



ROCKY MOUNT, NC

Rocky Mount Urban Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization



**Transportation Advisory
Committee**
Meeting Agenda



February 20, 2024
4:30 PM



A HYBRID, IN PERSON/VIRTUAL
TEAMS MEETING



AGENDA
ROCKY MOUNT URBAN AREA MPO
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE
February 20, 2023

Membership

Rocky Mount – Reuben Blackwell, Richard Joyner, Sandy Roberson

Edgecombe County – Evelyn Powell

Nash County – Robbie Davis

Nashville- Xavien Harrison

Sharpsburg – David Pride

NC Board of Transportation– Melvin Mitchell

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of 11/20/2023 TAC Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Action Items**
 - 3.1 Item N STIP Amendments
Recommended Action: Adoption by TAC

 - 3.2 P7.0 Local Input Points Methodology
Recommended Action: Adoption by TAC

 - 3.3 FY 25 PWP Budget
Recommended Action: Adoption by TAC
- 4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives**
 - 4.1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) Raleigh Blvd

 - 4.2 TAC Ethics Filing Requirements

 - 4.3 Term Expiration – TAC Members
- 5. Information Items**
 - 5.1 STIP Project Status
- 6. Other Business**
 - 6.1 Open discussion for all in attendance
- 7. Announcements**
 - 7.1 Next TAC Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2024 at 4:00pm
- 8. Adjourn**

2. Minutes

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD November 20, 2023

The Transportation Advisory Committee held an on-site and virtual TEAMS meeting on Monday, November 20, at 4:30 pm.

Members Present

Rocky Mount – Richard Joyner, Tom Harris (Alternate)
Edgecombe County – Evelyn Powell
Nash County – Robbie Davis
Nashville – Louise Hinton
Sharpsburg –
NC BOT – Melvin Mitchell

Members Absent

Sandy Roberson, David Pride, Reuben Blackwell

Others Present

Brad Kerr; Steve Yetman; Jordan Reedy; Linda Rideout; Carlos Moya (NCDOT); James Salmons (NCDOT); Todd Gardner (CRM), Keith Eason (NCDOT), Kim Moore (NCDOT), Andy Brown (NCDOT)

Welcome and Introductions

Robbie Davis called the meeting of the TAC to order at 4:30 pm and welcomed those in person and those online via TEAMS to the meeting. Mr. Davis invited the attendees to introduce themselves. Mr. Davis established that a quorum was met.

Minutes of the August 7, 2023 TAC Meeting

Mr. Davis discussed the minutes of the August 7, 2023 TAC meeting, which had been mailed to members with the current meeting agenda. He asked if anyone had any questions about the meeting/minutes. None were heard.

Louis Hinton made the motion to approve the minutes, and Evelyn Powell voiced the second. Mr. Davis asked if there were any objections. None were heard. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Action Items

3.1 Item 'N' STIP Amendments

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

Robbie Davis brought the action item to the attendees. Jordan Reedy explained that at the regularly scheduled monthly NC Board of Transportation meetings, Item N is a standing order of business to adopt changes to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Adopted changes need to also be adopted by the respective MPO and RPO. Typically, changes are proposed for one month and brought back for the final review and adoption the following month.

The STIP amendments from the August, September, And October 2023 NCBOT meetings for the Rocky Mount MPO were attached to the meeting agenda. This list of amendments can be found on pages 11-21 of the agenda.

Mr. Robbie Davis asked for a motion to adopt the Item N STIP Amendments. Tom Harris made the motion for adoption, and Melvin Mitchell voiced the second. Mr. Davis asked if there were any objections to the item, none were heard. The Item N Amendments were unanimously approved.

3.2 2024 Safety Performance Targets

Adopt a Resolution Endorsing the 2024 Safety Performance Targets

Mr. Davis brought this item to the floor for discussion. Jordan Reedy explained that effective April 14, 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established five

highway safety performance measures in accord with regulations set forth in the Federal MAP-21 and FAST Act transportation funding bills. The Resolution for endorsement can be found on page 22. Jordan Reedy pointed out table 4 in the agenda, which shows 5-year averages for safety performance.

Mr. Reedy stated that the FHWA looks at the following performance measures to reduce traffic fatalities with a hope of reach zero incrementally:

1. Number of fatalities;
2. Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled;
3. Number of serious injuries;
4. Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; and
5. Number of combined non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

Mr. Davis asked if there were any questions from the members on this resolution. None were heard.

Louis Hinton made the motion to adopt the safety performance targets, and Tom Harris voiced the second. The Resolution endorsing the 2024 Safety Performance Targets was unanimously approved.

3.3 2024 TAC Meeting Schedule

Adopt the 2024 TAC Meeting Schedule.

Robbie Davis opened the discussion on this next item to the members. Jordan Reedy added that The Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO TAC meets 4 times a year, typically on the first Monday of February, May, September and November, and proposed the draft meeting schedule be adopted that is found on page 23 of the agenda. Mr. Reedy added that he found that quarterly meetings work well, but if anyone preferred a different schedule, that it could be changed. He noted that although the TAC generally meets on Mondays, the first meeting day would be a holiday, so the TAC meeting would be held the following day.

- February 20th (The Tuesday after Presidents Day)
- May 20th
- September 16th
- November 18th.

Mr. Davis asked if anyone had any questions or comments, or if anyone needed to add any additional meeting dates, and. None were heard.

Evelyn Powell made the motion to approve the TAC Meeting Schedule, and Tom Harris voiced the second. This item was unanimously approved by the members.

4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives

4.1 City of Rocky Mount – RCC Grant Application

Robbie Davis opened the discussion for the next items on the agenda under the topic of Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives. Jordan Reedy explained that The City of Rocky Mount successfully submitted their Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhood's grant application in September. Mr. Reedy added that the application is for a proposed downtown project, connecting Nash and Edgecombe County, with a railroad pedestrian bridge, a new downtown park, and streetscaping improvements on Falls Road.

Mr. Reedy also added that with an increase in foot traffic downtown, 30+ trains per day passing through the switch yard, and trains sitting idle on the tracks, that a pedestrian bridge would help citizens to get around the train safely. He mentioned that it is an all-encompassing project, meaning that enhancements will be varied.

Brad Kerr explained that the City needs 13.5 million for this project, where a \$3,000,000 Federal Earmark to construct a pedestrian bridge over the railroad has already been promised, so the City intends to use this grant to supplement the remaining cost of the projects in the amount of about 10.5 million. Mr. Kerr added that the project aligns closely with the intention of the grant in that it targets underserved communities.

Ms. Powell asked when the City expects to hear if the grant was awarded. Mr. Kerr stated that the City hopes to know by early 2024.

Mr. Davis asked if there is a criterion for compliance with ADA and structural elevation written within the grant. Mr. Kerr responded by stating that a feasibility study had been done, and that the project meets elevation requirements, and will have an elevator to address access concerns and ADA compliance.

4.2 New Website Updates and Publication

Linda Rideout, Transportation Planner with the City of Rocky Mount, gave a brief demonstration and presentation of the new MPO website. A domain name has been purchased, and the new website is now reachable at www.rmuampo.com. Changes include aesthetic and functional improvements, and the ability to showcase our past, present and future projects. In addition, the updated website will better facilitate community contact, input, and feedback.

5. Information Items

5.1 STIP Project Status

Mr. Robbie Davis introduced the next item on the agenda to attendees. Jordan Reedy proceeded to review the following projects:

- U-5026 & R-5720 (Sunset Ave / I-95 Interchange and Eastern Ave widening) - \$60.5M.
 - **80% Complete.**
 - Original completion date 6/30/2023
 - Revised completion date **9/29/2024.**
- B-5980 (I-95 Interchange Improvements at Halifax Road, SR1544) - \$23M (work began 9/9/2021)
 - **79% Complete.**
 - Revised completion date **05/30/2024**
- U-5996 Old Carriage Road widening – \$20.3M (work began 7/12/2022)

- **52% Complete.**
 - Completion date – **4/30/2025**
- U-5947 Benvenue Rd/US 64 Ramp Roundabout – \$4.8M Let date 4/26/2022.
 - **63% complete**
 - Revised completion date – **05/11/2024.**

Mr. Davis asked if lights were planned to be part of the plans along the Eastern Avenue project. Ms. Moore responded by stating that they are looking into it and that they are expected to be put in place. Ms. Hinton added that lights would be important especially between Walmart in Nashville and Nash Community College. Ms. Moore stated that efforts to add lighting should be completed by sometime next year. Ms. Moore also added that work starts on the NC 581 bridge in January.

Mr. Davis asked the attendees if there were any other questions related to these projects in the STIP. None were heard. Mr. Davis added that lights are critical.

6. Other Business

6.1 Open Discussion for TAC Members and the Public:

Mr. Davis asked if the members had any other items of business to discuss. Melvin Mitchell provided updates on leadership changes at the statewide level of the NCDOT.

Keith Eason also added that there have been staff changes at the Division 4 NCDOT, some of which included Chris Peoples, former chief engineer taking the place of Joseph Hopkins, former COO, and that Eric Bouyet had retired after 27 years. Mr. Davis added that they do a great job of hiring from within.

Chairman Davis recognized Louse Hinton for her many years of service on the Transportation Advisory Committee and informed the committee that this will unfortunately be Mrs. Hinton's last meeting as a voting member. The Group joined in the recognition and Mr. Reedy followed up by thanking Louise for her dedication to the Rocky Mount MPO.

Ms. Hinton asked if Ms. Moore had been promoted, and Mr. Davis and Ms. Moore stated that she had been. Mr. Davis explained that Ms. Moore had been a district engineer with Nash and Wilson, and that the TAC is happy to see her in her new position and happy to have her in attendance. Ms. Hinton and the group congratulated Ms. Moore.

7. Announcements

7.1 Next TAC Meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 4:30pm. Visit the MPO website at www.rmuampo.com for more information.

8. Adjournment

The TAC adjourned at 5:14 pm adjournment called by Tom Harris with a second heard from Evelyn Powell.

3. Action Items

3.1 Item N STIP Amendments

Adopt NCDOT Item N STIP Amendments for November, December, January, and February

At the regularly scheduled monthly NC Board of Transportation meetings, Item N is a standing order of business to adopt changes to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Adopted changes need to also be adopted by the respective MPO and RPO. Typically, changes are proposed in one month and brought back for the final review and adoption the following month.

The STIP amendments from the **November, December, January, and February 2023/2024** NCBOT meetings for the Rocky Mount MPO are attached to this meeting agenda. Amendments will be reflected in the MTIP.

3.2 P 7.0 Local Input Point Methodology

Adopt the P7.0 Local Input Point Methodology

The NCDOT requires that all MPO's review and approve their local input point methodology prior to May 1, 2024. The P7.0 local input point methodology mirrors the previous rounds of project prioritization. The only changes made to the local input point methodology guide are dates, to reflect the release of the 2026-2035 STIP.

This document is used as a guide for applying local input points (qualitative) onto (quantitatively) scored P7.0 projects, as a way of showing heightened interest in specific projects. **All municipalities represented in the MPO will receive at least 100 local input points to apply to any specific project.** For more information, please contact Linda Rideout or Jordan Reedy, and/or refer to the attached (via email) P7.0 Local Input Point Methodology.

3.3 FY 25 PWP Budget

Adopt FY 25 PWP Budget

The Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO is funded through an NCDOT Grant program called the Planning Work Program. Each year, MPO staff are required to draft a new PWP budget to cover all MPO planning expenses, as well as *some* transit planning (Section 5303 Federal Transit Authority funding). Attached to this document is a summary of the FY 25 PWP budget. A full copy of the FY 25 PWP budget has been provided to all TAC members via email. The NCDOT reimburses the MPO for 80% of the Section 104 PL Funds (Planning funds) quarterly.

4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives

4.1 City of Rocky Mount – RCC Grant Application

On January 31st, a group of staff members from the NCDOT, City of Rocky Mount, and VHB (transportation planning and engineering consultant), conducted a Road Safety Audit (RSA) on Raleigh Blvd (NC 97) from Wilkins Street to South Franklin Street. We were pleased to have both CRM Fire and Police representatives present, to provide unique input on pedestrian safety concerns.

The RSA was part of the NCDOT's Highway Improvement Safety Program (HSIP). The audit included an in-office review of background data and local perspectives, a field observation where members walked along the corridor to identify inefficiencies in transportation safety and ended with a debrief to summarize our observations. The results from this RSA will be published in a statewide report, amongst other RSA's, with a goal of creating a long-range plan to address the issues identified by participating team members.

4.2 TAC Ethics Filing – Required

It is that time of the year again!! ALL VOTING MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES are required under federal law to file ethics documentation SPECIFIC to the MPO/TAC. You may have already filed ethics documentation for your City/Town/County; however, this is a different process and required annually.

The deadline for filing is April 15. The preferred method for filing is electronically at <https://ethicssei.nc.gov/efile> PLEASE make sure to select the “Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)” as the organization you are filing for.

Please contact Linda Rideout – Linda.Rideout@RockyMountNC.gov or by phone at 252-972-1126 for assistance with filing.

4.3 TAC Member Term Expiration

TAC members are appointed by their respective council and are to serve 2-year terms. This May, all TAC members (excluding those who have joined after May 2022) will need to be either reappointed or replaced by a new representative from their board. Linda Rideout will be contacting all City/Town/County Clerks, to notify them that your 2 year term is ending. **TAC members have no term limits but must be reappointed or replaced every 2 years.** The position of TAC chairman is also up for reappointment, with the expectation that this decision will be made at our next meeting on May 20th.

5. Information Items

5.1 STIP Project Status

U-5026 & R-5720 (Sunset Ave / I-95 Interchange and Eastern Ave widening) - \$60.5M **85% Complete.** Original completion date 6/30/2023 Revised completion date **9/29/2024.**

B-5980 (I-95 Interchange Improvements at Halifax Road, SR1544) - \$23M (work began 9/9/2021) **87% Complete.** Revised completion date **06/10/2024**

U-5996 Old Carriage Road widening – \$20.3M (work began 7/12/2022) **61% Complete.** Completion date – **4/30/2025**

U-5947 Benvenue Rd/US 64 Ramp Roundabout – \$4.8M Let date 4/26/2022, Revised completion date – **05/11/2024. 92% complete**

6. Other Business

6.1 Open Discussion for TAC Members and the public

Any additional items of discussion for the TAC should be presented at this time.

7. Announcements

7.1 Next TAC Meeting

The next TAC meeting is scheduled to be held **May 20th**, 4:30 PM. Visit the MPO website at www.RMUAMPO.com

8. Adjourn