



JACKSONVILLE URBAN AREA
JUMPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2025
Jacksonville Station, Onslow Room
1300 N Marine Blvd
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Present, In Person: Mr. Bob Warden (Chairman), Ms. Cindy Edwards, Mr. Royce Bennett, Mr. Ron Massey, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Mr. Danny Ferucci, Ms. Adrienne Cox, Ms. Michelle Howes, Ms. Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams, Mr. Chris Coursey

Present, Remote: Mr. Bill Justice, Mr. Wongoo Lee, Lt. Dale Silance

Call to Order

The TAC Meeting was called to order at 2:30pm at Jacksonville Station.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Warden asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Ms. Edwards made a motion; Mr. Bennett seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comment

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

Action Items

IV. Approval of June 30, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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

V. Adoption of 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 10

Ms. Kutz provided a summary of Amendment 10, which reflects the project modifications outlined in NCDOT's Item N report for the period of July through August. The amendment includes updates to funding and schedules for projects within the Jacksonville urban area. She directed members to the last page of the report where two projects for the MPO area, HS-2003AJ & HS-2403AV, have had delays in the right-of-way and construction schedule. HS-2003AJ schedule shifted to

align the project with let dates of TIP Project U-5950 and will install pedestrian safety improvements for the intersection. HS-2403AV, which will install sidewalks from Nottingham Road to Plaza Drive, has experienced a project break at the request of NCDOT.

Ms. Kutz also reported a major accident that occurred earlier in the day at the intersection of Doris and Henderson. At the time, the cause of the accident was not yet confirmed. Members briefly discussed whether there were existing safety concerns at the intersection, but Lt. Silance clarified that the incident was caused by a driver who had ran a red light. The driver had just left a sleep study the previous night.

Chairman Warden asked if there were any questions on Amendment 10, none were received. He then called for a motion to adopt the amendment. Mr. Bennett made a motion, and Ms. Edwards seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. 2026-2035 MTIP

Ms. Kutz provided an overview of the Draft 2026–2035 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), which is required of each MPO following the adoption of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by the Board of Transportation (BOT). The MTIP runs concurrently with the STIP, and incorporates all safety projects previously amended in the 2024–2033 STIP. These safety projects are typically smaller in scope and progress more quickly compared to larger TIP projects, which are often planned several years in advance.

Chairman Warden asked if there were any questions on the 2026-2035 MTIP, none were received. He then called for a motion to adopt the amendment. Ms. Edwards made a motion, and Mr. Bennett seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Post-Census Functional Classification Update

Mr. Adams provided a brief overview of the Functional Classification (FC) update process, which is being conducted in coordination with NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) as part of FHWA's Post Census review. He explained that MPO staff working closely with TPD to review roadway classifications within the MPO area and evaluate whether specific segments should be reclassified. A final list of 15 roadway segments was presented to the TAC for consideration. He highlighted several proposed changes and summarized the justification provided by MPO staff and the TPD review committee for each recommendation.

Key recommendations included upgrades to principal arterial segments along Gum Branch Road, Western Boulevard, Williamsburg Parkway, and Queens Creek Road. There are also downgrades to minor collectors or local road classification for certain segments along Chaney Ave and Ellis Boulevard. He noted that TAC endorsement of the proposed reclassifications will allow them to be included in the statewide submittal package to FHWA, with final approval anticipated by early next year.

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

VIII. Prioritization 8 (P8) Project Recommendations

Ms. Kutz began by outlining key changes for the P8 cycle, most notably the limit of 13 project submittals per mode, 13 for highway, 13 for aviation, and 13 for bicycle and pedestrian. She explained that four projects are carry overs from previous cycles, including two that have been canceled. Because of this, JUMPO is allowed to replace the canceled projects with new ones from the holding tank, effectively increasing the number of allowable highway submittals to 15. She also noted that the allocation of local input points remains unchanged from P7.

Following this, Ms. Kutz presented the full list of 15 highway projects recommended by the TCC, highlighting two new projects. The first involves a feasibility study for Gum Branch Road, which proposes dividing the existing U-5793A and U-5793B projects, into a third segment. This strategy is intended to improve funding opportunities by making the individual segments more manageable and better suited for prioritization. The second new project focuses on upgrading the traffic signal system in Swansboro to a closed-loop system, extending from Belgrade-Swansboro Road to the county line. This system enhances signal coordination and significantly improves traffic flow along West Corbett Avenue. Members acknowledged the current congestion in Swansboro and emphasized the importance of better signal monitoring, particularly during adverse weather events. Mr. Prinz expressed strong support for the project, recalling similar improvements made on Lejeune Boulevard, and noted that the project would serve as a practical intermediate investment.

Chairman Warden then asked staff whether there was a project that could be removed to include the Swansboro signal project list. Ms. Kutz recommended removing Project H150827, which involves improvements to several intersections along US 17. She explained that the project is significantly larger and more expensive than others on the list, potentially reducing its likelihood of selection. She further noted that safety-related improvements could be addressed more effectively by targeting high-crash intersections and pursuing regional safety funding, rather than seeking STIP funding for the entire corridor. Chairman Warden agreed, emphasizing the importance of pursuing alternative funding sources where possible, particularly for projects that have been resubmitted multiple times without success. When asked whether the removal of H150827 would prevent it from being considered again in future prioritization cycles, staff clarified that the project would only be deferred for the P8 cycle and could still be resubmitted later. Ms. Cox added that the Division had not yet finalized its list of submittals, and H150827 could be transferred for consideration at the Division level if agreed upon by JUMPO staff and the TAC. Ms. Kutz concluded by noting that the five aviation projects were confirmed as valid by Mitch Sprunger, Director of Albert J. Ellis Airport (OAJ), and that there was no significant discussion by the TCC regarding the thirteen bicycle and pedestrian projects, all of which were previously submitted during P7.

Chairman Warden then asked if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the P8 project recommendations and none were received. He then called for a motion to approve the full list of recommended projects, including the new highway projects discussed. Ms. Edwards made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Bennett. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

IX. U-5787 Trade Street Extension

Ms. Kutz provided an update on the Trade Street Extension project (Project U-5787), which is intended to convert the Walmart driveway into a public road by realigning and extending Trade Street to McDaniel Drive. She explained that the project has encountered substantial challenges, particularly related to stormwater pond impacts and right-of-way acquisition. Recent cost estimates indicate a significant increase in the expense required to relocate or reconstruct the affected stormwater ponds. Due to NCDOT funding restrictions, the department is unable to cover costs associated with stormwater relocation, leaving the City solely responsible. Current projections estimate that these costs could exceed \$10 million. Ms. Kutz explained after internal review, it was determined that the cost-benefit analysis no longer supports moving forward with the project at this time. As a result, she stated that staff recommends removing Project U-5787 from the STIP. Should the TAC agree, a formal resolution would be required to request its removal. She also noted that because the project is funded under the Division Needs category, the funding would remain within Division 3 and be reallocated to other regional priorities.

Mr. Prinz acknowledged the value of the project, emphasizing that U-5787 is one of the earliest projects approved and funded under the STI program. He noted that, under typical circumstances, NCDOT would negotiate with the property owner to modify or relocate impacted stormwater facilities. However, in this case, ownership of the ponds falls to the City, and the existing pond facilities are out of compliance with current standards and would require full reconstruction rather than simple relocation. This significantly increases the cost beyond what was originally presented to City Council.

Mr. Prinz noted that the issue was being brought before the TAC to seek a formal recommendation, as the TAC serves as the regional transportation advisory body. He clarified that a final decision will be made by City Council before any formal resolution is prepared for submission to NCDOT. While acknowledging the project's merit, he expressed concern that the increased cost, when considered alongside other critical City priorities, may not be justifiable at this time. Members briefly discussed the issue and agreed that the substantial reconstruction costs outweigh the original intent and scope of the project.

Chairman Warden asked if there were any questions, none were received. He then confirmed that the TAC's consensus is to recommend that City Council pursue the removal from the STIP.

Reports/Comments

X. Report from the MPO Secretary

Ms. Kutz provided status updates on several ongoing projects, including pedestrian improvements at Western Boulevard and Circuit Lane. The concrete and push button system have been installed and are waiting for pavement markings to be completed for the project. NCDOT is managing the project as well as a similar one at Western Boulevard and Forum Road. Additionally, she reported that Project U-5789 is scheduled to let next month. This project will bring improvements to Circuit Lane, Gateway North and South. To minimize disruptions to daytime traffic, most of the work will be completed during nighttime hours.

Mr. Adams informed the members that Mr. Alpesh Patel, Director of the NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, has requested an opportunity to present to the TAC in October. His presentation will focus on upcoming statewide transportation initiatives planned over the next several years. He also shared that MPO staff have been assisting Onslow County Planning with the development of an Orphan Road Program. This initiative is intended to identify and address roads within subdivisions that have been neglected and are not currently maintained by NCDOT. The goal of the program is to bring these roads up to DOT standards, after which the County may submit petitions to have them accepted into the state maintenance system.

XI. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox provided a brief overview of the handouts, which included updates on various area projects. She announced that a public hearing has been scheduled for Project U-5791, which is the Jacksonville Parkway extension to Ramsey Road. The project is anticipated to be let in 2029. The public hearing was originally set in September but was postponed to October. Additionally, she shared that Doug Racine, who previously served as the Deputy District Engineer, has now joined the Onslow County office as Construction Maintenance Engineer, and will be a new contact.

XII. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Mr. Lee thanked members for approving the Functional Classification update request. He noted that with this approval, he will continue coordinating with the review committee to complete the process and will provide updates to the TAC as it progresses.

Additionally, he informed members that TPD has recently released its updated Strategic Plan, which will serve as a guide for long-range transportation planning, travel demand modeling, and traffic forecasting. The plan places a strong emphasis on enhanced coordination with MPOs and RPOs to improve mobility, manage growth, and support resilient transportation systems throughout North Carolina. Mr. Lee directed members to the newsletter for additional information.

XIII. Report from FHWA Field Officer

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

XIV. Questions, Closing Comments

Chairman Warden asked the attendees if there were any additional questions or comments, and none were received.

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. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:17pm.