

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 14, 2023**

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

Present Mr. Bob Warden, Ms. Cindy Edwards, Mr. Royce Bennett, Ms. Kandy Koonce,
In Person: Ms. Pamela Hall, Mr. Chris White, Mr. Mitch Sprunger, Ms. Michelle Howes,
 Mr. Bill Marley, Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Mr. Ron Massey, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms.
 Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams

Virtually Mr. Fred Fontana, Mr. Larry Philpott, Ms. Andrea Correll, Ms. Nazia Sarder,
Present: Mr. Behshad Norowzi, Mr. Joseph Kamperman

I. Call to Order

Chairman Warden called the Jacksonville Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to order at 3:30 pm on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the Jacksonville Station –1300 N Marine Blvd and via teleconference.

II. Welcome and Introductions

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

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Ms. Edwards made a motion. Mr. Bennett 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. Approval of May 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the May 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present.

VI. Approval of August 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the August 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously by the Committee Members present.

VII. Approval of FY 2024 UPWP, Amendment 1

Mr. Prinz explained that approval of the FY 2024 UPWP would be postponed and brought to the committee at the next TAC meeting, in December.

VIII. Adoption of 2024-2033 MTIP

Mr. Prinz began by explaining that the attached MTIP proposal and projects listed within are the MPO's established performance management targets like highway safety, infrastructure conditions, congestion, emissions, and transit following the BOTs adoption of the 2024-2033 STIP. The JUMPO anticipates meeting their identified targets with the projects which are listed. NCDOT adopted the 2024-2033 STIP on 6/6/2023. JUMPO's TIP is a subset of the STIP and will also by extension demonstrate similar fiscal constraint.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the adoption of the 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve; Ms. Edwards seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously by the Committee members present.

Discussion Items:

IX. Prioritization 7.0 – New Project Submittals

Mr. Prinz spent a few minutes reminding everyone about the Prioritization 7.0 (P7) process. He followed up with explaining the additional submittal slots which were given towards highway projects due to dropping two carryover projects, which were cancelled.

Mr. Prinz went through the work plan schedule and introduced the new projects which were selected by the P7 Subcommittee and recommended for approval by the TCC Committee. (19 Highway, 5 Aviation, 11 Bike/Ped). A series of maps for the areas of Richlands, Swansboro, Holly Ridge, North Topsail Beach, and Jacksonville were presented with the identified new projects inlayed. Various critical projects were pointed out and the specific improvement type which JUMPO will submit them for was explained.

Various projects and their locations were discussed; several were talked about including their history during past prioritization cycles. Chairman Warden expressed his concern with how past prioritization projects had not been funded in order to address critical issues with the local roads; specifically, the culvert improvements that need to be addressed. Stormwater drainage has consistently been an issue and continue to be a major concern if these improvements are not made.

Mr. Prinz acknowledged these concerns and explained that many RPOs and MPOs have had similar issues with projects not being funded after several rounds of submission into the SPOT process over several years. This is mostly a state funding issue and needs to be hashed out at the NCDOT level. Other means of awareness were discussed including addressing concerns to State representatives via letter. JUMPO staff will continue its efforts in identifying the most critical areas of concern and update the TAC Committee as prioritization cycle moves to the next phases.

Ms. Kutz explained that the prioritization submittal list has been posted on the JUMPO website for public comment and input and that no comments had yet been received.

Chairman Warden asked for a consensus from the Committee to proceed with submitting the proposed new projects for prioritization.

The consensus to proceed was approved unanimously by the Committee members present.

Reports/Comments

X. Report from the TAC Secretary

Mr. Prinz announced that NCDOT has a new Transportation Secretary. Mr. Joey Hopkins will start the role in October.

Ms. Kutz gave status updates on the Downtown Trails project, the Commerce Road extension, and announced additional funding from NCDOT for Henderson Drive curb replacements. She also gave an update on various resurfacing projects throughout the city's downtown area. The Western Blvd and Henderson Drive intersection improvements was awarded to Barnhill and will include dual left turn in addition to a median on Henderson. The let date has been updated.

XI. Report from the NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Kutz gave status updates on behalf of Div 3. She highlighted a few projects and dates in development, then covered those currently under construction, and finally some projects which are under maintenance.

XII. Report from the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Ms. Sarder briefly informed the group that there is a regional model being developed by Stantec for Region 16, the region Jacksonville MPO falls under. The model started in July of this year and the models can viewed on the Travel Demands Model Regions map on connectncdot.gov.

XIII. Report from FHWA Field Officer

Mr. Marley informed that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has come out with a strategic plan addressing unacceptable increases in roadway fatalities. The National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) will prioritize actions to best reduce serious injuries and deaths while also working towards zero roadway fatalities. Also, he reminded everyone that the new legislation forwards MPOs for a chance to apply to different kinds of grants.

XIV. Questions, Closing Comments

Chairman Warden announced that Mr. Chris White would be stepping down as OAJ Airport Director. Mr. White thanked the Committee for their service and dedication to the community and Chairman Warden thanked Mr. White for his service. Mr. White then introduced, Mr. Mitch Sprunger, OAJ's current Deputy Airport Director.

Chairman Warden asked the attendees if there were any additional questions or comments before adjourning the meeting; none were received. He then asked for an adjournment of the meeting.

Ms. Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm.