



JACKSONVILLE URBAN AREA  
**JUMPO**  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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## **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 9, 2025  
Jacksonville Station, Onslow Room  
1300 N Marine Blvd  
Jacksonville, NC 28540**

**Present, In Person:** Mr. Bob Warden (Chairman), Paul Buchanan (Vice-Chairman), Ms. Cindy Edwards, Mr. Royce Bennett, Mr. Ron Massey, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Mr. Danny Ferucci, Mr. Trevor Carroll, Ms. Michelle Howes, Mr. Eric Ritzel, Mr. Stephen Adams, Mr. Chris Coursey, Mr. Alpesh Patel, Ms. Katy Warner

**Present, Remote:** Ms. Kirsten Spirakis, Mr. Wongoo Lee, Lt. Dale Silance

### **Call to Order**

The TAC Meeting was called to order at 2:31pm 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. Mr. Bennett made a motion; Ms. Edwards 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 August 27, 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. Approval of 2026-2035 MTIP Amendment 1**

Mr. Adams began by informing members that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has granted the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) permission to adopt amendments to both the 2024–2033 and 2026–2035 State Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs) until formal federal approval of the 2026–2035 STIP, which is anticipated in

the fall of 2025. He noted that additional language has been incorporated into amendments and resolutions to acknowledge the dual applicability of these actions to both the current and forthcoming STIP documents.

Mr. Adams then provided a summary of Amendment 1, which reflects the project modifications outlined in NCDOT's Item N report for the period of September through October. The amendment includes updates to project funding allocations and schedule adjustments for various projects across the state as well as within the Jacksonville Urban Area. He briefly reviewed the statewide projects before highlighting two projects within the MPO area, HS-2403AA and HS-2403T, both of which have experienced schedule delays. Mr. Adams also noted that during review of the 2026-2035 MTIP, which was adopted by the TAC in August, there were 26 projects associated with the MPO that were not included in the adopted document. As a result, these projects are being incorporated into Amendment 1 to ensure consistency and concurrence with the STIP.

Chairman Warden asked if there were any questions on Amendment 1, 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. Reapproval of 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 9 & 10**

Mr. Adams explained that the two previously approved amendments from the 2024–2033 MTIP also now include the additional language acknowledging FHWA's allowance for dual applicability. To ensure consistency across all MPO documentation, these amendments are being brought back before the TAC for reapproval. He noted that no other changes have been made to the amendments, and that the reapproved amendments will be forwarded to the STIP Office upon adoption.

Chairman Warden asked if there were any questions on reapproval of the amendments, 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.

## **Discussion Items**

## **VII. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Update**

Mr. Patel introduced himself and thanked the TAC for the opportunity to present the Transportation Planning Division's (TPD) vision and direction. He provided a brief overview of his career with NCDOT and outlined the TPD's goals and initiatives, emphasizing customer-focused service and stronger collaboration with North Carolina MPOs. He also shared new engagement strategies to support more effective TAC member participation in local meetings and presented a roadmap for upcoming initiatives.

Mr. Patel then reviewed the TPD's responsibilities related to comprehensive transportation plans (CTPs) and metropolitan transportation plans (MTPs), highlighting the importance of community input and federal fiscal constraints. He discussed the expansion of travel demand modeling within rural planning organizations to improve scenario planning, especially in response to land-use changes. He also noted the release of the TPD's five-year strategic plan and the launch of a new NC Connect landing page featuring an interactive CTP status map. Additionally, he

presented a new traffic forecast dashboard and CTP interactive map designed to improve resource accessibility and collaboration with local officials.

Mr. Patel and TAC members discussed various ongoing initiatives and potential future studies focused on resiliency, identifying opportunities where TPD's involvement and the planning team could provide valuable support. Topics included the importance of direct interstate access within the MPO area for Camp Lejeune and the need to enhance major corridors. Mr. Patel concluded by addressing member questions and expressed TPD's interest in participating as a stakeholder in future planning efforts.

## **Reports/Comments**

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

Mr. Adams reported updates on several ongoing projects. He noted that NCDOT Project U-5789 is scheduled to let on October 27, with construction planned as nightwork only to minimize impacts on daytime traffic. He also shared that the Gum Branch Road Sidewalks project is finalizing its 60% design plans, and a utility coordination meeting with local utility providers is scheduled for next month.

Mr. Coursey provided additional project updates, including progress on the East Thompson Street project. He reported that all underground work has been completed except for the relocation of the remaining fiber line. Curb and gutter installation are complete, and the signal contractor is expected to begin work within the next few weeks. Mr. Coursey also noted continued progress at the Western Boulevard and Carolina Forest Boulevard intersection, including the need for additional asphalt patching and modification of the island on Carolina Forest Boulevard to support the pedestrian crosswalk. Once these tasks are finished, the signal contractor will proceed with signal modifications and installation of the pedestrian push-button system.

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

Mr. Ritzel began by reminding the TAC that NCDOT is hosting a public hearing for Project U-5791A on October 28<sup>th</sup>, at Jacksonville Commons Elementary. He then provided an update on current construction projects noting that a recently let project for the NC 53 intersection came in under the \$8.5 million estimate. He also reported that several highway safety projects are underway, which will include pedestrian accommodations, and that a bridge joint replacement project has been let, with additional updates anticipated as information becomes available.

Mr. Ritzel also provided updates on maintenance and resurfacing activities along US-258, NC-53, US-17, NC-24, and various secondary routes. Project DC-00442, which includes portions of NC-53 and several related routes, has been closed out and is currently in final review. The most recent project to be let involves a section of NC-24 and three secondary routes, and work is continuing there. He concluded by noting that the maintenance map remains available as a reference tool, offering projected maintenance activities, associated timelines, and a QR code for quick mobile access.

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

Mr. Lee provided several updates to the TPD newsletter. He noted that Mr. Patel highlighted the new Resiliency Guidance issued by TPD, designed to assist partners in integrating resilience assessments into Comprehensive Transportation Plans. He encouraged members to visit the website link in the newsletter for additional information and updates to the guidance. Additionally, Mr. Lee informed members that TPD will provide MPO, IPO planning fund allocations for fiscal year 2027 by November 1<sup>st</sup>. First quarter invoices and work summaries will be due on November 14.

**XI. Report from FHWA Field Officer**

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

**XII. Questions, Closing Comments**

Chairman Warden asked attendees if there were any additional questions or comments; none were received. He then announced that this would be his final TAC meeting as Chairman, as he is retiring from the City Council. He thanked members for their outstanding working relationships and collaborative efforts throughout his tenure in improving JUMPO's roadways. Mr. Bennett also announced that this would be his last TAC meeting as an Onslow County Commissioner representative. He expressed his gratitude for members' support and stated that Commissioner Tim Foster will serve as his replacement.

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 3:45pm.