

### Introduction

Transportation is a vital component of everyday life, playing a critical role in the interaction between a region's social environment and built infrastructure. The Jacksonville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (JUMPO) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) outlines the regional strategy to create a safer, more accessible transportation system for people of all ages and abilities. The JUMPO 2050 MTP reflects the current mobility needs of residents and visitors while also considering future needs anticipated throughout the greater region.

### Background

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a federally designated agency responsible for regional transportation planning in urban areas with populations of at least 50,000. Each MPO must develop a long-range metropolitan transportation plan to guide the transportation vision for the greater region. The MTP is one of the primary responsibilities of the MPO. The MTP is updated every five years and considers all modes of transportation.

JUMPO serves as the regional transportation planning agency for the City of Jacksonville, the Towns of Richlands, Swansboro, Holly Ridge, and North Topsail Beach, as well as Onslow County. The planning area also includes Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCB Camp Lejeune) and the Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCAS New River). JUMPO is responsible for facilitating regional and cooperative planning processes that program federal transportation funding to improve driving, biking, walking, and taking public transportation.

### Federal Transportation Requirements

The JUMPO 2050 MTP will guide transportation investments by directing federal, state, and local dollars toward community-backed transportation recommendations. The JUMPO 2050 MTP is governed by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), otherwise known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This federal transportation legislation carries forward the federal planning factors (23 CFR 450.306(b)) established by previous legislation, including the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) and the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP- 21). The JUMPO 2050 MTP addresses the following federal planning factors:

- Support the **economic vitality** of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Increase the **safety** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase the **security** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase **accessibility and mobility** of people and freight.
- Protect and enhance the **environment**, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote transportation consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth, housing, and economic development patterns.
- Enhance the integration and **connectivity** of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promote efficient **system management and operations**.
- Emphasize the **preservation** of the existing transportation system.
- Improve the **resiliency and reliability** of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- Enhance **travel and tourism**.

In addition to these federal planning factors, the IIJA introduced several areas of emphasis to reinforce within the MTP:

- Improve the environmental resiliency of the transportation system.
- Increase the use of clean energy within the transportation system.
- Consider strategies and projects for reducing carbon emissions.
- Progress equity in transportation planning by not disproportionately burdening historically marginalized groups and communities.
- Promote the concept and implementation of complete streets.
- Prioritize coordination with the Department of Defense and the federal Strategic Highway Network.
- Coordinate with Federal Land Management Agencies.
- Continue to elevate the role of public involvement in the planning process.
- Consider the link between the role of transportation and housing.
- Support planning and environmental linkages.
- Integrate data in the transportation planning process.

## Planning Process

The JUMPO 2050 MTP is the result of a collaborative planning effort between a variety of stakeholders to create a set of multimodal projects that reflect the community’s vision. The planning process required thoughtful coordination between member jurisdictions, stakeholders, JUMPO staff, and the public to create a plan that reflects the values of the planning area.

### 01. Existing Conditions

The planning process began with a review of demographic and socioeconomic conditions, previous and current planning efforts, and an inventory of the current transportation network. A set of guiding statements was crafted and refined to help guide and inform the development of multimodal recommendations. More information can be found in Chapter 2.

### 02. Recommendations

The multimodal recommendations were created to address the current and future needs identified through the existing conditions analysis. The holistic recommendations consider the mobility of drivers, walkers, bikers, public transportation drivers, and freight drivers. More information can be found in Chapters 3 – 7.

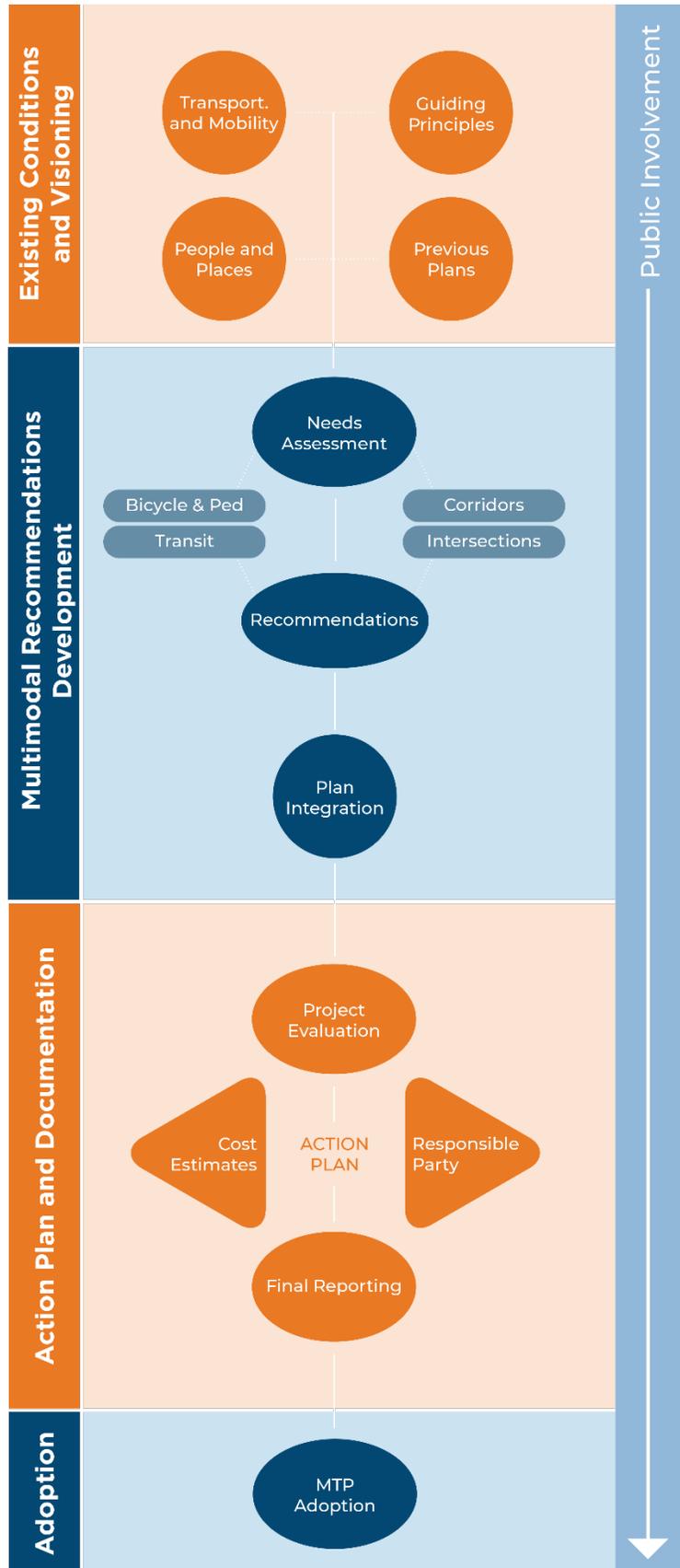
### 03. Action Plan

Once the recommendations were developed, a custom prioritization process was crafted to inform the financially constrained project list. More information about the prioritization process can be found in Chapters 3 and 8.

### 04. Adoption

Figure 1 outlines the planning process.

**FIGURE 1: PLANNING PROCESS**



# Guiding Statements

A clear set of guiding statements was created to reflect the region’s interests. The guiding statements express the values of the greater region established by the JUMPO 2050 MTP steering committee. These guiding statements are supplemented by the goals listed below. These guiding statements were further vetted against the federal planning factors and performance measures as defined by the FAST Act and carried forward in IIJA. The set of guiding statements creates the framework for the planning process.



## Congestion Reduction

Create a more efficient transportation system through improved connectivity, capacity, and traffic operations.

- Minimize vehicle miles traveled through enhanced integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- Promote reductions in recurring congestion through transportation capacity, access management, and transportation and land use policy improvements.
- Promote efficient system management and traffic operations, and support measures that reduce single-occupant vehicle travel during peak demand hours.



## Economic Vitality

Support local and regional growth through a transportation network that serves inter- and intra-regional accessibility and mobility needs for people and goods.

- Identify multimodal transportation recommendations that enable global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and freight, both civilian and military-related, within the region and other areas.
- Leverage community gateways and aesthetics to create an atmosphere that fosters economic investment.



## Environmental Sustainability and Resiliency

Preserve region’s social and environmental character through an integrated transportation and land use strategy that addresses resiliency and sustainable transportation solutions.

- Minimize the transportation system’s direct and indirect environmental impacts while planning and prioritizing multimodal transportation recommendations.
- Protect and enhance the natural and social environment using context-sensitive transportation strategies and policies.
- Promote consistency between transportation improvements, land use decisions—especially housing—and economic development patterns.



## Multimodal Integration

Provide an integrated transportation network that offers multimodal transportation choices to people of all ages and abilities.

- Expand and maintain a connected bicycle, pedestrian, and transit network that provides access to homes, activity centers, employment opportunities, and healthcare facilities.
- Provide desirable and user-friendly transportation options for all user groups regardless of socioeconomic status or ability level.
- Support a fully integrated multimodal network that advances the concept of complete streets.



## Safety and Security

Promote a safer and more secure transportation network through crash reduction, enhanced reliability and predictability, and improved emergency response coordination.

- Improve the safety of the transportation system for all user groups regardless of socioeconomic status or ability level.
- Improve safety and security by enhancing the evacuation route network for natural events and protecting access to military assets.
- Increase the reliability, redundancy, predictability, and efficiency of the transportation experience through system improvements and enhanced communication.



## System Preservation

Foster a sustainable and maintainable system that addresses the region's current and long-term needs will extend the life of the transportation system.

- Limit expansion of the roadway network to the most necessary projects that best address identified issues.
- Maintain the transportation network by identifying and prioritizing infrastructure preservation and rehabilitation projects such as pavement management and traffic signal system upgrades.
- Promote the optimal management of existing infrastructure and transportation facilities.

### Federal Planning Factors

The JUMPO 2050 MTP guiding statements are intentionally aligned with the federal planning priorities. Table 1 below shows how the guiding statement addresses the federal planning factors.

**TABLE 1: JUMPO 2050 MTP GUIDING STATEMENTS & FEDERAL PLANNING PRIORITIES**

	2050 MTP GUIDING STATEMENTS					
						
Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.	✓	✓				
Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.				✓	✓	
Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.					✓	✓
Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and freight.	✓	✓		✓		
Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation and state and local planned growth, housing, and economic development patterns.			✓			
Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.				✓		
Promote efficient system management and operations.	✓				✓	✓
Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.						✓
Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.			✓			✓
Enhance travel and tourism.		✓		✓		

# Community Outreach

Community outreach is a crucial component of a successful transportation planning process. A successful engagement strategy involves identifying a unique blend of community members and leaders who can provide meaningful input throughout the process. A coordinated and strategic approach can inform a holistic understanding of the community’s transportation needs and desires. The following section outlines the strategies that were used to collect community outreach.

## Steering Committee

The steering committee was composed of fourteen representatives from member jurisdictions, the US Marine Corps, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The roles and responsibilities of the steering committee consisted of:

- Establishing the plan’s guiding statements
- Providing direction for the development of the MTP
- Sharing local knowledge of transportation needs and challenges
- Supporting and sharing community engagement opportunities
- Recommending the multimodal projects for prioritization
- Reviewing the final MTP

The topics and schedule of the steering committee are outlined in Table 2 below.

**TABLE 2: JUMPO 2050 MTP STEERING COMMITTEES**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Steering Committee #1	July 20, 2023	MTP Background Public Engagement Plan Previous Planning Efforts Guiding Principles
Steering Committee #2	October 31, 2024	Existing Conditions Recommendations Development
Steering Committee #3	November 26, 2024	Prioritization Criteria Financial Assumptions
Steering Committee #4	December 20, 2024	Financial Plan Performance Measures

## Technical Coordinating Committee

The fourteen-voting-member Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) comprises engineers, planners, and local representatives. It provides guidance and reviews the MPO’s transportation planning products. The TCC advises the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on actions. On February 13, 2025, the TCC recommended the JUMPO 2050 MTP for adoption.

## Transportation Advisory Committee

The TAC is the nine-member policy board of the MPO. The TAC is composed of representatives from area municipalities, Onslow County, and NCDOT. The TAC is the decision-making body of the MPO and will vote to adopt the final MTP on March 13, 2025.

## Stakeholder Interviews

The project team leveraged stakeholder interviews to gather information with city and county staff, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, public transportation representatives, airport representatives, and other special interest groups. Two small group, discussion-style stakeholder interview sessions were held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, and Thursday, February 29, 2024. Both stakeholder interviews helped identify issues and needs of the current transportation system relative to each organization's or group's interests. A full summary of each meeting is provided in the Appendix.

## In-Person Engagement

A successful engagement strategy identifies both in-person and online engagement opportunities. Traditionally, a challenge of public engagement is reaching a broad cross-section of the community. By engaging the community in various ways, the MPO can reach people who might otherwise not participate in the planning process. There were two in-person events held as part of the JUMPO 2050 MTP.

On October 24, 2023, a community event was held at the Jacksonville Station from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The event was organized around a variety of interactive stations. The information collected at the event helped inform the understanding of the existing conditions and draft recommendations. The event also included other concurrent planning efforts that the MPO was leading.

On December 18, 2024, a regional pop-up event was held at the Jacksonville Station from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The input from the pop-up event was used to validate and verify the draft multimodal recommendations.

## Online Engagement

Online engagement is a mechanism for collecting input anytime, across a large, diverse geographic area. An online survey provides space to convey more comprehensive information while asking thoughtful questions through mapping activities or priority questions. The online survey, in adherence with the MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), was available from December 11, 2024, to January 10, 2025. It focused on vetting the plan's multimodal recommendations.

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<b>33</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>Data Points</b>	<b>Written Comments</b>

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