, Based upon comments received during the 45-day public comment period, staff recommends that the PIP also be amended to include a statement that MUMPO's outreach efforts when adopting an updated Transportation Improvement Program satisfies the City of Charlotte's requirement of public participation for the Program of Projects (POP) when included in the TIP process.

BACKGROUND

MUMPO's 2008 Certification Review recommended that MUMPO's Public Involvement Plan be updated to improve outreach efforts to the low-income and minority communities. Following that, staff was advised of the need to prepare a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- A 45-day public comment period was held from April 30 through June 13; no comments were received.
- Notice of the comment period was provided by:
 - o advertisements in the Mecklenburg Times, Charlotte Post and Que Pasa;
 - o distribution of a media release;
 - o a posting on MUMPO's website; and
 - o an e-mail blast via MUMPO's stakeholders list.
- Approximately 20 stakeholders were sent hardcopies of the draft documents and requested to provide comments.



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TO: TCC Members
FROM: Robert Cook, AICP
MUMPO Secretary
DATE: September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: MPO Planning Area Boundary Expansion

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend that the MPO endorse a draft planning area boundary.

BACKGROUND

The establishment of a draft planning area boundary is critical to a number of efforts associated with revising the Memorandum of Understanding. One of the most significant is updating the MPO's voting structure, but other issues such as MPO fees and updating the functional classification system are also important.

BOUNDARY STATUS

- Union County: the Board of Commissioners adopted a revised boundary between the MPO and the Rocky River RPO on August 30, 2012.
- Lincoln County: the Board of Commissioners adopted a boundary on August 6, 2012.
- Iredell County: the Board of Commissioners has not taken official action, but has been presented with a scenario on several occasions that uses the S. Yadkin River as the northern boundary and the county line as the eastern and western boundaries.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff believes it is appropriate to move forward with the endorsement of a draft boundary at this time in order to continue to make progress toward completion of all tasks associated with the MPO's expansion.

Proposed MPO Boundary

