



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

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April 30, 2009

Eugene A. Conti, Jr  
Secretary  
North Carolina Department of Transportation  
1501 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

SUBJECT: Completion of I-485

Dear Secretary Conti:

The March 18, 2009 meeting of the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization (MUMPO) included a great deal of debate about how to spend MUMPO's Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) funds from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA), with the discussion focused on whether to allocate the funds to I-485 or to a series of other projects. The decision of the MPO was to allocate the funds to the other projects, including NC 73 in Huntersville.

I believe it is important to emphasize that the vote was not a referendum on the importance of I-485 to the Charlotte region. I-485 is one of MUMPO's highest priorities and will remain so until the project is complete. To that point, the MPO made it very clear during its March meeting that it will reconsider its STP-DA allocation decision if a viable funding plan for I-485 is presented that requires the use of those funds. I have attached an excerpt from the March meeting minutes that demonstrates the importance of I-485 to MUMPO.

On behalf of all MPO members, I look forward to receiving options from NCDOT that will accelerate the completion of the I-485 loop.

Sincerely:

R. Lee Myers  
Chairman, Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization

cc: The Honorable Beverly E. Perdue  
MPO Members

**MECKLENBURG-UNION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Conference Room 267**  
**March 18, 2009**

**Summary Minutes of Action Associated with Agenda Item 4.2-American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Action: Funding projects with MUMPO's STP-DA allocation**

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**Members Attending:**

Anthony Foxx (Charlotte), Jim Bensman-alternate (Cornelius), Brian Jenest (Davidson), Brian Sisson (Huntersville), John Quinn (Indian Trail), Lee Myers (Matthews), Dumont Clarke (Mecklenburg County), Carl Ellington (Mint Hill), Bob Smith (Monroe), Jim Eschert (Pineville), Lynda Paxton (Stallings), Tracy Kuehler (Union County), Daune Gardner (Waxhaw), Nancy Anderson (Weddington), Brad Horvath (Wesley Chapel), Bill Braswell (Wingate), Stephen Rosenburgh (Char-Meck Planning Commission)

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**4.2 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

*Action Requested: Endorse Scenario 1 as the project priority list for the \$20.1 million in Surface Transportation Program-Direct Attributable (STP-DA) funds allocated to MUMPO.*

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Vice-Chairman Bill Coxe opened the discussion of the ARRA with a presentation on the TCC's recommendations on the three actions being requested and how those recommendations were developed. Specific to the projects considered for STP-DA funding, Mr. Coxe stated that the projects in the three scenarios (see attached sheet for the project list and descriptions) were from the list of projects nominated for ARRA funding by MUMPO's member jurisdictions and NCDOT, and that the projects were ranked for STP-DA funding at a meeting held on February 27, 2009. At that meeting three scenarios were developed for presentation to the full TCC. He then reviewed the three scenarios, noting that at its March 5, 2009 meeting, the TCC unanimously recommended that the MPO endorse Scenario 1.

After Mr. Coxe completed his presentation, the MPO considered the three requests for action in the order they were found on the agenda. Regarding the STP-DA funds, Brian Sisson of Huntersville made a motion to endorse Scenario 1, and Jim Bensman of Cornelius seconded the motion. A discussion among the MPO members began. MPO Vice-Chairman Anthony Foxx discussed the direction he received from the Charlotte city council to support the TCC recommendation provided that NCDOT did not need the STP-DA funds for I-485. He then requested that a friendly amendment to the motion be added to revisit this issue in July. Mr. Sisson stated that I-485 was important to Huntersville, too, but declined to accept the friendly amendment. Mr. Foxx asked if by accepting the TCC's recommendation, would the MPO be eliminating the possibility of using the STP-DA funds on I-485? Mr. Coxe replied that the issue could be revisited. Mr. Foxx stated that he was constrained by his directed vote from city council and further stated that NCDOT does not know if it needs the STP-DA funds. MPO Chairman Lee Myers stated that NCDOT has to find the funds for I-485 or it will have to use funds from an existing project. Mr. Myers also stated that the NC 73 project will not be let until after the July MPO meeting, so the MPO could reconsider its decision. He emphasized that the vote was not a vote against I-485, but one that was consistent with the stimulus concept of creating jobs.

Mr. Sisson then stated that, if the governor comes to the MPO and says she has the money to build I-485 without delaying another project, he would make a motion to shift the STP-DA funds to I-485. The MPO then voted on the motion made earlier by Mr. Sisson. Fourteen of the jurisdictions present, representing 20 votes, voted in favor of the motion. Two jurisdictions, representing 17 votes, voted in opposition to the motion. The motion passed and Scenario 1 was endorsed by the MPO.