

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
August 13, 2015 3:30 p.m.**

**NEW BRIDGE STREET CONFERENCE ROOM
JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL**

Present: Mr. Jack Bright, Mr. Bob Warden, Ms. Sandra Fountain and Mr. Paul Buchanan

Absent: Mr. Michal Lazzara

Others Present: Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms. Peggy Holland, Ms. Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Robert Vause, Mr. Ron Massey, Ms. Nazia Sarder, Lieutenant Sean Magill, Mr. Patrick Riddle, Mr. Roy Bredahl, Mr. Robert Myers, Ms. Debbie Jefferson and Mr. Jody Lewis

I. [Call to Order](#)

Mr. Jack Bright called the Jacksonville Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 3:26 pm on Thursday, August 13, 2015 in the New Bridge Street Conference Room of Jacksonville City Hall.

II. [Welcome and Introductions](#)

Mr. Bright welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced our new TAC board member, Mr. Paul Buchanan. Introductions were made by everyone in the room.

III. [Public Comment](#)

No Public Comment was made.

Action Items:

Consent:

IV. [April 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes](#)

Mr. Bright asked for a motion to accept the Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Sandra Fountain made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bob Warden seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the adoption of the April 9, 2015 meeting minutes was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

V. [Title VI Program Update](#)

Mr. Bright asked for a motion to accept the Title VI Program Update.

Mr. Bob Warden made a motion to approve the Title VI Program Update. Ms. Sandra Fountain seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the Title VI Program Update was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Non-Consent:

VI. [Camp Lejeune Rail Study Resolution of Support](#)

Mr. Anthony Prinz stated that over the past several years there has been a need for rail access in Onslow County and the greater Jacksonville area. He stated that fundamentally the need for the rail access, in regards to the MPO, is to continue to diversify the existing transportation network. Additionally, there is a need to more efficiently and effectively move freight into and out of the community. Finally, he stated that having the rail system will aid in the community's economic development. Mr. Prinz went on to discuss the issues with the abandoned rail line. He stated the rail line abandonment in the late 1980s reverted the property back to its original owners. The other primary issue is one of cost.

Due to the incredibly high cost of constructing a new rail line, alternative options were looked at, one of those being the current Camp Lejeune Rail Line. He stated that several months ago a group of stakeholders got together to discuss the possibility of opening up the Camp Lejeune Rail Line to commercial access; from that meeting the need for the Rail Study was formed.

Mr. Prinz stated that Representative Shepard is very much interested in the study and had proposed some funding in the state budget for this project. Mr. Prinz asked the committee to consider approving the Rail Study resolution.

Ms. Sandra Fountain asked how much the study will cost and Mr. Prinz responds that the Rail Department gave a rough estimate of \$150,000 – \$250,000.

Mr. Bob Warden made a motion to approve the Camp Lejeune Rail Study Resolution of Support. Ms. Sandra Fountain seconded the motion. Mr. Paul Buchanan declined to vote.

VII. [OAJ Air Traffic Control Tower Resolution of Support](#)

Mr. Prinz stated that OAJ is the third busiest airport in the country that does not have an air traffic control tower. This presents two concerns: safety and efficiency. Mr. Prinz stated that this project was submitted through the P3.0 process and given the maximum number of points available to it; however, it was not selected for funding. The estimated total cost of the project is \$4.5 million and currently the FAA has approximately \$2.5 million for the project,

leaving a gap of \$2.0 million. He stated that the project is not eligible during the P4.0 process thus creating a need for alternative funding sources. Ms. Sandra Fountain has helped in requesting money from the state. The resolution is to demonstrate MPO support for the project as well as the money. Ms. Sandra Fountain stated that the money has been obligated and both Representative Shepard and Senator Brown are on board for the project. Mr. Prinz mentions that both the City Council and the Onslow County Board of Commissioners have approved similar resolutions.

Mr. Bright asked for a motion to approve the OAJ Air Traffic Control Tower Resolution.

Mr. Paul Buchanan moved to approve the OAJ Air Traffic Control Tower Resolution of Support. Ms. Sandra Fountain seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Committee Members present.

Discussion Items:

VIII. [P4.0 Work Program](#)

Mr. Prinz discussed that we are getting ready to start the P4.0 process even though we have just finished the P3.0 process. He stated that we would like to take the same route we did in the P3.0 process in regards to the work program. A subcommittee will be formed to help the process and to meet necessary deadlines. The subcommittee composition is basically the same save one addition to the Camp Lejeune representatives. Mr. Prinz continued to discuss the deadlines associated with the work program, as well as, its timeline, which extends to June 2017. He stated that decisions will be funneled through the public involvement process and the TAC.

IX. [P4.0 Division Needs/Regional Impact Criteria](#)

Mr. Prinz starts by discussing the three tiers of the updated funding system, Statewide, Regional and Division. The Division level holds more local projects than the other two tiers. He went on to discuss the Regional and Division criteria and how they have been customized from what the work group originally decided on in Raleigh. He stated that every one of the stakeholders needed to be on board both Regionally and in the Division in order to alter the criteria. Finally he discussed the changes made to the original criteria. He noted that points were taken from Cost/Benefit and points were given to the Multimodal category in both the Regional level and the Division level.

X. [Highway Projects In-Development](#)

Mr. Prinz stated that this is a “feel good” presentation to acknowledge the success of the P3.0 process. He began by discussing the project at the Western Boulevard and Gum Branch Road intersection. The project is to include dual left turn lanes from Gum Branch Road onto Western Boulevard. He stated this project was a carry over project before the P3.0 process and has been in design for a while.

He went on to discuss the Western Boulevard drainage project. The scope of the project is to install two new 60” box culverts which will most likely require NCDOT to open cut the

road. The project is currently in design, is scheduled to start ROW this fall, and the easements needed with Camp Lejeune have been in process as well. He also stated that construction is supposed to start in 2016.

Mr. Prinz continued on to discuss several additional projects. These included:

- Ridge Road Realignment: public meeting on September 17th
- Improvements on US 17 North: safety project to construct a superstreet. It is currently in design, with ROW in 2016 and it is set to start construction in 2017.
- Western/Henderson Improvements: safety project to add dual lefts both from Western to Henderson and vice versa. This project is in design, with ROW in 2016 and construction set to start in 2017.
- NC 172 Improvements: 3 lane widening from the back gate to Camp Lejeune to the intersection of NC 210 and NC 172. It is in design, with ROW set for 2016 and construction in 2017.
- Western Blvd and Piney Green Intersection: scoping is complete, with ROW in 2018 and construction proposed for 2019.
- Western/Gateway N and S Improvements: currently being scoped, with ROW in 2018 and construction proposed for 2019.
- Gum Branch/Bell Fork/ Marine Improvements: currently being scoped, with ROW in 2019 and construction proposed for 2020.
- US 17/ Old Maplehurst Improvements: project is currently in the queue for design. ROW is set for 2019 and construction is proposed for 2020.

Mr. Prinz discussed two additional projects not shown in the power point presentation. They are the widening of Gum Branch Road and a few pedestrian crosswalk projects that were made possible by construction funds provided by Ms. Sandra Fountain.

Reports/Comments:

XI. [Report from MPO Administrator](#)

Mr. Prinz gave a brief MPO update and discussed reauthorization of the federal transportation legislation. It was set to expire in May but was extended and will expire at the end of October. He also discussed the state transportation legislation. Ms. Sandra Fountain provided comment on this legislation. Lastly, he mentioned that we are now operating ITS on Camp Lejeune.

XII. [Report from NCDOT Division 3](#)

Mr. Patrick Riddle was present to give his update on the Division 3 projects. He mentioned a completion date of April 2016 is still set for Piney Green Road. He also briefly mentioned the bridge project in Surf City on NC 50.

XIII. [Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch](#)

Ms. Nazia Sarder was present to give her report from NCDOT. She noted that the Jacksonville Model has been completed and that preliminary work has been started for the Onslow County CTP.

XIV. [Report from FHWA Field Officer](#)

Mr. Bill Marley was not present at the meeting to give his report.

XV. [Questions, Closing Comments](#)

Mr. Bright asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bob Warden made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Sandra Fountain seconded the motion.

Mr. Bright called the meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.