

Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization

March 16, 2011

Room 267-Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center

6:00 PM Education Session

Topic: NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Process

Presenters: Don Voelker, PE, North Carolina Department of Transportation

7:00 PM Meeting Agenda

1. **Call to Order** Ted Biggers

2. **Approval of Minutes** Ted Biggers
ACTION REQUESTED: Approve January 2011 meeting minutes as presented.

3. **Citizen Comment Period**

4. **Charlotte Streetcar Project** Robert Cook
ACTION REQUESTED: The following action is requested:
 - a. Amend the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program to place project funding for the 1.5 mile segment in FY 2011
 - b. Amend the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan to place the 1.5 mile segment in the 2015 horizon year
 - c. Make a conformity determination on the amended 2009-2015 TIP and amended 2035 LRTP

TCC RECOMMENDATION: The TCC unanimously recommended at its March 3, 2011 meeting that the MPO take the above requested action.

BACKGROUND: See attached memorandum.

ATTACHMENTS: Memorandum and draft resolution. (The public comments were distributed to the MPO delegates and alternates in a separate email.) The amendments report and draft air quality conformity determination report can be viewed on MUMPO's website at: <http://www.mumpo.org/CharlotteStreetcarProject.htm>

5. **CATS 2009-2015 TIP Amendment** David McDonald
ACTION REQUESTED: Amend the 2009-2015 TIP in order to utilize funds allocated for FY 2011, designated to CATS for the replacement of underground fuel tanks at the North Davidson Bus Maintenance Facility.

TCC RECOMMENDATION: The TCC unanimously recommended at its March 3, 2011 meeting that the MPO take the above requested action.

BACKGROUND: When the draft 2012-2018 TIP was released it listed a \$1.5 million allocation for an unspecified project for CATS. In November 2010 the MPO supported the allocation, provided it was used for a capital project. This \$1,500,000 in federal STP funding will be utilized

to replace underground fuel tanks and provide extra fuel storage capacity for the newly renovated North Davidson Bus Maintenance Campus.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft resolution.

- 6. FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment** Scott Kaufhold
ACTION REQUESTED: Amend the FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as noted below.

TCC RECOMMENDATION: The TCC unanimously recommended at its March 3, 2011 meeting that the MPO amend the UPWP as requested.

BACKGROUND: The Town of Indian Trail received Planning (PL) funds from the MPO to prepare a local transportation plan. The Town wishes to use the funds for an intersection analysis project.

- 7. ARRA Rail Improvements** Robert Cook
ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt a resolution of continued support for high speed rail.

TCC RECOMMENDATION: The TCC unanimously recommended at its March 3, 2011 meeting that the MPO adopt the attached resolution.

BACKGROUND: NCDOT was awarded \$545 million in American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to fund 27 projects in 11 counties for track improvements necessary to advance the Southeast High Speed Rail corridor, which will ultimately run between Charlotte and Washington, D.C. Recently, the House of Representatives passed a continuing resolution bill that would eliminate spending on high speed rail. Due to recent discussion about action on a possible rescission of ARRA funding related to North Carolina's high speed rail project, it would be an appropriate time for the MPO to weigh in on the issue.

ATTACHMENT: Draft resolution.

- 8. Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
The MPO will be asked to provide direction on the issues listed below.

A. Potential TIP Changes Robert Cook
BACKGROUND: The memorandum attached to the agenda lists several projects for which direction will be needed.

B. I-77 Widening & HOV Lanes Conversion
ACTION REQUESTED: Endorse a course of action on this project.

BACKGROUND: See the attached memorandum for more information.

C. Rea Road Extension Robert Cook
ACTION REQUESTED: Determine if an endorsement of this project being included in the TIP is appropriate.

BACKGROUND: The MPO gave Weddington officials 60 days to prepare a plan that would permit construction of a two-lane cross section.

D. Prosperity Church Road/I-485 Interchange Matt Magnasco
ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: The MPO allocated STP-DA funds in FY 15 for a project to realign a portion of Little Rock Road (U-5116) in conjunction with the City of Charlotte's Fred D. Alexander Boulevard projects. The City has already completed planning and design on the project, so using the funds in FY 15 would result in a substantial delay to the project. The City proposes to reallocate the \$4.8 million in DA funds from Little Rock Road to construct a segment of realigned Prosperity Church Road in the Prosperity Village/I-485 interchange. This segment must be open to traffic when I-485 is completed (currently scheduled for December 2014) for the interchange to function properly. The funding year is also requested to be changed from FY 15 to FY 13.

E. Establish April Meeting Date

Robert Cook

ACTION REQUESTED: Schedule a date and time for a special April meeting of the MPO.

BACKGROUND: A special meeting is needed in order for the TIP process to remain on schedule. At this meeting, the MPO will be asked to do the following:

- a. Release a draft version of the TIP*
- b. Release a draft list of LRTP amendments necessitated by TIP project schedule changes*
- c. Release a draft air quality conformity determination report*
- d. Approve the start of a public comment period*

9. Weddington Area TIP Amendment

Barry Moose

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: NCDOT has proposed roadway modifications in the vicinity of the intersection of Providence Road (NC 16) and Weddington Road (NC 84) that will require a TIP amendment. The MPO will be asked to act on the amendment at an upcoming meeting.

10. MUMPO Project Prioritization

Nicholas Polimeni

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: Prior to the next LRTP cycle, MUMPO's project ranking criteria will need to be evaluated. In addition, MUMPO will have an opportunity this summer to submit projects to NCDOT as part of SPOT's Strategic Prioritization Process. MUMPO staff has begun discussing prioritization on a broad level, and as it relates specifically to SPOT, and will be requesting input from the MPO as part of the process.

11. Bicycle and Pedestrian Prioritization Process

Lauren Blackburn

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: A subcommittee of the TCC was recently formed to continue the development of a methodology for ranking bicycle and pedestrian projects. Two meetings of the subcommittee have been completed; this is an update regarding the progress of the subcommittee and the status of the prioritization process.

12. Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ)

Nicholas Polimeni

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: A subcommittee was formed last year to evaluate projects to be funded with CMAQ dollars. As part of that process, the subcommittee also had a chance to evaluate the criteria adopted by the MPO in 2008 that is used to prioritize projects. The subcommittee determined that overall the criteria is adequate and serves as a good tool to rank MUMPO's CMAQ projects; however, some minor clarifications were suggested, which were presented to the

TCC at its February meeting. The TCC recommended that the MPO endorse the clarifications. The MPO will be asked to act on this at an upcoming meeting.

ATTACHMENT: Recommended clarifications to CMAQ criteria

13. FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Robert Cook

ACTION REQUESTED: FYI

BACKGROUND: Update on the status of the FY 2012 UPWP development.

14. Adjourn