



**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 30, 2025 (Rescheduled)
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: Ms. Kandy Koonce, Ms. Adrienne Cox, Lt. Dale Silance, Ms. Stephanie Kutz,
 Mr. Stephen Adams, Mr. Chris Coursey

Virtually Mr. Ron Massey, Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Ms. Michelle Howes, Mr. Wongoo Lee
Present:

I. Call to Order

The TAC Meeting was called 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, and the motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment

No requests were received, and no one was present for public comment.

Action Items

V. Approval of March 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Buchanan made the motion, and Mr. Bennett seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Adoption of 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 9

Ms. Kutz provided a summary of Amendment 9, which reflects project the modifications outlined in NCDOT's Item N report for the period of May through June. The amendment includes updates to funding and schedules for projects within the Jacksonville urban area. One significant change is to project U-6065, in which construction has been accelerated from fiscal year (FY) 2028 to FY 2025. She also noted aviation projects, AV-5804 and AV-5805, which right-of-way has been

delayed from FY 2023 to FY 2026. Finally, Ms. Kutz mentioned several highway safety projects with schedule changes. HS-2003AA, HS-2003AT, and HS-2003X, have had their schedules extended to allow additional time for planning and design. HS-2403AH and HS-2403AI have had project breaks added at the request of NCDOT.

Chairman Warden asked if there were any questions on Amendment 9, none were received. He then called for a motion to adopt the amendment. Mr. Buchanan made a motion, and Ms. Edwards seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

VII. 2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Mr. Adams explained that with the completion of project selection under the P7 cycle, the Board of Transportation is expected to adopt the 2026–2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in early July, prompting the MPO to update its Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) accordingly. The MTIP outlines all highway safety, road preservation, maintenance, and transit projects within the JUMPO planning area.

He presented a timeline of upcoming actions, noting that the draft MTIP will be reviewed by the TCC on July 9th and presented to the TAC for adoption on August 14th. Mr. Adams also reviewed copies of the draft STIP, noting that some projects from the previous cycle were removed due to lack of funding or incomplete development. These projects were resubmitted during the P7 cycle and will remain in the holding tank for possible consideration in P8. He highlighted the funding and schedule tables where figures from the previous STIP were added to demonstrate the impact of updated cost estimates.

VIII. Prioritization 8 (P8)

Mr. Adams began with a brief overview of the P8 cycle, presenting the draft work plan and NCDOT's prioritization schedule. He noted that, similar to P7, staff will form a subcommittee and schedule a meeting to review projects in the holding tank. A major change for this cycle is a 30% reduction in the number of project submittals allowed for MPOs, limiting JUMPO to 13 projects per mode. However, with four carryover projects from previous cycles—including two that were canceled during P7—JUMPO can replace the canceled ones with new projects from the holding tank, raising the highway mode submission limit to 15. The allocation of local input points remains unchanged from P7.

Mr. Adams also shared that the MPO received a significant amount of public feedback during the call for projects, with many of the suggested roadway projects aligning with those previously submitted, demonstrating consistency between community priorities and the MPO's focus. He concluded by outlining key deadlines: the P8 subcommittee and TCC will meet on July 10th to review project recommendations, which will be presented to the TAC for approval on August 14th. Project for P8 are to be submitted to NCDOT by September 30th.

Reports/Comments

IX. Report from the MPO Secretary

Ms. Kutz provided status updates on several ongoing projects, including the Gum Branch Road Sidewalk Redesign project in partnership with Kimley-Horn. She reported that the design is currently at the 30% completion stage, with natural environmental reviews underway by both federal and state agencies. Once the design phase is complete, the MPO has allocated safety funds to support sidewalk construction. Additionally, she noted that contracts have been awarded for planned pedestrian improvements on Carolina Forest Boulevard and Circuit Lane. Work on Circuit Lane is expected to begin toward the end of July, with construction on Carolina Forest Boulevard scheduled to start in early August. Ms. Kutz also informed members that the installation of the right-turn lane along Gum Branch Road at Rhodestown Road has been completed.

Mr. Adams added that JUMPO staff and NCDOT have been coordinating efforts to review the Functional Classification of roadways within the planning area. He noted that Mr. Lee would provide more details on this topic during the Report from TPD section and that a list of road segments under consideration by the MPO would be presented at the next TAC meeting.

X. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox provided a brief overview of the handouts distributed to members, which included updates on various area projects. She noted that project U-5789, the intersection improvement at Western Boulevard and Jacksonville Parkway Extension, is now scheduled to be let for construction in August. She then directed members to the "Under Construction" page of the report where several highway safety projects have been recently added. Ms. Cox clarified that due to how these projects are reported, the percentage complete values listed on the page may not accurately reflect the progress of the projects. Although these values may be showed with a percentage, the projects may in fact be further along in progress.

Ms. Cox concluded by encouraging members to visit and share the online Highway Maintenance and Improvement map, which provides information on planned preservation, resurfacing, and rehabilitation projects throughout the year.

XI. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Mr. Lee briefly informed members of the NCDOT's ongoing Functional Classification Review which involves reviewing and updating the planning area's roadways. This effort supports FHWA's mandate to ensure that roadway networks are categorized correctly. JUMPO staff has submitted 17 roadway segments for review. These segments will be evaluated with NCDOT's Functional Class Review Committee before final submission to FHWA by November. Mr. Lee noted that MPO requests may be modified following the committee's review.

XII. Report from FHWA Field Officer

Mr. Marley did not in attend the meeting, so no report was given.

XIII. Questions, Closing Comments

Chairman Warden asked the attendees if there were any additional questions or comments.

Mr. Buchanan brought up a concern regarding traffic signal visibility in Swansboro, noting that at certain times in the evening, the sun's position can shine directly into drivers' line of sight, making it difficult to see the signal. Ms. Kutz acknowledged the issue and stated that installing back plates

on the signals would help mitigate the problem. She confirmed that staff would follow up with Traffic Services to check on the availability and feasibility of installing the back plates.

Ms. Edwards informed the members that, due to a recent appointment to another committee, her availability to attend the TAC meetings at their currently scheduled time has been affected. She asked if there were any objections to shifting the TAC meeting to either 2:30pm or 4:30pm. The proposed time of 2:30pm was briefly discussed among the members, and there was general agreement. Chairman Warden confirmed that the TAC meeting time would be changed to 2:30pm-4:00pm.

Chairman Warden thanked all attendees for their participation, both in person and virtually, and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Edwards made the motion, and Mr. Bennett seconded it. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm.