

Sustainable Communities - Regional Planning Grant Awarded

The federal *Housing and Urban Development (HUD)* department awarded a \$4.9 million grant to the *Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG)* to be applied to a regional sustainability planning effort. The grant will be used to implement a plan that will enhance efforts to develop well-managed, sustainable regional growth

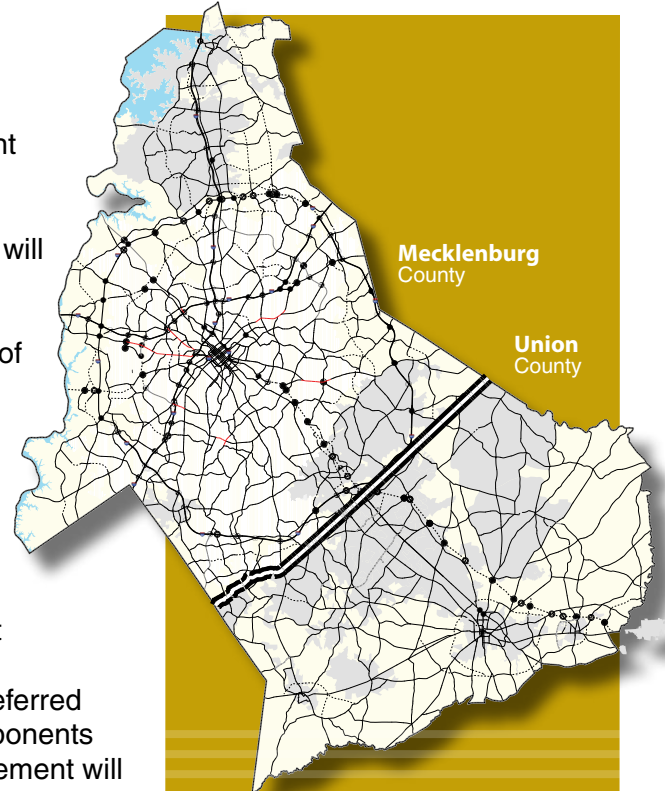
across 14 counties in the bi-state region. A significant emphasis of plan development will focus on how the region should grow, and each aspect of the plan will focus on answering that question. Specifically, evaluating alternative scenarios using different types of indicators, and building consensus on preferred scenarios, will be key components of the process. Public involvement will also play an integral role, underlying the decisions made.



It is very important that this be a regional undertaking that benefits everyone. Collaboration among various regional partners will be important to ensure a successful outcome. MUMPO, as well as the surrounding MPOs and RPOs, will provide input and be involved throughout the process.

Northwest Huntersville Transportation Study

For several years the Town of Huntersville has been studying NC 73, west of Vance Road, in order to determine the best way to deal with traffic along this major thoroughfare. One of the most significant issues studied was whether or not to move the alignment of NC 73, including evaluating the impacts associated with a re-alignment. Extensive public outreach and the consideration of several alignment options were included as a part of the study. On September 6, 2011, the Town Board voted to support a re-alignment of NC 73 which would move the road south of its current location. At its November 16, 2011 meeting, the MUMPO Board also endorsed the proposed re-alignment. Several outstanding issues related to the re-alignment still need to be resolved.



MUMPO Leadership

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Town of Mint Hill

MPO Vice-Chairman

Mayor Lynda Paxton
Town of Stallings

TCC Chairman

Bill Coxe
Town of Huntersville

TCC Vice-Chairman

Danny Pleasant
City of Charlotte
Department of Transportation

Upcoming Meetings

MPO – Jan 18, 2012

MPO – Mar 21, 2012

Contact

(704) 336-2205

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info@mumpo.org

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Jan – Mar 2012

High Occupancy Toll Lanes on I-77

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) continues to work with MUMPO to determine how *high occupancy toll (HOT)* lanes could be implemented on I-77 north, approximately from 5th Street in Charlotte to Exit 28 in north Mecklenburg County. Several scenarios have been identified and studied, including the pursuit of a private public partnership (P3) option. HOT lanes have been implemented in several cities across the country, but not in North Carolina.



High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes like the one above could be replaced by High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes.

An environmental study of the proposed corridor will need to be completed, as well as an air quality conformity determination. In addition, a public outreach effort will need to be accomplished. The benefit of implementing HOT lanes is that they provide an opportunity to manage congestion and travel time, while creating a funding source that potentially helps pay for the added capacity. In addition, there are also many challenges involved with the implementation of HOT lanes. Both will need to be weighed carefully as the decision making process continues.

NCDOT's Prioritization 2.0

Prioritization 2.0 (P2.0), the process implemented by NCDOT to score transportation projects throughout the state by tier (statewide, regional, subregional) and mode (highway, pedestrian, transit, etc), is in its final stages. Each MPO and RPO had an opportunity to submit local input points to NCDOT by December 16, 2011, and now the NCDOT's *Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT)* will apply final scores to all the projects contained in the prioritization database. Several MUMPO projects scored very well based on the data driven scores, however; those scores will change after the local and multi-modal points are incorporated to generate final scores. Final P2.0 scores are anticipated to be released by NCDOT in early 2012. More information can be found at

[NCDOT Prioritization](#)