

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL/ REGULAR - MEETING
February 9, 2023**

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

Present Mr. Wally Hansen, Mr. Ryan King, Mr. Ronald Massey, Mr. Chris White, Mr.
In Person: Gregg Whitehead, Mr. Danny Ferucci, Ms. Carter Metcalf, Ms. Adrienne Cox,
 Ms. Deanna Trebil, Ms. Laura Wisecup, Mr. Alaric Robinson, Lt. Philip
 Williams, Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Mr. Tim McCurry, Ms. B.J. Eversole.

Virtually Ms. Amy Procopio, Mr. Brendan Gartner, Mr. Bill Marley, Ms. Saman Jeffers,
Present: Ms. Andrea Correll, Mr. Sangwoo Sung.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Trebil welcomed everyone and explained that the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Mr. Hansen and Ms. Rhue respectively, were not present at the moment and therefore quorum had not been reached. However, in the meantime Mr. White would be leading the meeting. Approval of any action items would be deferred until the chairman arrives.

Mr. White proceeded to call the TCC meeting to order at 10:36 am, Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Jacksonville Station, 1300 N Marine Blvd, Jacksonville, NC.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. White welcome everyone to the first TCC meeting of the year and introduced himself.

III. Public Comment

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

Action Items

IV. Election of Officers

Mr. White asked for a motion to defer the election of officers to allow Mr. Hansen to arrive at the meeting and reach the required quorum. Mr. Carter Metcalf made a motion to defer the election of officers. Mr. Ryan King seconded the motion.

Once Mr. Hansen arrived, quorum was reach and the nominations for election of officers started. Mr. Hansen reminded the members presents all the eligible members to fill in the

position of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Mr. Hansen then proceed to ask if anybody would like to nominate anyone from the eligible members.

Mr. White nominated Mr. Wally Hansen to be reelected as a chairman. Mr. Chris White made a motion. Mr. Ryan King seconded the motion. Mr. Wally Hansen was reelected as the chairman of the TCC.

Mr. Ryan King nominated Chris White to be selected as vice chairman. Mr. Wally Hansen made a motion. Mr. Ryan King seconded the motion. Mr. Chris White was selected as the vice chairman of the TCC.

V. September 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to approve the September 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Ryan King made a motion to approve the September 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Carter Metcalf seconded the motion.

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

VI. FY23 UPWP Amendment 2

Ms. Trebil stated that JUMPO staff is requesting an amendment to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The amendment proposes to reallocate funds from the existing budget to appropriate funding for the 2050 MTP Update, while simultaneously reducing funding for the Town of Holly Ridge Transportation Plan. This adjustment will enable the MPO to hire a consultant to initiate work on the MTP. It is worth noting that the PL104 budget remains unaltered, with a total of \$300,125. No additional funding is being solicited at this time.

The Amendment was posted on JUMPO's website on January 31, 2023. The public can provide feedback until March 8, 2023.

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend approval of the FY23 UPWP Amendment 2 to the TAC. Mr. Carter Metcalf made a motion. Mr. Ryan King seconded the motion.

The motion to recommend approval of the FY23 UPWP Amendment 2 to the TAC as presented was approved unanimously by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

VII. FY24 UPWP Draft

Ms. Trebil explained that FY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the necessary expenses for planning activities by the MPO and its member agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. In this sense, the MPO is required to adopt and submit a TAC approved FY24 UPWP by March 31, 2023.

Ms. Trebil highlighted that the proposed FY 2024 UPWP draft is comparable to the current year's budget and has been created to advance the operational objectives identified by the TCC and TAC. The main work task that the MPO will be accomplishing in FY 24 is the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update.

Additionally, she let the members know that the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act introduced a new planning set-aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options. This current year's allocation of \$9,375 is focused on developing a Complete Streets prioritization plan as part of the MTP update. We received notification on February 6, 2023, stating that this set-aside no longer requires a local match. As a result, the FY24 UPWP has been amended to reflect this change.

Finally, the FY24 UPWP draft was uploaded to JUMPO's website on January 31, 2023, and the amended UPWP was uploaded on February 7, 2023. Public comment is open until March 8, 2023.

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend approval of the FY24 UPWP Draft to the TAC. Mr. Carter Metcalf made a motion. Mr. Chris White seconded the motion.

The motion to recommend approval of the FY24 UPWP Draft to the TAC as presented was approved unanimously by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

VIII. 2020-2029 MTIP – Amendment 8

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. One of the sources to that additional funding corresponds to the "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 informed to the members that the MPO identified eight possible projects that are eligible under this program. The projects were 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, NCDOT and BOT has approved the project, and the MPO is required to amend the STIP.

Ms. Trebil asked if anyone present had any questions, to which Mr. King inquired about the projected construction timeline for the Gum Branch Road sidewalk. Ms. Trebil responded that it would take 6 to 8 months after the project is finalized. Another member, Mr. Hansen, asked whether the program was based on an annual appropriation, and Ms. Trebil confirmed that it was. Mr. Hansen then suggested identifying potential projects in advance to help the City of Jacksonville and the towns better prepare to provide a local match, given the program's annual appropriation over three years. No further questions were asked.

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. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend approval of the FY24 UPWP Draft to the TAC. Mr. Ryan King made a motion. Mr. Carter Metcalf seconded the motion. The motion to recommend approval of the 2020-2029 MTIP – Amendment 8 to the TAC as presented was approved unanimously by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

IX. Safety Performance Targets (PM2 and PM3)

Ms. Trebil began by explaining that the MPO updates the safety performance targets annually as a way to monitor safety progress over time. Every four years, the MPO establishes these targets, which can either be adopted based on the state's targets or developed by the MPO. However, Mr. Trebil highlighted that there is no incentive or disincentive that results from developing and measuring the MPO's particular targets.

After the introduction, Mr. Trebil shared NCDOT graphs with the group to showcase the state's performance regarding the safety performance targets. These graphs included information on pavement conditions in both good and poor condition, bridges in good and poor condition, travel time reliability, and the truck travel time reliability index. Finally, it was explained that all of the state's targets had been met.

Finally, Ms. Trebil explained that since NCDOT adopted associated performance measures in December 2022, the Jacksonville MPO is required to adopt performance measures by June 13, 2023. Although the IIJA Act permits MPOs to establish their own measures and targets, NCDOT has encouraged MPOs to follow their lead by adopting the statewide performance measures they have established.

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend the adoption of the state's safety performance targets to the TAC.

Mr. Ron Massey made a motion to approve the recommend the adoption of the state's safety performance targets to the TAC. Mr. Ryan King seconded the motion.

The motion to recommend the state's safety performance targets was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present both in person and virtual.

X. 2022 – 2024 Public Participation Plan

Ms. Wisecup began by explaining that the MPO is required to review and update the public participation plan every three years, with the last update taking place in 2020.

This year's update includes changes in language due to the replacement of the Fast Act with the IIJA Act, which now includes a "Use of Technology" statement. This statement allows metropolitan planning organizations to use social media and other web-based tools to encourage public participation and solicit feedback during the transportation planning process. As a result, the MPO has decided to eliminate newspaper publications as a communication channel for feedback and instead will publish "public notices" on the JUMPO website. The 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 available on both the JUMPO and City of Jacksonville websites and will be open for public comment until March 18, 2023.

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend the approval of the 2022 – 2024 Public Participation Plan. Mr. Ryan King made a motion. Mr. Carter Metcalf seconded the motion.

The motion to recommend the approval of the 2022-2024 Public Participation Plan was approved by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

Discussion Items

XI. 2024-2033 STIP

Ms. Trebil began by reminding the members present 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 TCC will adopt it in April, followed by TAC in May, and then the BOT and FHWA in June.

Ms. Trebil also announced that P7.0 would commence in the summer, and a new schedule would be published. This timeline is beneficial as it aligns with the MPO's update of its Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Finally, Ms. Trebil just clarified that her objective was to provide a brief update on the timeline and lastly, she asked the committee if anyone wanted a copy of the draft STIP for their reference.

XII. 2020 Decennial Census

Ms. Wisecup explained that JUMPO would like to inform about the changes in the census urbanized areas within the JUMPO planning boundary based on the 2020 Decennial Census.

Prior to the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau defined "urban" primarily based on population density at the block level, with a minimum requirement of 2500 people. However, this data is only available every 10 years, limiting the ability to update more frequently. To address this issue, the new metric for defining urban areas is now housing unit density, also measured at the census block-level but maintained between censuses. Starting with the 2020 census, an area must have at least 2000 housing units or 5000 people to qualify as urban.

To conclude, Ms. Wisecup presented two maps illustrating the urbanized areas from the 2010 and 2020 Census. She highlighted the most significant latest changes to the urbanized areas of JUMPO, such as the inclusion of North Topsail Beach as an urbanized area, the exclusion of Sneads Ferry as an urbanized area, and the removal of areas adjacent to NC 53 and NC 111 from the urbanized classification.

XIII. 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

XIV. Report from MPO

Ms. Wisecup provided an update about the Paved Trails Feasibility Study Program. The program aims to produce a feasibility study that assesses the technical viability of a project from the perspective of design, permitting, and constructability. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) applied for this grant on January 9, 2023, and their proposal, "One Community Trail," was selected. The One Community Trail is a proposed 10-foot-wide, 12.5-mile-long multi-use path that runs along the main corridors of Jacksonville, North Carolina, with the primary objective of connecting neighborhoods with significant transportation barriers in Onslow County to essential community facilities. The study will evaluate the feasibility of the proposed multi-use path and identify alignment alternatives if needed. Coordination is expected to start during the Spring of 2023.

XV. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox shared three updated summary tables that highlight JUMPO's: projects in development, projects under construction, and road resurfacing. She also encouraged the members to access "NCDOT GO! NC Portal" to access additional information.

XVI. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Ms. Jeffers referenced the latest Transportation Planning Division (TPD) Newsletter which included updates on the state's gas tax increasing from 38.5 to 40.5 cents. She also shared that two communities will become an MPO due to the results of the 2020 Decennial Census: Pinehurst—Southern Pines and Clayton.

Additionally, the report reminded about important deadlines:

- February 10, 2023: 2nd Quarter Invoice
- February 28, 2023: Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for FY24
- March 31, 2023: Last day to submit adopted FY24
- April 19, 2023: Last day to submit revisions to TPD for FY23

XVII. Report from FHWA Field Officer

Mr. Marley reminded everyone about the grants that are available through the Bill.

XVIII. Questions, Closing Comments

Mr. Hansen inquired whether the members had any questions or closing comments. Mr. Tim McCurry requested an update on the DCIP project. In response, Ms. Deanna Trebil stated that NCDOT submitted an application last year. However, the project was not selected. Nevertheless, JUMPO plans to refine the application and reapply this year. Additionally, Ms. Cox mentioned that Division 3 is always eager to support grant applications and encouraged the members to contact NCDOT for grant assistance.

Finally, Mr. Hansen thanked everyone for attending in person, and virtually, and asked if there were any additional comments. No additional comments were received.

Mr. Hansen asked for an adjournment of the July 14, 2022, TCC meeting. Mr. Chris White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carter Metcalf seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023.