

TAC MEETING MINUTES

November 18th, 2024

Members In Attendance at This TAC Meeting:

Rocky Mount – Reuben Blackwell, Richard Joyner, Sandy Roberson (Chair)
Edgecombe County – Evelyn Powell
Nash County – Robbie Davis
Nashville – Xavian Harrison
Sharpsburg – Linda Virgil
NCBOT – Melvin Mitchell

Members Not in Attendance at This TAC Meeting:

Others Present at This TAC Meeting:

Brad Kerr, CRM; Jordan Reedy, RMUAMPO/CRM; Steve Yetman, CRM; Ramon Muckle, CRM; Linda Rideout, RMUAMPO/CRM; Bill Marley; Keisha Smith; Kim Moore

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Roberson called the meeting of the TAC to order at 4:30pm and welcomed those online to the virtual TEAMS meeting. Members present introduced themselves followed by those present on the TEAMS meeting. Mr. Roberson established that a quorum was met.

2. Adoption of Previous TAC Meeting Minutes

Mayor Roberson brought this item to the floor and pointed out that previous minutes are included at the end of the current agenda. Mayor Roberson asked members if there were any questions or comments about the previous minutes. None were heard.

Robbie Davis made the first motion to approve the adoption of this item, and Evelyn Powell voiced the second. The previous minutes were unanimously adopted.

3. Current TAC Meeting Agenda Action Items

3.1 Item N STIP Amendments

Adopt NCDOT Item N STIP Amendments for August, September, October and November, 2024

Mayor Roberson brought this item to the floor for discussion. Jordan Reedy continued the discussion of the **Item N** of the agenda, located on **page 13**, which addressed the adoption of NCDOT **Item N STIP Amendments** for August, September, October, and November 2024.

It was noted that at the regularly scheduled monthly NC Board of Transportation (NCBOT) meetings, **Item N** serves as a standing agenda item for adopting changes to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). These changes are required to be adopted by the respective Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Rural Planning Organization (RPO). Jordan highlighted that amendments are typically proposed in one month and brought back for final review and adoption the following month. Mr. Reedy continued, that the NCBOT committee has reviewed the STIP amendments from the August, September, October, and November 2024 for the Rocky Mount MPO. These amendments, which were attached to the meeting agenda, will be incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Mr. Reedy added some information about the projects in those Amendments. He stated that Project 5549 – is to delay construction from 2025 to 2026 to allow for more time for design and Right-of-Way (ROW). Project 5761 is for the Church St. Streetscaping project – where more money was needed due to cost estimates not being adequate during the Express Design stage of the project, and this amendment was to allow for the additional costs. Project EB 5984, which is the E. Raleigh Pedestrian Improvement project, was for ROW that was not included in the project originally.

Mr. Reedy continued, for project BO 2417, was to delay the project due to ROW and planning and design. Project 5546 was to delay the project from 2024 to 2025 for construction, adding that the project is almost ready to bid, but must be pushed out. Project 5761, Church St, is rescheduled from 2025 to 2026 to allow for streetscaping and sidewalks. Project 2004AA is for a pedestrian refuge island and improvements on Sunset at River Dr, pushing out the project from 2024 to 2026.

Mr. Blackwell asked to return to details on page 18 of the agenda. He asked if 2417 was for the Pedestrian Bridge over Main St. Mr. Reedy responded Yes. Mr. Blackwell also asked if a modification occurs, as shown on the right side of the page for the expenses – does that mean that all are on hold, allocated but not spent?

Brad Kerr responded that the municipal agreement was just approved. There is a deadline for the discretionary funding, they were able to get all of the money into the STIP, and anything over the match is pending the municipal agreement. This was to get supporting material to cover the gap in construction funding.

Mr. Blackwell added that he was just asking to make sure that the project is still planned to

happen. Brad Kerr said yes that they are working very hard to get it going. Jordan Reedy added that on page 21, they were seeking to move engineering to FY25, they have until September to allocate money and get a design firm on board in FY25.

Mayor Roberson asked if anyone had any questions. He then brought this to the members for vote. Mr. Blackwell made the first motion to approve this action item, and Xavien Harrison voiced the second. No objections were heard.

3.2 2025 TAC Meeting Schedule

Adopt the 2025 TAC Schedule

Mayor Roberson brought this action item to the floor for discussion. Following this, Jordan Reedy provided an overview of the proposed meeting schedule for the Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO TAC. He explained that the TAC meets four times a year, typically on the third Monday of February, May, September, and November.

Jordan then presented the draft meeting dates for 2024, which are as follows:

- February 18th (Tuesday, following Presidents Day)
- May 19th (Monday)
- September 15th (Monday)
- November 17th (Monday)

Mr. Davis made the first motion to approve this action item, and Evelyn Powell voiced the second. The action item was unanimously approved.

4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives

4.1 SS4A Grant Update – City of Rocky Mount

Mayor Roberson introduced the SS4A Grant Update for the City of Rocky Mount, after which Jordan Reedy provided details on the progress of the initiative. He shared that the City recently entered into an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration and will soon advertise a Request for Letters of Interest (RFLOI) to attract qualified bidders for the project. He informed members that this project is set to begin the bid process within the next few weeks. Jordan explained that the total grant amount is \$175,000, with the development of the plan expected to take approximately 24 months. He emphasized the City's strong focus on public engagement throughout the planning process and encouraged attendees to stay informed about opportunities for involvement for themselves and their constituents.

4.2 TAC Member Ethics Filing Reminder

Mayor Roberson introduced the topic, and Jordan Reedy provided additional details. Jordan informed the committee that all voting TAC members are required to file both an annual Real

Estate Disclosure Form and a Statement of Economic Interest Form with the NC Ethics Commission. He noted that the filing period opens on January 1, 2025, and that completing these forms is mandatory before the first anticipated TAC meeting on February 18, 2025.

During the discussion, Mr. Davis inquired about the filing due date, mentioning that he believed it was due on Tax Day in April. Jordan clarified that while the official filing deadline is in April, the TAC by-laws require these forms to be completed prior to the first meeting to ensure that all members are eligible to vote. Jordan also encouraged members to contact Linda Rideout at Linda.Rideout@RockyMountNC.gov for additional information or assistance with the filing process.

4.3 P7.0 Prioritization Update

Mayor Roberson introduced the update, and Jordan Reedy provided further details. Jordan informed the committee that, following the last TCC/TAC meetings, the MPO submitted the approved list of Local Input Points for both Divisional and Regional-level projects. He noted that the state is still in the process of scoring P7 projects and is expected to release a draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for the years 2026-2035 before the end of 2024.

Jordan added that there was not much to update at this time, as the NCDOT is facing significant funding constraints. James Salmons further commented that the region is currently at a deficit of approximately \$200 million, and he expressed hope that no projects will be removed from the plan as a result.

Mayor Sandy Roberson then asked if anyone had any questions. None were heard.

5. Information Items

5.1 STIP Project Status

Mayor Roberson introduced the update, and Jordan Reedy provided additional details on the progress of key transportation projects. Jordan stated that the U-5026 & R-5720 Sunset Avenue/I-95 Interchange and Eastern Avenue Widening Project (\$60.5M) is approximately 90% complete, with one roundabout remaining to be finished. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2025, with a revised overall completion date of 6/27/2025.

Regarding the U-5996 Old Carriage Road Widening Project (\$20.3M), Jordan noted that it is about 92% complete, with work that began on 7/12/2022 and an expected completion date of 4/30/2025. Kim Moore added that much of the project, specifically the section from Nash Community College to Regis Store Road, is finished, with only the lighting remaining due to delays from Duke Energy.

Kim also confirmed that the details for U-5026 & R-5720 provided by Jordan are accurate. She mentioned that she receives many questions about this project, particularly regarding when

access to I-95 will reopen. She explained that access is anticipated to be restored by the end of the year, with public access expected in early spring. Additionally, Kim shared that resurfacing work on US 64 is still ongoing, along with repairs to bridges on US 64 in Nash, Edgecombe, and Wilson Counties.

6. Other Business

6.1 Open Discussion for TAC Members and the public

Mayor Roberson opened the floor for any additional items of discussion for the TAC, asking members if they had anything to present. Robbie Davis brought up a previous conversation with Jordan Reedy regarding the feasibility of serving on two boards simultaneously. Jordan responded that it should not pose a problem for RPOs or MPOs and noted that Wayne Outlaw has been serving as an official alternate, although this arrangement is contingent on a commissioner's appointment.

Mr. Davis then announced that this would be his last meeting as a TAC member, as he is shifting his appointments. The group congratulated him and expressed their best wishes. Brad Kerr also mentioned that this meeting was likely his last as well, as he is retiring in December. The group once again offered congratulations and well-wishes. Mayor Roberson extended his gratitude to both Mr. Davis and Mr. Kerr, thanking them for their service and wishing them well in their future endeavors.

7. Announcements

7.1 Next TAC Meeting

It was announced that the next TAC meeting is scheduled to be held on February 18th at 4:30 PM. Members were encouraged to visit the MPO website at RMUAMPO.com for further details and updates.

8. Adjourn

8.1 The TAC meeting held on November 18, 2024 adjourned at 5:01pm.