



JACKSONVILLE URBAN AREA  
**JUMPO**  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**Attachment: 1**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Action Required**

To: Transportation Advisory Committee  
From: Deanna Trebil, MPO Administrator  
Subject: March 9, 2023, Meeting Minutes

5/11/2023

Recommended Action: Approval of meeting minutes

Attachment: March 9, 2023, meeting minutes

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL/ REGULAR - MEETING  
March 9, 2023**

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

Present        Mr. Bob Warden, Mr. Paul Buchanan, Ms. Cindy Edwards, Mr. Royce Bennett,  
In Person:    Ms. Kandy Koonce, Mr. Fred Fontana, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms. Deanna Trebil,  
                 Ms. Laura Wisecup, Mr. Phillip Williams, Mr. Chad Kimes, Ms. Adrienne Cox,  
                 Mr. Danny Ferrucci, Ms. Beverly Jo Eversole, Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Mr. Nathan  
                 Rhue and Mr. Ron Massey.

Virtually      Mr. Bill Marley, Ms. Saman Jeffers. Ms. Andrea Correll and Mr. Scott Frank  
Present:

**I.     Call to Order**

Chairman Bob Warden called the Jacksonville Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to order at 3:28 pm on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at the Jacksonville Station –1300 N Marine Blvd and via teleconference.

**II.    Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Bob Warden greeted everyone and expressed his gratitude for their presence, both those who were physically present and those who joined via teleconference.

**III.   Adoption of the Agenda**

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

Mr. Paul Buchanan 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.

## **Consent Items**

### **V. December 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the December 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Royce Bennett made a motion to approve the December 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Paul Buchanan seconded the motion.

The motion to approve the December 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

### **VI. Annual Self-Certification**

The MPO is required to certify annually that our transportation planning process complies with federal regulations.

During the meeting, Chairman Bob Warden requested a motion to approve the FY24 Annual Self-Certification. Mr. Royce Bennett made a motion to approve the FY24 Annual Self-Certification and Mr. Paul Buchanan seconded the motion.

The FY24 Annual Self-Certification was unanimously approved by the committee members present.

## **Action Items**

### **VII. Election of Officers**

Chairman Warden opened the floor for nominations of eligible members for the position of chairman. In response, Mr. Paul Buchanan nominated Mr. Bob Warden for reelection. Following this, Mr. Bob Warden requested a motion, which Mr. Royce Bennett promptly made, and Mr. Paul Buchanan seconded. As a result, Mr. Bob Warden was reelected as the chairman of the TAC by unanimity.

Next on the agenda was the selection of a vice chairman. Mr. Bob Warden nominated Mr. Paul Buchanan for the position and made a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cindy Edwards, and as a result, Mr. Paul Buchanan was selected as the vice chairman of the TAC.

### **VIII. FY23 UPWP Amendment 2**

Ms. Trebil announced that JUMPO staff is proposing an amendment to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The proposed amendment seeks to reallocate funds to for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, while reducing funding for the Town of Holly Ridge Transportation Plan. This adjustment would allow the MPO to hire a consultant and commence work on the MTP this fiscal year. Ms. Trebil noted that the

PL104 budget would remain unchanged, with a total of \$300,125, and no additional funding would be required at this time.

The amendment was posted on JUMPO's website on January 31, 2023, and members of the public were invited to provide feedback until March 8, 2023.

Chairman Warden requested a motion to approve of the FY23 UPWP Amendment 2 to the TAC, which was made by Mr. Paul Buchanan. This motion was seconded by Ms. Cindy Edwards. The committee members, both in person and virtually present, unanimously approved the motion to approve the FY23 UPWP Amendment 2 as presented.

#### **IX. FY24 UPWP Draft**

Ms. Trebil provided an overview of the FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which specifies the required expenses for planning activities by the MPO and its member agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. The MPO is required to adopt and submit a TAC approved FY24 UPWP by March 31, 2023.

She highlighted that the proposed FY 2024 UPWP has been created to advance the operational objectives identified by the TAC and TCC and is comparable to the current year's budget. The primary focus of the MPO's activities in FY24 will be the update of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

In addition, she informed the committee about the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which introduced a new planning set-aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. The current year's allocation of \$9,375 is intended for developing a Complete Streets prioritization plan as part of the MTP update. On February 6, 2023, notification was received that this set-aside no longer requires a local match, and the FY24 UPWP has been amended accordingly.

Lastly, the draft FY24 UPWP was made available on JUMPO's website on January 31, 2023, and the amended UPWP was uploaded on February 7, 2023. Members of the public can provide feedback until March 8, 2023.

After Ms. Trebil's presentation, Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the FY24 UPWP, which was made by Mr. Royce Bennett and seconded by Mr. Paul Buchanan. The motion was unanimously approved by the committee members present, both in person and virtually.

#### **X. 2020-2029 MTIP – Amendment 8**

Mr. Trebil explained that on December 12, 2019, the Transportation Advisory Committee adopted the 2020-2029 MTIP. Since then, seven other Amendments have been approved due to changes in project budgets or schedules.

Amendment 8 is being requested due to receiving additional funding known as "Carbon Reduction Program", which apportioned \$236,105 in FY 22 and \$240,827 in FY23. The purpose of the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) is funding projects designed to reduce transportation emissions, specifically CO2. Some of the eligible activities of this program correspond to transportation facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized forms of transportation. The funding can be use from design to construction.

Ms. Trebil reminded members about the identified eight possible projects that are eligible under this program that were previously presented to the TAC. The highest priority project corresponds to adding sidewalks on both sides of Gum Branch Road approximately from Dewitt St to Plaza Dr. Therefore, the MPO decided to move forward with that project and the MPO is required to amend the STIP. Additionally, changes in budget and/or schedule to were made to the projects HS-2002Q, HS-2003X and U-5787.

Finally, in line with NCDOT's modification of the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) stated above, JUMPO is required to update the MTIP accordingly.

Mr. Warden asked for a motion to approve the 2020-2029 MTIP – Amendment 8. Mr. Royce Bennett made a motion. Ms. Cindy Edwards seconded the motion. The motion to approve the 2020-2029 MTIP – Amendment 8 as presented was approved unanimously by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

## **XI. Safety Performance Targets (PM2 and PM3)**

Ms. Trebil started by explaining that the MPO updates safety performance targets annually to track safety progress over time. Every four years, these targets are established, either based on the state's targets or developed by the MPO.

Mr. Trebil shared NCDOT graphs with the group that highlighted the state's performance regarding safety performance targets. These graphs showed data on pavement conditions, bridge conditions, travel time reliability, and truck travel time reliability index. All the state's targets had been met.

Lastly, Ms. Trebil explained that the Jacksonville MPO is required to adopt performance measures by June 13, 2023, following NCDOT's adoption of associated performance measures in December 2022. Although MPOs are permitted to establish their own measures and targets under the IIJA Act, NCDOT has encouraged them to follow their lead by adopting the statewide performance measures they have established. In addition, it was stated that there are no incentives or disincentives that result from adopting and measuring the MPO's specific targets.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to recommend the adopt the state's safety performance targets and Mr. Royce Bennett made a motion to approve it. Ms. Cindy Edwards seconded the motion. The state's safety performance targets were unanimously approved by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

## **XII. 2022 – 2024 Public Participation Plan**

Ms. Wisecup began by stating that the MPO is required to review and update the public participation plan every three years. The most recent update was in 2020.

This year's update involves language changes due to the IIJA Act, which has replaced the FAST Act. The IIJA Act includes a "Use of Technology" statement, which allows metropolitan planning organizations to use social media and web-based tools to encourage public participation during the transportation planning process. As a result, the MPO has decided to eliminate newspaper publications for feedback and instead will post "public notices" on the JUMPO website. Printed documents will be available at the MPO office, and the MPO will request its jurisdictional partners to post notices on their official websites when a document is available for review and public comment.

The updated plan is accessible on both the JUMPO and City of Jacksonville websites and will be available for public comment until March 18, 2023.

Chairman Warden requested a motion to approve the 2022-2024 Public Participation Plan. Ms. Cindy Edwards made the motion, which Mr. Royce Bennet seconded. The motion to recommend the approval of the 2022-2024 Public Participation Plan was approved by the committee members present, both in person and virtually.

## **Discussion Items**

## **XIII. 2024-2033 STIP**

Ms. Trebil began by reminding members about the timeline for the 2024-2033 STIP. During the last TAC meeting in December, the TAC decided not to pursue the opportunity to swap projects. The DRAFT STIP is expected to be published in March/May 2023. It is anticipated that the TAC will adopt it in April, followed by TAC in May, and then the BOT and FHWA in June.

In addition, Ms. Trebil shared that the first communication regarding P7.0 was dispatched a few days ago. She also reminded everyone that the MPO must decide which projects to carry over for P7, and that responses are required by May 31, 2023. Ms. Trebil stressed that it is crucial to discuss this matter in a timely manner.

## **XIV. 2020 Decennial Census**

Ms. Wisecup gave a presentation on behalf of JUMPO regarding updates to the census urbanized areas within the JUMPO planning boundary using data from the 2020 Decennial Census.

Previously, the Census Bureau used population density at the block level, with a minimum of 2500 people, to define "urban" areas. However, since this data is only available every

10 years, it limits the frequency of updates. To address this, the new metric for defining urban areas is now housing unit density, measured at the census block-level, which is maintained between censuses. Urban areas now require at least 2000 housing units or 5000 people, and this change is reflected in the 2020 census data.

Ms. Wisecup then presented two maps depicting the urbanized areas from the 2010 and 2020 Census, highlighting significant changes to JUMPO's urbanized areas. These changes included the addition of North Topsail Beach as an urbanized area, the removal of Sneads Ferry from the urbanized area classification, and the exclusion of areas adjacent to NC 53 and NC 111 from the urbanized classification.

#### **XV. 111 Feasibility Study**

Ms. Trebil proceeded to share an update about the NC 111 road project. She started by stating that the MPO has been focusing on improving the road from its intersection with US 258 and the OAJ airport. She informed NCDOT is working on a feasibility study to look at alternative connections from US 258 to the airport. The feasibility study includes the area bordered by US 258, Fowler Manning, and NC 111. Alternatives could consider roads on new alignments or upgrading NC 111.

Members highlighted the importance to consider adjacent projects within the scope of the new feasibility study, such as the NC 111 extension. Mr. Trebil clarified that such projects will be taken into consideration in the scope.

#### **Reports/Comments**

#### **XVI. TAC Secretary Report**

Ms. Trebil highlighted that the MPO received the grant for the Paved Trails Feasibility Study and proceeded to give a brief explanation of the project that consists in the development of a feasibility study for 12.5 miles of trails along the principal roads of Jacksonville including Western Blvd, N Marine Blvd, Jacksonville Parkway, among others. Scoping will be Spring.

#### **XVII. 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 highlighted that two JUMPO projects are going to let during this year. Furthermore, Ms. Cox informed they are working with District 1 to install four way stops in six locations of Onslow County as part of the safety review. Installation would occur in the next couple of months.

### **XVIII. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division**

Ms. Jeffers gave an overview of the NCDOT TPD Newsletter that included information on the N.C. Freight Plan, and North Carolina Truck Network and Re-strictions. Additionally, Ms. Jeffers provided a reminder to the TAC members regarding crucial deadlines, including:

- March 31, 2023: Last day to submit adopted FY 24 UPWP
- April 19, 2023: Last day to submit revisions to TPD for FY 23 UPWP
- April 28, 2023: 3rd Quarter 5303 Claim due
- May 10, 2023: 3rd Quarter invoice and work summary due

### **XIX. Report from FHWA Field Officer**

Mr. Marley stated that he had limited information to share since an update on the 2020 has already been provided. However, he encouraged everyone to apply for the various grant opportunities that are currently available.

### **XX. 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.

Ms. Trebil informed that the construction of the Downtown Trail will start next month.

Mr. Warden asked for an adjournment of the March 9, 2023, TAC meeting. Mr. Paul Buchanan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Royce Bennett seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2023.