

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
October 16, 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: Mr. Larry Philpott, Ms. Pamela Hall, Mr. Fred Fontana, Mr. Anthony Prinz,
 Ms. Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams

Virtually Ms. Nazia Sarder, Mr. Wongoo Lee, Ms. Michelle Howes, Mr. Bill Marley, Ms.
Present: Becca Eversole

I. Call to Order

Chairman Warden called the Jacksonville Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting to order at 3:30 pm on Monday, October 16, 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. Adoption of Amendment 1 of the 2024-2033 MTIP

Mr. Prinz began by explaining the proposed adoption. Although the Committee adopted the 2024-2033 MTIP just at the last TAC meeting on Sept 14, shortly after, NCDOT had announced a requirement that all MPOs/RPOs have to also include all Statewide projects to their respective MTIP. There are no changes to this MTIP document other than adding Statewide projects to the body of the data.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve Amendment 1 of the 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Buchanan made a motion to approve; Ms. Edwards seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously by the Committee members present.

Discussion Items:

VI. Prioritization 7.0 Estimated Project Costs

Mr. Prinz showed a chart of a few projects with cost comparison estimates during the previous prioritization cycle (P 6.0) and the current cycle (P 7.0). These estimates are based on automatic cost tally as a project's perimeters and scope are entered into the SPOT Online submittal website.

He explained the dramatic escalation of cost is due in part from many different factors to include how NCDOT allocates funding throughout the State as well as rising costs in construction and inflation. Prioritizing projects, even if there is not available funding from NCDOT, may not seem effective or rational, yet we are required by law to prioritize our projects thru this process. It is also in our best interest to identify projects and submit them as required so that they can have a record.

Mr. Prinz emphasized that local input is where the key factors for funding projects really is. We can involve/contact local senators and voice concern with the current process and continue to seek other opportunities and programs out there to fund our projects.

VII. NC 111 Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Prinz gave status updates on the NC 111 Extension Feasibility Study. There are four alternative routes on the extension that are being studied. Out of four two were most likely deemed not most viable due to the exurbanite costs or encroachment of the route through the current area or Catherine Lake. The two other routes that are most likely to be feasible are still more challenging to design or easier to construct yet still very costly.

Reports/Comments

VIII. Camp Davis Industrial Park

Mr. Prinz briefly gave an update on improvements in Holly Ridge with the Camp Davis Industrial Park development. There has been significant progress with Right-of-way acquisition that the town has made in working on in getting additional access along US 17. It had been previously approved that the access points along US 17 for Camp Davis would be a superstreet design or reduced conflict intersections. After discussing the drawbacks of such design with NCDOT division leadership, they are open to changing this stretch of the corridor to a more traditional design. We are waiting for a letter of approval from NCDOT to move forward with the road improvements.

IX. Swansboro Crosswalk Traffic Counts and Signal Timings

Mr. Prinz explained that traffic counts were collected for the downtown area near Front Street to research the feasibility of a crosswalk across Corbett Ave just before the bridge. This was requested by Swansboro town council. Mr. Philpot reemphasized Swansboro's concern with the current conditions of pavement markings in the area, the signal light timings, and the lack of pedestrian safety due to high volume vehicle traffic. The current crossing which is an under-bridge path is dependent on hightide/ low tide and is periodically impassable throughout the day.

A final report of the traffic counts will be reported thru NCDOT which will determine the viability of a crosswalk and which design would be more feasible to install across the road.

Concerns were brought up about the traffic signal timings are not solving problems with congestion. Currently the signals in Swansboro are maintained by NCDOT and timings cannot be controlled by Jacksonville Transit. The timing issues have been brought to the attention of State leadership. The quickest solution would be to have a way to contact a traffic office which could be notified of issues directly via local reporting.

Ms. Kutz announced the Transportation Open House that will at Jacksonville Station on October 24th. This is a partnership with the JUMPO 2050 MTP consultant and Paved Trail Feasibility Study consultant in order to gather information from the public on where they would like to see improvements on roads and pedestrian routes.

X. Questions, Closing Comments

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 October 16, 2023, TAC Special called meeting.

Mr. Buchanan made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.