

**JACKSONVILLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL/ REGULAR - MEETING  
September 12, 2024**

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

Present Mr. Wally Hansen, Mr. Carter Metcalf, Mr. Ryan King, Mr. Danny Ferucci, Ms.  
In Person: Michelle Howes, Ms. Ashley Carpenter, Mr. Eric Bittner, Ms. Brandi Ely, Mr.  
Alaric Robinson, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms. Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams,  
Ms. Teri Dane

Virtually Mr. Ronald Massey, Mr. Gregg Whitehead, Ms. Kim Nguyen, Ms. Tracy  
Present: Jackson, Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Ms. Amy Procopio, Mr. Wongoo Lee, Mr.  
Maksym Bezruchko, Mr. Michael Raynor, Ms. Kellie Mills Abrams

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Hansen called the TCC meeting to order at 10:36 am, Thursday, September 12, 2024, at Jacksonville Station, 1300 N Marine Blvd, Jacksonville, NC.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Hansen welcomed members to the TCC meeting and asked all present to introduced themselves. Those members attending the meeting online were stated for the recorded.

**III. Public Comment**

One person was present for public comment. Ms. Kellie Mills Abrams introduced herself to the members and thanked everyone for the opportunity to attend and provide comments. Ms. Abrams briefly spoke on her and her family's concern for the roadway area at Piney Green Road, on Barbara Ave. and Lake Drive. She stated that it is being very low-income area with many families with children and they desperately need sidewalks to provide a safe walking route for those on the roadway. Vehicles exceed the speed limit regularly and it's a great concern for those living in the area. Ms. Abrams offered that they would assist with the maintenance of a sidewalk if it were installed.

Mr. Hansen thanked Ms. Abrams and recognized the challenge of that area being outside the City's jurisdiction. Mr. Hansen mentioned that he was recently out there during a school bus drop-off and observed cautionary and unsafe practices with children walking in roads, the road is very narrow and had trash cans impeding the roadway. He offered that MPO staff would get her connected with the County. The speed limit was shortly, discussed and confirmed. Mr. Metcalf asked that Ms. Abrams information be shared with

him and that he would connect her with to correct County personnel. The speed limit was discussed and confirmed.

## **Action Items**

### **IV. July 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to approve the July 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Metcalf made a motion; Mr. King seconded the motion. The motion to was approved by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

### **V. Draft 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 6**

Ms. Kutz asked for a recommendation to amend the 2024-2033 MTIP. Amendment 6 covers the modifications in NCDOT's Item N report for the months of August and September 2024. The amendment modifies funding for Jacksonville urban area projects HS-2003AA, HS-2003X, HS-2003AJ, U-5789, and HS-2003AT. Ms. Kutz took a few minutes to explain those changes. The following projects are Statewide modifications: HB-0099A, HB-0099B, HB-0099C, C-5600VA, HB-9999A, HB-9999B, and HB-9999C.

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any questions on the action item. None were received. Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend Amendment 6 adoption to the TAC. Mr. King made a motion; Mr. Metcalf seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

### **VI. Public Participation Plan Revision**

Mr. Adams asked for a recommendation for the TAC to approval the Public Participation Plan (PPP) revision. Mr. Adams briefly explained the purpose and requirement for the PPP which was last adopted on March 9, 2023. This proposed revision adjusts the minimum public input period for the JUMPO's various planning and program activities. In the previous PPP, there was more of blanket time frame of 25-days for most of planning activities. This made meeting coordination difficult with maintaining MTIP alignment with STIP modifications, which are currently every month. Mr. Adams showed members the proposed changes of public input period and detailed each planning action.

Mr. Hansen asked for a motion to recommend the Public Participation Plan Revision to the TAC. Mr. Whitehead made a motion; Ms. Howes seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the committee members present both in person and virtual.

## **Discussion Items**

### **VII. STC Vision Plan, Corridor X**

Mr. Prinz explained some of the history on this corridor study which spans and connects major highways across the state. One of the strategic highway corridors runs from

Greenville to Jacksonville, Corridor X. Hwy 258 to NC 11. The plan developed recognized this as a critical piece to the mobility infrastructure for Eastern NC.

The process reaches back to 2018 where stakeholder interviews took place. Fast forward to today where Vision Plan has now been proposed. Unfortunately, there was no recommendations given in the plan for the Jacksonville MPO area. NCDOT is asking we adopt and concur with the STC Vision Plan for Corridor X. Mr. Prinz explained that the due to the drawn-out length of this study and lack of engagement for including our area, at this time we do not feel comfortable asking the TAC to adopt this plan.

Mr. Prinz requested that NCDOT TPD should bring in the consultant and present the whole process, with stakeholder input, analysis, and recommendations and then we may have more familiarity and can move forward in adopting a resolution. Mr. Metcalf added that for the County, the US 258 corridor will be vital to future development and that it is important that we do get to understand the plan and have proper input. With the plan having no recommendation for our corridors, it seems problematic.

The members discussed several concerns of their concerns. Mr. Prinz mentioned another major corridor feasibility study, the MVPS NC24 Corridor which runs from Fayetteville to Jacksonville along NC24 but was unsure what its status in completion is. Mr. Massey agreed with the inadequacy of addressing our area, and the presence of the largest Marine base on the east coast when it comes to the transportation network and interstate access. Ms. Howes identified the point of contact for NCDOT who is managing this project and said that that individual will reach out and answer any questions. They were willing to coordinate a presentation.

Mr. Hansen agreed that given the comments and concerns discussed, more clarity would need to be presented to the TCC before recommending Corridor X support.

## **Reports/Comments**

### **VIII. Report from MPO Secretary**

Ms. Kutz gave a status update on the Gum Branch Road Sidewalks design project. Staff selected and are working on a scope of work agreement. Design will be funded thru a Carbon Reduction grant. Once design is completed Regional Safety funding will cover project construction. A signal project for Western/Williamsburg went out for bid recently. Funding the signal will be a partnership with surrounding developments. Senator Lazara as has helped contribute. The Regional 16 model is finalized for the area and the 2050 MTP will be ramping back up. It is set to be completed by Feb-March 2025.

Mr. Adams gave an update on Prioritization 7. Regional Impact projects are anticipated to be announced on September 20<sup>th</sup> and a TCC Subcommittee will be scheduled in the next few weeks to review Division Needs local input point assignment.

### **IX. Report from NCDOT Division 3**

Ms. Howes briefly spoke on the projects that are going to be LET in 2025. U-5789 which are intersection improvement projects. The projects are still on schedule to begin utility relocation. For U-5728 the Notice to Proceed has been issued. U-5787 still has ROW work to be agreed upon with the City. Mr. Kutz mentioned that Mr. Prinz still needed to talk with city management on that. Various other project updates were mentioned.

Ms. Howes the mentioned a few updates to projects under maintenance. Then she gave updates to two projects under construction.

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

Mr. Lee informed the members of the completion of Region 16 forecasting model. He spoke about the user guide and how to use the model properly. Mr. Lee has worked with the 2050 MTP consultant in understanding model use and they will be able to move forward with the next steps of JUMPO's long-range plan.

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

The FHWA Field Officer was not in attendance at the meeting. No update was given at that time.

### **XII. Questions, Closing Comments**

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any additional questions or comments not covered in the meeting and none were received. Mr. Hansen thanked everyone for attending in person, and virtually, and asked for an adjournment of the TCC meeting. Mr. King made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Metcalf seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am. Next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024.