



**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
Virtual/Regular – Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2025**

**Jacksonville Station
1300 N Marine Blvd
Jacksonville, NC 28540**

Present Mr. Wally Hansen, Mr. Joseph Bauer, Mr. Ryan King, Mr. Danny Ferucci, Mr. Mitch
In Person: Sprunger, Mr. Gregg Whitehead, Mr. Ronald Massey, Ms. Adrienne Cox, Mr. Eric
 Ritzel, Ms. Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams

Virtually Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Ms. Kim Nguyen, Mr. Nathan Rhue, Ms. Rebecca Brehmer, Ms.
Present: Amy Procopio, Ms. Deb Hill, Mr. Wongoo Lee, Mr. Michael Raynor, Mr. Chris Coursey

I. Call to Order

Chairman Hansen called the TCC meeting to order at 10:38 am.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Hansen welcomed members to the TCC meeting and acknowledged all who were attending in-person and virtual. He announced that Mr. Metcalf was not able to attend the meeting, but Mr. Bauer was present as his alternate.

III. Public Comment

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

Action Items

IV. February 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hansen requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 13th meeting as presented. Mr. Whitehead made the motion, and Mr. Ferucci seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Draft 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 10 Draft

Ms. Kutz presented Amendment 10 to the 2024–2033 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), which incorporates changes from NCDOT’s Item N reports for July. She noted that this would be the final amendment for the 2024–2033 MTIP and clarified that it pertains to funding multi-modal planning for a statewide project, with no impact on projects within the MPO area.

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any questions regarding Amendment 10; none were received. He then requested a motion to recommend adoption of the amendment. Mr. Massey made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. King. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Draft 2026-2035 MTIP

Mr. Adams provided an overview of the Draft 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP), which is required by each MPO after the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) is adopted by the Board of Transportation (BOT). The MTIP runs in unison to the STIP and federal legislation requires the MTIP and STIP to properly align before federal funds can be appropriated for the projects contained within. He highlighted to members, page 8 which did not contain the STIP Funding Summary Table but that staff are currently waiting for the STIP Office to provide this document once the BOT approves the STIP.

Mr. Massey inquired about whether the funding table would be provided before the MTIP is presented to the TAC. He emphasized the importance of having this information available in order to recommend for approval. Mr. Adams confirmed that the BOT was scheduled to approve the STIP on July 9th, and that the draft would be updated and provided to the TCC members. Additionally, the draft would be reposted on the JUMPO website for public comment. Ms. Kutz confirmed that once the summary table was provided, staff would resend an updated MTIP draft to the TCC Members.

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any other questions regarding the draft 2026-2035 MTIP; none were received. He then requested a motion to recommend adoption of the draft. Mr. King made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Whitehead. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Post-Census Functional Classification Update

Mr. Adams provided a brief recap of the ongoing Functional Classification (FC) update process, which is being conducted in coordination with NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD) in the FHWA Post Census review. He explained that MPO staff have been working closely with TPD to review roadway classifications within the MPO area and evaluate whether specific segments should be reclassified. Functional Classification determines how roads are categorized based on the type of service they provide. These classifications influence design standards, such as lane width and speed limits, and can also affect funding eligibility for roadway preservation and improvement projects.

Mr. Adams noted that 17 road segments have been identified for proposed updates. Several segments are recommended for an upgrade in classification, based on increased traffic capacity and to better support prioritization efforts along major regional corridors. These include Gum Branch Road, Western Boulevard, Ramsey Road, Huff Drive, Old Folkstone Road, Queens Creek Road, Sound Road, and Hammocks Beach Road. On the other hand, some segments are recommended for a downgrade in classification due to a significant change in function and reduced traffic volumes. These include Ellis Boulevard and a section of Chaney Avenue.

Lastly, he noted that TPD will submit all MPO and RPO board-approved FC updates to FHWA by early November, with federal review and final approval anticipated in early 2026. He

emphasized that there is still time to adjust if the TAC feels that any of the proposed changes are not appropriate. Members briefly discussed the proposed changes and viewed several of the identified segments on NCDOT's FC Map webpage.

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any questions regarding the draft list of FC segments; none were received. He then requested a motion to recommend the draft list. Mr. King made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Whitehead. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. Prioritization 8 Project Recommendations

Mr. Adams began by reviewing the P8 Work Program which follows NCDOT's prioritization schedule. He then noted that the changes for the P8 cycle include a 30% reduction in the total number of projects that can be submitted, limiting the MPO to 13 projects per mode. The P8 subcommittee is recommending that two carryover projects move forward to the scoring phase without modifications, as they have sibling projects currently programmed in the STIP. Two other carryovers will be swapped out for highway project allotments in the holding tank. As a result, the total number of highway project submittals will increase to 15.

He then presented the 27 highway projects currently in the holding tank and provided a brief overview of each, highlighting those recommended by the P8 Subcommittee for advancement. On the first page of the project list, the following were identified as some of the highest-scoring statewide projects from P7 providing intersection improvements and continue to be high priorities for Jacksonville and Onslow County: H170604, H184405, H191478, and H150827. In addition, the following projects were recommended for consideration by the subcommittee: H191492, H230531, H230533, & H191588. These recommendations reflect ongoing local and regional priorities, as well as scoring metrics from prior cycles. During the review, Ms. Kutz noted project H171392, as having been recently constructed via an NCDOT maintenance project. As a result, this project is now considered to be cancelled.

Mr. Adams then reviewed the second page of the holding tanks list, where five projects were recommended. Among them, H230404, H090911, H170491, and H140105 propose widening or signalized RCI (Reduced Conflict Intersection) upgrades that would benefit the communities of Holly Ridge, Swansboro, and Onslow County. Additionally, one new project was introduced as the third leg of the planned upgrades to Gum Branch Road. This segment is currently being evaluated as part of an ongoing feasibility study by NCDOT. If advanced, it would allow for a revision to the middle portion of the corridor, adjusting the segment's endpoint and reducing the overall project scope to a smaller, more manageable length. Lastly, one additional highway project, previously submitted by Division 3 during P7, was identified. This project involves the realignment of Union Chapel Church Road and the installation of an offset-T intersection at US 258. It was noted that this project would be recommended by the subcommittee, contingent upon Division 3 selecting project H230739 as one of their submittals. H230739 proposes a critical intersection upgrade at Gregory Fork Road and NC 53 (Burgaw Highway).

Mr. Kutz then informed members that the subcommittee recommended moving forward with all 13 bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as all five aviation projects. Following this, Mr. Sprunger raised a question regarding the timing of submitting A192048, suggesting it might be advisable to delay its submission until the runway extension project is completed. Mr. Massey noted that although the timing may seem off, the prioritization process spans several years,

allowing projects to be programmed with completion dates still several years out. Ms. Cox added that, once selected, projects may be eligible for funding within the first five years of the STIP. She noted that if the project is selected, NCDOT would assist in properly coordinating its schedule with other ongoing projects. Mr. Sprunger also asked about changing specific improvement types that did not appear to identify certain projects like roadway improvements. In response, Mr. Adams explained that some improvement types had been reclassified under P8 into different categories, and that staff would review and confirm the accuracy of these classifications prior to submission.

Mr. Hansen then confirmed with the TCC members that the subcommittee had recommended 15 highway projects with one alternate if the Division chose to add Gregory Forks as one of their project submittals. He also confirmed that all 13 bicycle and pedestrian projects and all 5 aviation projects discussed during the meeting are recommended for submission.

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any questions regarding the recommended projects for P8; none were received. He then requested a motion to recommend the projects to the TAC. Mr. Whitehead made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ferruci. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports/Comments

IX. Report from MPO Secretary

Ms. Kutz provided status updates on several ongoing projects, including the completion of the right-turn lane from Rhodestown Road onto NC-258. Although this project was previously submitted for prioritization, it was successfully completed using maintenance funds, making it a notable off-cycle improvement. Project U-5789 is scheduled to be let in September and includes intersection improvements at Western Boulevard with Jacksonville Parkway, Gateway North, and Gateway South. This project will enhance intersection capacity and provide new pavement along Gateway.

Ms. Kutz also noted that several pedestrian improvement projects are moving forward. Improvements at Western Boulevard and Carolina Forest Boulevard are being funded through the FTA and are expected to begin soon. At the intersection of Western Boulevard and Circuit Lane, a joint project with the Division is underway. The Division has reconstructed the signal using maintenance funds, while the City is funding concrete work, pedestrian push buttons, and associated infrastructure. Lastly, design work is progressing on the Gum Branch sidewalk project, which is currently at the 30% design stage and is being funded through the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP).

X. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox began by noting project, U-6065, which was accelerated. The project development team was successful in getting this moved up in the calendar. This results in around four projects which will be let this year. She then noted that for U-5791A, which is a sibling project, the project manager is discussing holding a public meeting, on September 23rd. Further information will be provided to JUMPO staff to share with the TCC members.

Ms. Cox then shared updates for projects currently under construction. She noted that Division 3 had recently presented it to the TAC and highlighted the number of highway safety projects

underway. Many of these initiatives are the result of collaborative efforts with Stephanie and JUMPO staff for actively identifying small-scale opportunities. While several of these projects are in early stages (some shown as only 10% complete), Ms. Cox emphasized that this status reflects the beginning of construction activity, demonstrates that work is underway, and estimated completion dates are based on existing contracts. She also clarified that safety projects differ from STIP projects. As such, they may not have TIP IDs, but once funding is programmed, those TIP IDs will be assigned.

Lastly, she provided an overview of ongoing maintenance and resurfacing projects. She explained that these efforts fall under a 5-year maintenance program, which is structured with open-window contracts. These contracts allow partnering firms' flexibility in scheduling and coordinating their crews to complete work across the region within the program's timeframe. Ms. Cox also directed members to visit the NCGOING Portal webpage, which features an interactive map displaying the current active projects throughout the JUMPO planning area.

XI. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Mr. Lee began by thanking the TCC for reviewing and approving the 17 proposed Functional Classification (FC) segments. He explained that once TAC approves the segment recommendations, he would coordinate with JUMPO staff, and the TPD FC Coordinator on finalizing the update. It is TPDs goal to deliver the finalized FC recommendations to FHWA by November 7.

XII. Report from FHWA Field Officer

Mr. Marley was not in attendance at the meeting; therefore, no report was provided.

XIII. Questions, Closing Comments

Mr. Hansen asked if there were any additional questions or comments not addressed during the meeting. Ms. Kutz announced that during the TCC meeting, JUMPO staff had received the 2026-2035 Funding Summary from the STIP office. Furthermore, she confirmed that staff would provide an updated draft to TCC members later in the day.

Chairman Warden thanked all attendees for their participation, both in person and virtually, and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Whitehead made the motion, and Mr. Ferruci seconded it. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next TCC meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025.