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A continued Meeting of the City Council from its regular meeting on Monday, May 4, 1970 was held jointly with the County Board of Commissioners on Monday, May 11, 1970, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., in the Commissioner's Room, 4th Floor, County Office Building, with the following members present:

FOR THE CITY COUNCIL: Mayor John M. Belk, Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, John H. Thrower, Jerry Tuttle, James B. Whittington and Joe D. Withrow.

ABSENT: None

FOR THE COUNTY: Chairman Charles M. Lowe, Commissioners James G. Martin, Charles T. Myers, Wallace S. Osborne and M. W. Peterson.

ABSENT: None.

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

Chairman Lowe, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Mr. Tom Ruff, County Attorney.

REPORT BY W. E. MCINTYRE, CITY-COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR, ON APPLICATION FOR GRANT AND TECHNICAL STUDY FOR URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION.

Mr. W. E. McIntyre, City-County Planning Director, stated he is present to present a proposed transportation planning project to both the City Council and the County Board of Commissioners.

The following is a summary of the report given by Mr. McIntyre:

"The City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have reached a point in their growth where a unified and coordinated transportation system must be considered. The County population has reached 360,000 persons in 1970 and is projected to be 780,000 by the year 1995. Employment in the County is estimated to be 185,000 workers in 1970 and is projected to be 475,000 by 1995.

It is recognized that how the citizens of the area choose to transport themselves and their goods in the future, will have a profound influence on the physical, economic and social development pattern of the community. Therefore the alternatives that will be open to the community regarding the coordination of mass transit with other modes of travel should be fully explored in the updating of the comprehensive land use and transportation plan.

Under the Technical Studies Program of the U. S. Department of Transportation, Urban Mass Transportation Administration, grants can be made to state and local public bodies and agencies to plan, engineer and design urban mass transportation projects. A draft application for a comprehensive study of mass transportation for Mecklenburg County has been prepared. Before such a grant can be made the applicant must show that the technical study of mass transit will relate to an officially coordinated transportation study which is part of the comprehensively planned development of the urban area.

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The City and County are now engaged in the process of updating the comprehensive land use and transportation plan for the area. This is being done through the cooperation of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, the City and County Public Works Departments, the City Traffic Engineering Department and the North Carolina State Highway Commission. Overall coordination of the planning effort is carried out under a body known as the Technical Coordinating Committee whose membership is made up of members from the above agencies, the Bureau of Public Roads and others.

The proposed technical study of mass transportation will be comprehensive. The study will consist of two primary phases - short-range and long-range.

The Short-range phase will evaluate in detail the present facilities, operations and services provided by the existing system and develop recommendations for immediate improvements that can be implemented over a five-year period. The second phase will outline long-range potentials and improvements oriented to the development of a coordinated, well-balanced future transportation system for the 1995 urbanized area. In the Long-range phase alternative conceptual land use plans will be developed and related to concepts of highway and public transportation development. It is hoped that these conceptual plans will be widely discussed with the community from which one plan will evolve as the 'most desirable'; the most desirable plan will then be refined into a recommended land use and transportation plan for the community to follow and implement.

The project period is estimated to cover two years from the time of grant approval to completion of the study. The timing is dependent upon coordinated timing of related planning operations such as the development of the computerized information system, land use planning and projections of future travel demands.

Four consultants have been interviewed in regard to retaining their services for this study. The firm of Wilbur Smith and Associates was selected to submit a contract proposal. The consultant will work with personnel from local governmental agencies and the N. C. State Highway Commission throughout the project.

Summary of Total Project Cost:

Services of Local Technical and Administrative Staff	\$ 20,992.00
Consultant Services	182,954.00
Total project cost:	<u>\$203,946.00</u>
2/3 Federal Grant Requested	\$135,950.00
Total Cost of Project	\$203,946.00
Less Federal Grant	135,950.00
	<u>\$ 67,996.00</u>
Less In-Kind Local Services	20,992.00
Estimated Local Cash Funds Required	<u>\$ 47,004.00</u>

(The estimate of local cash funds is subject to change dependent upon the amount of in-kind services the Federal Government will accept toward the total project cost.)"

Mr. McIntyre stated the Mass Transit Planning Project has been endorsed and is recommended by the Planning Commission, the Central Piedmont Council of Local Governments, and Mr. Merle C. Morrow, President of Charlotte City Coach Lines.

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE CITY-COUNTY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Harry Wolfe, Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Urban Affairs and

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Environment, stated this Committee was appointed with the prime responsibility of developing a closer coordination and communication between the agencies involved in housing, transportation, schools, parks and recreation and others.

He stated at the outset it seemed it would not be sufficient simply to ask of each agency that they deliver their long range planning and then to disseminate that information to other agencies. It was recognized to do this would result in improved and even excellent communication. However, there was always the potential of having only succeeded in communicating the fact that the plans of one agency which had been in progress and developing over a period of months and even years was about to run head long into plans of another agency which had the same kind of time and effort put into the development of their plans.

He stated it was further recognized that the Committee can act as a mediator stepping into a breach and resolving various conflicts and coordinating problems that arose. This simply would have resulted in the development of a permanent committee to react to problems. The desire instead was to find a means to act rather than to react. As a result they decided to ignore certain immediate and short range problems and to concentrate on those factors causing a lack of coordination or inhibiting coordination.

Mr. Wolfe stated out of their studies has come a recognition that the common denominator between housing, schools and transportation has been land use. They found there are now operating at least 40 different boards, commissions, agencies and committees affecting in significant manner the use of the land and the development of the physical aspects of this community. This highly fragmented planning process is the result of our city and its governmental structure simply growing like "Topsy".

Mr. Wolfe stated the Committee is in the process of developing recommendations which will be made shortly to the City Council, the County Commissioners and the Charter Commission which they hope will be of assistance in restructuring the planning process so that the growth of the community and all its physical aspects may proceed in a sensitive, orderly and coherent manner.

He stated the Committee has attempted to find causes of problems rather than solving the individual problems themselves. There are some exceptions to these, which are as follows: (1) The Chairman met with Mayor Belk some months ago and discussed the relationship between the then pending Wilbur Smith parking study and the Civic Center site selection. They also discussed the design and engineering of the area street realignment as then related to the future civic center site. (2) The Committee noted to the Mayor and Council that the grade separation bridge project scheduled in the City bond issue has significant aesthetic potential to the civic center. (3) Representatives of the Committee met in the past three weeks with the public housing authority in an attempt to assist the Authority in developing guide lines to assure the future turnkey projects produce the best kind of housing possible. (4) The Committee has investigated the possibility of the development of a discretionary review committee to pass on the aesthetics and other merits of various projects in the city - both public and private. (5) The Committee has reviewed the goal setting processes of cities as Dallas, Texas, Covena, California, Salem, Oregon and Tuscon, Arizona.

In the next few days, the Committee will appoint two special research task forces. One group will have as its purpose the investigation of the potential improvement of visual environment as affected by governmental efforts in terms of graphic designs, sign and street furniture - the identity potential of the City as expressed through the graphic arts. The other task force will have as its purpose investigation of various programs such as urban renewal, housing, city-county regional planning, urban designing as presently practiced in other cities around the county. The purpose is to find out what other cities are doing; if they are doing them better and to see what we can learn from them.

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Mr. Wolfe stated the Committee joins today with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission in requesting permission to apply to the United States Department of Transportation for a mass transit study for the city and county.

SUGGESTION THAT COMMISSION BE APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO WORK WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

Mr. Ben Douglas stated it occurs to him that what is really needed is a Commission appointed jointly by the Mayor and Chairman of the Board to work with the Planning Commission to do a better job. They learned in San Francisco that their Committee, which was not official from the standpoint of being a part of the City or County, did a terrific job of getting the thing off the ground and getting it started.

He stated it has always been his idea that a community has to be built on two things. One is Transportation. That transportation is a vital need for the Metrolina area or the area around Charlotte. That he hopes the Council and County Commission will get down to the basic fundamentals and appoint someone to do this job who will get it done; that it will be 20 to 25 years.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY TO MAKE APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION STUDY.

Commissioner Martin stated he would like to incorporate a paragraph into the subject resolution which will reflect the thinking Mr. Douglas has expressed; in effect the motion would be to adopt the section of the Planning Commission's resolution which authorizes the application to the Department of Transportation for a planning assistance grant; and it would further resolve to establish an advisory committee on public transportation.

Commissioner Martin moved the adoption of the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers.

Councilman Alexander asked why the Wolfe Committee cannot assume this responsibility? Commissioner Martin replied he thought of that possibility and met with representatives of the joint committee; that as he understands their duty it is to review matters on a much broader gauge to try to coordinate all sorts of operations to saddle them with one major operation which could command all their time and attention to the disadvantage of other things they have to deal with.

Mr. Wolfe stated it is most important that any additional committees not further fragment the planning process; that as the resolution is offered he does not see a further fragmentation; that he does not see a separate group charged with the purpose of planning. That the Coordinating Committee can operate better on a broader spectrum rather than being involved directly in a specific field.

Councilman Tuttle stated he has no objections ultimately to appointing such a committee; but in the beginning it is going to take time to get off the ground; that he would suggest we consider the committee, but why in the beginning; we can always name an advisory committee; at this time we do not know the scope of the work.

Commissioner Myers stated on May 1, 1970, he wrote the National League of Cities a letter and got a reply which he thinks supports Dr. Martin's motion. He then read the letter to the League and the reply which he received. He stated he thinks it would be very wise to go ahead and pass this motion.

Councilman Whittington suggested that rather than appointing a committee at this

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time that we wait until the application is submitted and until the Urban Affairs Coordinating Committee with Mr. Wolfe, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission and the Traffic Engineering have an opportunity to get their recommendations to both Bodies together; that he would hope another committee would not be created until the urban affairs coordinating committee makes a report to these Bodies. Then we will have the direction as to where we are going, and how to get there, not only in traffic and mass transit but in all the other programs of the some 40 odd committees that have been mentioned. He stated he is saying this in light of coordination; these committees have been fragmented; we have gone off in all kinds of directions. Councilman Whittington stated he is not opposed to mass transportation or the study of it; but having worked for four months with the coordinating committee and having consulted with Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Hoose that it would be better to get this total package and then create the committee; public awareness is important but at the same time we do not want to get off on the right foot rather than the left foot.

Commissioner Martin stated personally he would prefer to have the people who are going to serve on this Committee to be involved from the start to get the benefit of the discussions that will go into the grant application, the negotiations of the grant, the receipt of the grant and the discussions with the transportation consultant.

Mr. Tom Ruff, County Attorney, suggested that the resolution for the submission of the application and the resolution for the appointment of an advisory committee be considered as two separate motions.

Councilman Short stated another group has been working rather hard on this subject since 1966 - it is the Technical Coordinating Committee and is a group of officials and professionals studying transportation matters. That this introduces a fourth group into this, and asked if it would not be a four-way fragmentation?

Commissioner Myers stated when Wilbur Smith and Associates were appointed to do this study the last time there was no civilian support and the report went for naught. Had there been public support for that report we would now be enjoying the benefits of the Wilbur Smith study made beginning in 1961.

Councilman Whittington stated he would hope that Dr. Martin would consider the resolution without the amendments and let both Bodies vote on it today; then he will pledge that as soon as the Coordinating Committee has finished its report, and we have the direction in which to go, that the Coordinating Committee will either call for a committee or a board and the County Board of Commissioners and City Council can then appoint such a committee. He stated he is only trying to do what the Coordinating Committee set out to do - that is to get everything coordinated and then move out together. Commissioner Martin replied he would rather not defer reaching a decision on the Committee; that he would prefer to take action and if they want to divide the motion that is proper.

Commissioner Martin moved that the motion be separated and the two items be voted on as separate motions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers and after discussion carried unanimously.

Councilman Withrow asked how this will be paid for; is it on a 50-50 basis? Mr. McIntyre replied it is to be shared equally by the City and County.

The vote was taken on the motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the County of Mecklenburg to make an application to the Department of Transportation for a grant to aid in financing a study of the public transportation facilities and carried unanimously by the County Board of Commissioners.

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RESOLUTION PLEDGING THE COOPERATION OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE WITH MECKLENBURG COUNTY IN AN URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION STUDY.

Councilman Withrow moved adoption of the subject resolution pledging the cooperation of the City with Mecklenburg County in an urban mass transportation study. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 7, at Page 85.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AT SUCH TIME AS REQUESTED BY THE JOINT COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND THE TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Alexander stated he is not convinced the appointment of the advisory committee is necessary today; that he is not against the appointment but he is against the appointment without any knowledge of where we are going; he asked that action be deferred at this time.

Commissioner Martin stated he thinks it is important that the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners meet to take action such as this; if we do not take action today it can be months and years before we get back together to take action. That the motion does not say it has to be appointed today; it just says to establish a committee; half of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor and half by the Chairman of the County Board.

(COUNCILMEN TUTTLE AND WHITTINGTON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS TIME AND WERE ABSENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION.)

Councilman Thrower stated the County Commission is on record as approving this; the Council has been over it and a motion was made to approve it and then it was withdrawn to find out what was voted on. That he does not think Council is in a position right now to vote in favor of this motion and he asked Dr. Martin to defer the matter for at least two or three weeks and give Council a chance to talk with Mr. Wolfe and the Planning Commission and then get back together and see if and when an advisory committee can be appointed.

Commissioner Martin stated it appears Council wants to wait until Mr. Wolfe's Committee makes its report and asks for the Committee and he would include in his motion that the Committee be appointed at such time as requested by the joint coordinating committee. Commissioner Myers stated he will reluctantly accept the amendment.

Councilman Short asked Dr. Martin to include in his motion that the Committee be appointed when requested by the Wolfe Committee and the Technical Coordinating Committee. Commissioner Martin replied that is alright with him.

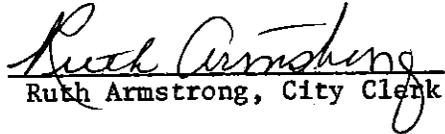
Commissioner Martin restated his motion as follows: Resolve that there be established an Advisory Committee on Public Transportation, Charlotte Area Rapid Transit, which shall assist the Planning Commission in reviewing the work and report of the transportation consultant and in promoting and developing public awareness of the importance of planning and establishing adequate systems of public transportation, which committee shall consist of not less than six members, appointed to staggered three-year terms, half by the Mayor of the City of Charlotte and half by the Chairman of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commission at such time as requested by the Joint Coordinating Committee and the Technical Coordinating Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Myers and carried unanimously.

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Councilman Withrow moved adoption of the motion as presented by Commissioner Martin. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

There being no other business before the joint Bodies, the meeting was adjourned.


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk