

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
January 30, 2024**

**Jacksonville Station, Onslow Room
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. Kirsten Spirakis, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms. Stephanie
Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams
Virtually Ms. Michelle Howes, Ms. Nazia Sarder, Mr. Wongoo Lee, Mr. Behshad
Present: Norowzi, Mr. Bill Marley, Ms. Becca Eversole, Mr. Joel Strickland

I. Call to Order

Chairman Warden called the TAC Meeting to order at 3:30pm at Jacksonville Station.

II. Welcome and Introductions

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

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Mr. Bennett made a motion; Mr. Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

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

Action Items

V. Election of Officers

Mr. Prinz announced that bylaws require that the TAC Chairman position must be represented by a member of city council and the TAC Vice-Chairman must be represented by a county commission member.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to elect Mr. Warden as TAC Chairman and Mr. Buchanan as TAC Vice-Chairman. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Approval of September 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the September 14th Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve; Mr. Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Approval of October 16, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the October 16th Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve; Mr. Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Approval of 2024 TAC & TCC Meetings Schedule

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve 2024 TAC & TCC Meetings schedule. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve; Mr. Buchanan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Adoption of 2023 Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Prinz began by explaining that federal law requires that the JUMPO adopt safety targets. According to NCDOT's 5-year average report, the JUMPO's safety target numbers made significant progress with respect to the State's target number. The area in which the JUMPO did not meet the performance targets were in non-motorized fatalities or serious injuries. Mr. Prince emphasized that the JUMPO has worked and will continue to work harder to improve pedestrian facilities and safety on our area roads. Mr. Prinz concluded that the proposed safety targets will follow the proposed targets set forth by the NCDOT for the upcoming year.

Mr. Philpott commented on a recent pedestrian fatality in the Town of Swansboro, as well as a vehicle crash fatality. Mr. Philpott had been asked by his constituents to inquire with the JUMPO about the signal timings and if they could be modified to proactively address congestion. Furthermore, he has been notified of several areas where there is severe pavement degradation. Mr. Warden recommended contacting NCDOT as well as seeking assistance from the MPO staff for addressing any solutions available.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Safety Performance Targets. Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Adoption of Amendment 2 of the 2024-2033 MTIP

Ms. Kutz began by explaining Amendment 2 and the modifications to the 2024-2033 STIP which are outlined in the printouts provided. Amendment 2 covers modifications to the STIP that ran from the November 2023 to January 2024. Its expected that these modifications will continue each month. This amendment includes project changes, for statewide and local projects. The specific changes include preliminary engineering, ROW,

additions to funding and timelines. Chairman Warden asked about a term "Project Break" which was included in the handout. Mr. Prinz explained that a project break is when projects are segmented in order to facilitate a more affordable option for funding a project.

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to adopt Amendment 2 to the 2024-2033 MTIP. Mr. Buchanan made a motion to approve; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

XI. Prioritization 7.0

Mr. Adams briefly gave updates to Prioritization 7.0 progress over the last couple months. He showed the Work Program Schedule and discussed the timeline including a Data Collection period which involved the MPO staff reviewing concepts of projects that were submitted. Concepts will be used for cost savings benefits modeling and scoring. Next, he explained that MPO staff are drafting a Local Input Methodology which outlines how allotted points will be assigned to Region Impact and Divisions Needs projects. This draft will be submitted to the SPOT Office in the following week and then it will be brought to the TCC subcommittee for review. Finally, the proposed Local Input Methodology will be presented to the TAC for approval in March. He also explained that the MPO has 1400 points to assign.

Chairman Warden asked for comments on the feedback received to the letter of concern that the TAC sent to the Transportation Secretary regarding prioritization. Mr. Prinz commented that the letter raised important points but that answers may not be addressed immediately. The Secretary had commented on additional funding opportunities in the future.

Reports/Comments

XII. Report from the Secretary

Ms. Kutz gave a brief update on the completion of the Downtown Trail. Additionally, work has started on the Western Blvd and Henderson Blvd safety project. The Commerce Drive project has been completed and the road was opened on December 15th.

Mr. Prinz gave an update on Drag Strip Road and the Camp Davis Industrial Park development in Holly Ridge. The MPO is working with getting an amendment to the previous TIA study. The results of the previous TIA some areas/considerations were left out. This opportunity would give a better plan and perspective as to how Camp Davis, development will phase. Furthermore, improvements to the NC 50 and US 17 intersection will also be a focus.

XIII. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Howes gave a brief update to NCDOT projects. There were not many changes to the projects under development, construction, or maintenance lists. NCDOT will begin work at Western Blvd and Henderson Dr intersection project in the next few months. Repaving projects are on hold due to the cold weather and resume in the spring. Ms. Howes then shared aerial images of recently completed projects.

XIV. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Ms. Sarder briefly gave updates to the TPD newsletter. Regions 16 Travel Demand Model is currently being developed by Stantec and includes Jacksonville Urban Area. Models should be completed by March 2024, and development report will be released by April 2024. The Regional Coverage Map is available to view at the link provided.

XV. Report from FHWA Field Officer

Mr. Marley had no updates to report.

XVI. Questions, Closing Comments

Chairman Warden asked the attendees if there were any additional questions or comments. Mr. Buchanan made a comment on a local business owner in Swansboro wanting to widen driveway access. Ms. Spirakis commented that she would check if there had been a driveway modification application submitted to NCDOT. Mr. Philpott said that he would inquire with the Town to verify if the business had applied. Mr. Prinz agreed that following the process to sign applications for improving access may take time but NCDOT would more than likely be supportive to congestion improvements along Corbett Ave.

Mr. Philpott made comments on a few pavement issues in Swansboro, as well as signal timings for the light at the Main Street Extension. Congestion continues to occur specifically for local churches. Ms. Spirakis gave Mr. Philpott her contact information and asked that he send her the road names for her to inquire about. Mr. Prinz reminded everyone of the NCDOT link to the resurfacing schedule which provides map updates and allows members to get on the priority list.

Chairman Warden thanked all for attending both in person and virtually and asked for a motion to adjourn the January 30, 2024, TAC meeting. Ms. Edwards made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Bennett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:26pm.