



To: Transportation Advisory Committee
From: Deanna Trebil, MPO Administrator
Subject: December 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes

3/09/2023

Recommended Action: Approval of meeting minutes

Attachment: December 8, 2022, meeting minutes

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL/ REGULAR - MEETING
December 8, 2022**

**JACKSONVILLE STATION
1300 N MARINE BLVD
JACKSONVILLE, NC 28540**

Present Mr. Bob Warden, Mr. Paul Buchanan, Ms. Cindy Edwards, Mr. Royce Bennett,
In Person: Mr. Larry Philpott, Ms. Kandy Koonce, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms. Deanna Trebil,
 Ms. Laura Wisecup, Mr. Phillip Williams, Mr. Chad Kimes, Ms. Adrienne Cox,
 Ms. Andrea Correll and Mr. Nathan Rhue.

Virtually Ms. Connie Pleti, Mr. Chris White, Mr. Behshad Norowzi, Ms. Beverly Jo
Present: Eversole and Ms. Saman Jeffers.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bob Warden called the Jacksonville Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to order at 3:32 pm on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Jacksonville Station –1300 N Marine Blvd and via teleconference.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Bob Warden welcomed everyone to the TAC meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance in person and via teleconference.

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as written.

Mr. Royce Bennett made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Ms. Cindy Edwards seconded the motion to accept the agenda as written.

The agenda was accepted unanimously by the Committee members present.

IV. Public Comment

No one signed up for public comment and no requests were received.

Action Items

V. October 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the October 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Paul Buchanan made a motion to approve the October 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the October 13, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

VI. Draft 2023 Meeting Schedule

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Buchanan made a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule as presented was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

VII. 2023 NCDOT Safety Performance Targets

Ms. Deanna Trebil explained that the current federal transportation legislation (IIJA Act) requires states and MPOs to adopt performance measures and targets to monitor their progress towards safety over time and achieving USDOT transportation goals. The five targets being evaluated correspond to (1) the number of fatalities, (2) rates of fatalities, (3) the number of serious injuries, (4) the rate of serious injuries, and (5) the number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries.

Ms. Trebil provided an overview of the state's 2020 safety performance, in which the targets were not met in any of the five areas being evaluated. In contrast, the MPO area met two out of the five targets (the number of fatalities and the fatality rate). Ms. Trebil explained that in the remaining three targets, the MPO did not meet the target, but its performance improved when compared to the baseline year.

Additionally, Ms. Trebil shared the 2023 safety performance targets for the state and emphasized that the current safety performance target percentages are challenging to achieve since they require at least a 19.57% reduction of fatalities by the end of the FY23. Mr. Prinz recommended adopting the state's 2023 targets, as developing, tracking and maintaining the MPO's own performance targets will require a significant effort, and there are no resources associated with accomplishing the targets.

Mr. Prinz explained that although the MTIP targets some of the principal safety issues in the MPO area, without the support of NCDOT, the City does not have enough resources to overcome safety issues by itself. Lt. Phillips highlighted some fatalities within the City limits, including pedestrian and personal mobility devices, which further emphasizes the importance of the problem. Mr. Chad Kimes also stated that last year had the highest fatality numbers. After discussion, consensus was achieved in adopting the 2023 state's targets for the MPO.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Safety Performance Targets. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve the 2023 Safety Performance Targets, and Mr. Buchanan seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the 2023 NCDOT Safety Performance Targets as presented was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

Discussion Items

VIII. DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP

Ms. Trebil began by sharing important deadlines related to the 2024-2033 STIP with the TAC members. Among these, the deadline to swap projects corresponds to March 2023, the finalized STIP needs to be presented to the TAC by May 2023, and to the Board of Transportation (BOT) by June 2023.

Additionally, Ms. Trebil highlighted the list of projects eligible for swapping and the swapping criteria, which includes the need for consensus between the MPO and NCDOT, and the project cost must be less than 110% of the project being swapped.

Consequently, Ms. Trebil asked all members present to review the list of eligible projects for swapping and share their thoughts if they are interested in any of those projects to be swapped.

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR SWAPPING	
PROJECT ID	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
U-5741	NC 24 (Lejeune Blvd) – Access management improvements
R-5885	NC 24 (West Corbett Ave)- Superstreet
U-6081	NC 53 (Western Boulevard) - Superstreet
U-5793A	SR 1308 (Gum Branch Road)
U-5793B	SR 1308 (Gum Branch Road)
U-6200	SR 1308 (Gum Branch Road) – Superstreet
R-5948	SR 1509 (Queens Creek Road) – Road widening
U-6107	US 17 / McDaniel Dr – Improve Intersection
U-6148	US 258 / SR 1329 – Improve Intersection

Chairman Bob Warden inquired whether any of the projects eligible for swapping were of high priority from a safety standpoint. Mr. Prinz proceeded to review each of the eligible projects and recommended that the MPO should maintain the current STIP since it had the best configuration that the MPO could achieve. Ms. Adrienne Cox and Mr. Chad Kimes explained that NCDOT had conducted some swap scenarios, but the benefits were minimal, such as moving a project up a year, but losing the opportunity to release projects

in a synchronized way. Ms. Cox added that the current STIP configuration was the best possible achievement. Mr. Prinz supported that statement by mentioning that the current STIP has better cost estimates and timelines that could facilitate the final implementation of the projects.

Chairman Bob Warden asked the attendees if there were any additional questions before moving to the next item of the agenda. No questions were asked.

IX. Making Transportation Work for Everyone

Ms. Laura Wisecup provided information on the Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Disadvantage Index (TDI) web tools developed by NCDOT. These tools are maps and interactive dashboards that can be used by NCDOT, planning staff, elected officials, and anyone interested in visualizing transportation impacts on disadvantaged communities. The purpose is to help inform policies, planning, and decision making. The indicators that may suggest transportation barriers and disadvantage include racial minorities, people with low incomes, ethnic minorities, BIPOC people, zero-vehicle households, young populations, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Moreover, Ms. Wisecup explained the concept of Environmental Justice (EJ) which refers to the fair treatment and involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to laws, regulations, and policies. NCDOT's EJ index measures the relative concentration of racial minorities, ethnic minorities, and poverty levels on a scale of 0-12. A higher score indicates a greater concentration of these populations relative to other areas of the state. Ms. Wisecup shared an example of the dashboard and a map of the MPO area that measures the relative concentration of the block group compared to the MPOs averages.

In addition, NCDOT developed the Transportation Disadvantage Index (TDI) tool that calculates relative barriers that may limit access to transportation. Indicators include carless households, low income, people with disabilities, youth and seniors, and minorities. The score ranges from 6 to 18, where higher scores convey a greater level of transportation disadvantage. Ms. Wisecup shared the tool with the members present and encouraged them to access it through the Connect NCDOT website.

Chairman Warden inquired how the tool could assist the MPO in competing for grants. Ms. Trebil replied that the MPO is currently preparing a grant application for the Paved Trail Feasibility Study Grant, and the tool is an essential component of the evaluation criteria.

X. Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Study Grant

Ms. Trebil provided an explanation that in July 2022, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) was granted \$2 million to establish a Paved Trails Feasibility Study Program that aimed at improving the chances of bicycle and pedestrian projects to access state and federal funding, resulting in successful project implementation. The grant's deliverable is a feasibility study that assesses a project's technical feasibility from design, permitting, and constructability perspectives, identifies project constraints, evaluates different design alternatives, and calculates cost estimates. Eligible project types include paved trails, shared-use paths, side paths, greenways, and sidewalks.

The MPO is interested in applying for the grant to evaluate the feasibility of a proposed 10-foot-wide, 12.5-mile-long multi-use path along the City of Jacksonville's main corridors, such as US 17 BUS (N Marine Blvd), NC 53 (Western Blvd), and Jacksonville Parkway. The project aims to connect neighborhoods with the highest transportation barriers, according to the greater Environmental Justice (EJ) and Transportation Disadvantage Index (TDI) census blocks, with essential community facilities such as the Jacksonville Multimodal Transportation Station, Onslow Memorial Hospital, Coastal Carolina Community College, Commons Recreation Center, City Hall, Jacksonville Mall, Lejeune Memorial Gardens, and other relevant facilities.

Ms. Trebil explained that the grant's selection criteria include how well the proposal addresses project scale, corridor opportunities and constraints, community needs and engagement, the project's connection to the Great Trails State Network, the extent to which it mitigates transportation disadvantage, and community support and inclusion of a local match. As a result, the MPO is requesting TAC members' support for this application by signing a resolution of support.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to sign the resolution of support to support the proposed trail network to receive the Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Study Grant. Mr. Paul Buchanan made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support, and Mr. Royce Bennett seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the resolution of support for the Paved Trails and Sidewalk Feasibility Study Grant as presented was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

Reports/Comments

XI. TAC Secretary Report

Ms. Trebil highlighted that the MPO received funding from the Carbon Reduction Program and the project will design sidewalks at Gum Branch Rd.

On the other hand, the MPO is working on solicitation to develop the 2050 JUMPO's Metropolitan Plan. A Request for Qualifications/Proposals is expected to be advertised early next year, 2023.

Ms. Wisecup shared that JUMPO has created a website for the "Alert Eyes Save Lives" initiative which can be accessed through the JUMPO website. On this web page you can access an interactive dashboard where you can visualize the ped and bike accidents in the JUMPO area. We have also included printed material regarding crash facts and safety tips that can be downloaded and distributed if desired. And finally, we have created a "Save Lives" pledge which is a personal commitment to actively look out for pedestrians and bikes. More info on: <https://jumpo-nc.org/alert-eyes-save-lives/>

XII. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox presented three summary tables that showcase the ongoing development projects, projects currently under construction, and road resurfacing projects of JUMPO. She mentioned that the tables have been recently updated and are now sorted by let date to enhance clarity. Furthermore, Ms. Cox informed the TAC members that if they have any specific queries or would like to acquire further information about certain projects, they may reach out to her for assistance.

XIII. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Ms. Jeffers provided a reminder to the TAC members regarding crucial deadlines, specifically the end of January. The two items that require attention are the 5303 2nd Quarter Claim and the Draft UPWP FY24.

XIV. Report from FHWA Field Officer

Ms. Trebil reported on behalf Mr. Marley. Ms. Trebil shared that new delineation of the 2020 urbanized areas will be released on December 29.

XV. Questions, Closing Comments

Chairman Warden asked the attendees if there were any additional questions or comments before adjourning the meeting. No further comments or questions were presented.

Mr. Warden asked for an adjournment of the December 8, 2023, TAC meeting. Mr. Warden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cindy Edwards seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2023.