



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2025
Jacksonville Station, Onslow Room
1300 N Marine Blvd
Jacksonville, NC 28540

Present, In Person: Mr. Paul Buchanan (Vice-Chairman), Ms. Cindy Edwards, Mr. Tim Foster, Ms. Mickey Smith, Mr. Bill Justice, Mr. Phil Misciagno, Ms. Adrienne Cox, Mr. Eric Ritzel, Mr. Anthony Prinz, Ms. Stephanie Kutz, Mr. Stephen Adams, Mr. Chris Coursey

Present, Remote: Mr. Mitch Sprunger, Mr. Behshad Norowzi, Mr. Maksym Bezruchko, Mr. Ron Massey

Call to Order

The TAC Meeting was called to order at 2:34pm at Jacksonville Station.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chairman Buchanan greeted everyone and expressed his gratitude for their attendance, both those who were present and those who joined virtually. Ms. Mickey Smith thanked the members for the opportunity to join the TAC as representative of Jacksonville City Council.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Ms. Edwards made a motion; Mr. Foster 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 October 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Edwards made a motion, and Mr. Foster seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Approval of 2026 TAC & TCC Meeting Schedule

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked if there were any comments or concerns regarding the proposed meeting schedule and times. Mr. Foster agreed that 2:30 p.m. is a suitable time for the meeting.

Mr. Justice noted a potential conflict with the TAC meeting and another County meeting. Mr. Prinz stated he would work on rescheduling the other meeting to avoid a conflict with the TAC. Ms. Edwards made a motion, and Mr. Foster seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Adoption of 2026 Safety Performance Targets

Ms. Kutz opened by explaining that, every calendar year federal law requires the JUMPO to adopt safety performance targets. Due to limited resources, JUMPO has historically elected to adopt NCDOT's statewide safety targets. The most recent Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2024) established a goal in reducing the number of fatalities and serious injuries by 50% by 2035, and moving towards zero by 2050. Based on FHWA's review, North Carolina has not met or made significant progress toward achieving its safety targets.

JUMPO's safety target numbers showed significant progress with respect to the State's targets for serious injuries and injury rate, however, did not meet targets related to the number of fatalities and non-motorized fatalities or serious injuries. Ms. Kutz emphasized that JUMPO has been actively working to improve pedestrian facilities and safety on area roads and will continue to prioritize these efforts wherever possible. She concluded that the proposed safety targets for 2026 will follow and align with those established by NCDOT.

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked if there were any questions regarding the safety targets. Mr. Foster asked how the percentage goals were generally determined. Mr. Prinz noted that targets sometimes seem historically unrealistic, the percentages are estimated based on the long-term goal of achieving zero fatalities by 2050. Ms. Cox added that in some cases its also based on funding opportunities. Vice-Chairman Buchanan then called for a motion to adopt safety targets. Ms. Edwards made a motion, and Mr. Foster seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Adoption of 2024-2033 MTIP Amendment 11 & 2026-2035 MTIP Amendment 2

Mr. Adams began by reminding 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 MTIP (Amendment 11) and 2026–2035 MTIP (Amendment 2) until formal federal approval of the 2026–2035 STIP, anticipated in fall 2025. He noted that additional language has been incorporated into the amendment resolutions to acknowledge the applicability of these actions to both the current and forthcoming STIPs.

Mr. Adams then provided a summary of the amendments, reflecting the project modifications outlined in NCDOT's Item N report for November and December. The amendment includes updates to project funding allocations for various projects across statewide as well as within the Jacksonville Urban Area. He briefly reviewed the statewide projects before highlighting four projects within the MPO area: HS-2403AH, HS-2403F, HS-2403H and HS-2403I. Construction has been delayed for HS-2403AH, HS-2403F, & HS-2403H to FY2026. He also noted that Right-of-Way and Utilities estimates have been removed from HS-2403I. It was later clarified by the NCDOT project manager that these contingencies were removed after the updated signal plans determined there would be no impacts to right-of-way or utilities at the intersection.

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

VIII. Adoption of P8 Local Input Point Methodology

Mr. Adams explained that the local input methodology outlines the process by which the JUMPO will assign points to Regional Impact and Division Needs projects for P8 after scores are released. These locally assigned points will assist in positioning project priorities within the MPO area. He noted that, due to a reduction in project submittals for this prioritization cycle, there was no benefit to modifying the previously used methodology, and the existing core methodology will remain in place. The primary updates to the draft consist of revisions to the P8 schedule dates, and the referenced STIP number, as well as overall improvements to readability. The P8 Subcommittee is scheduled to meet in June to develop its point recommendations, which will be presented to the TAC for consideration in August 2026.

Mr. Prinz added that while JUMPO is required to have a methodology for assigning local input points, the TAC ultimately retains the authority to determine which projects receive those points. He noted that a purely quantitative methodology may not fully reflect the best interests of the planning area, and it is the TAC's responsibility to determine how points are appropriately assigned within the project categories. This ability to focus and align local priorities helps ensure that JUMPO's projects are more competitive.

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked if there were any questions on the methodology, none were received. He then called for a motion to adopt the amendments. Ms. Edwards made a motion, and Mr. Foster seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

IX. Agenda Amendment: Approval of a Master Sidewalk Plan

Ms. Kutz requested to amend the agenda to include a discussion item regarding a master sidewalk plan for the MPO area. Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked for consensus to amend the agenda and consensus was reached.

Ms. Kutz explained that, following discussions between JUMPO staff and Mr. Prinz regarding study areas in need of updates, staff would like to utilize planning funds to conduct an update to the MPO area's master sidewalk plan. She noted that the most recent sidewalk plan was completed in 2018 and that, while many of the recommended improvements have since been implemented, several needs remain, and conditions have changed. The members briefly discussed the benefits of updating the master sidewalk plan. Ms. Kutz noted that, in response to the recent NCDOT call for TAP funding projects, staff provided preliminary cost estimates and supporting documentation to the municipalities. She explained that having an updated master sidewalk plan would assist in identifying feasible project locations and evaluating potential projects. If approved, JUMPO would issue a request for qualifications to hire a consultant to prepare the plan.

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked if there were any objections or comments regarding moving forward with updating the master sidewalk plan, none were received. He then asked for consensus to proceed, and consensus was reached.

Reports/Comments

X. Report from the MPO Secretary

Ms. Kutz reported on several ongoing projects. The East Thompson realignment improvement is nearing completion, with asphalt installation scheduled for next week, weather permitting. She also noted that pavement markings on Western Blvd and Circuit Lane still need to be added to fully complete the project. Additionally, the NCDOT Project U-5728 right-of-way appraisals and negotiations for portions affecting the Jacksonville Station frontage have been completed. This project is scheduled to be presented to the City Council in January 2026.

Mr. Adams provided additional project updates, including the Gum Branch Road Sidewalks project, which is currently finalizing its 75% design plans. He noted that a recent meeting with utility providers indicated that no construction conflicts are anticipated. Mr. Adams also reported that the FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is currently being drafted and will be presented for adoption at the next TAC meeting. Additionally, he stated that the Town of Richlands will be appointing a new alderman to serve as its representative on the TAC following the retirement of Ms. Kandy Koonce.

Vice-Chairman Buchanan inquired about the HAWK pedestrian signal that was studied some time ago at the bridge in Swansboro. He also noted multiple accidents occurring at the Food Lion access along NC 24. Ms. Kutz responded that traffic counts had been conducted at the bridge intersection and that she would follow up with Division Traffic regarding the findings. Additionally, Mr. Justice mentioned several other areas of concern in Swansboro such as Queens Creek Road. Staff acknowledged these concerns and highlighted the highway safety projects scheduled in the 2026 STIP that are expected to address improvements at some of these locations.

XI. Report from NCDOT Division 3

Ms. Cox provided an update on current construction projects, noting that Project U-5789, the NC 53 (Western Blvd) and Jacksonville Parkway intersection improvement, is scheduled to begin in the second week of January. She also reported that several highway safety projects, including pedestrian safety accommodations, are in still development and noted their let dates in 2026.

Mr. Ritzel provided updates on the express designs for prioritization projects, noting that meetings have been held with JUMPO staff, Division 3, and the Feasibility Studies Unit. He added that as designs are completed, further coordination with partners will help select alternatives aligned with the MPOs. He then directed members to the NCDOT Going Portal for updates on projects in design, maintenance, and construction.

Mr. Misciagno asked about the status of the signal installation at Drag Strip Road in Holly Ridge. Mr. Prinz confirmed that the design had been completed, however, funding for construction is pending approval of the State Budget. Mr. Foster referenced the recent public meeting on the Haws Run Road resurfacing and noted public concerns about loose rocks. He stated that Brad

Haste, NCDOT Resident Engineer, addressed those concerns. Ms. Kutz noted that she attended the public meeting and briefly explained the chip-seal maintenance process, including how loose aggregate is addressed during follow-up maintenance, which occurred the following day. Members agreed that additional road work signage would be beneficial. Ms. Edwards noted that she received an email regarding drainage issues near Horseshoe Bend and Rocky Run Road. Staff acknowledged the concern and stated it would be forwarded to the County Maintenance Engineer for review.

XII. Report from NCDOT Transportation Planning Division

Mr. Norowzi announced that the TPD has completed the statewide Functional Classification review, with FHWA approving many updates, including those submitted for the Jacksonville urban area. This update ensures that recent roadway extensions and improvements are accurately reflected in the FHWA classification system. He also noted that TPD will initiate the next minor functional classification update cycle in 2026. Additionally, Mr. Norowzi announced that Mr. Bill Marley, the MPO area FHWA field officer, has retired and is no longer with FHWA.

Mr. Bezruchko introduced himself and encouraged members to visit the website link in the newsletter for additional information and updates to the guidance.

XIII. Report from FHWA Field Officer

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

XIV. Questions, Closing Comments

Vice-Chairman Buchanan asked members if there were any additional questions or comments; none were received. He thanked all attendees, both in person and virtually, and expressed anticipation for the upcoming year with new TAC members, including Ms. Smith. He then asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Foster made the motion, and Ms. Edwards seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:41pm.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2026.