

TAC MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 20, 2024

Members In Attendance at This TAC Meeting:

Rocky Mount – Richard Joyner, Sandy Roberson, Tom Harris
Edgecombe County –
Nash County – Robbie Davis
Nashville – Xavian Harrison
Sharpsburg –
NCDOT –

Members Not in Attendance at This TAC Meeting:

Reuben Blackwell(Tom Harris Served as Alt), Evelyn Powell, David Pride, Melvin Mitchell

Others Present at This TAC Meeting:

Brad Kerr, CRM; Jordan Reedy, RMUAMPO/CRM; Steve Yetman, CRM; Ramon Muckle, CRM; Linda Rideout, RMUAMPO/CRM; Kim Moore, NCDOT; James Salmons, NCDOT.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Davis called the meeting of the TAC to order at 4:34pm and welcomed those online to the virtual TEAMS meeting. Mr. Davis welcomed those present at the TEAMS meeting and established that a quorum was met.

2. Adoption of Previous TAC Meeting Minutes

Previous minutes are included at the end of the agenda that was sent to members by mail or email by the MPO.

Tom Harris made the motion to approve this action item, and Sandy Roberson voiced the second. No opposition was heard.

The action item was unanimously approved.

3. Current TAC Meeting Agenda Action Items

3.1 Item N STIP Amendments

Adopt NCDOT Item N STIP Amendments for March, April and May 2024

Jordan Reedy explained that 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.

Mr. Reedy continued to explain that the mostly statewide, with some local STIP amendments from the **March, April and May** 2024 NCBOT meetings for the Rocky Mount MPO, are attached to the meeting agenda on page 15 that was sent to members. He added that amendments will be reflected in the MTIP.

The following Item N topics were brought to discussion by Mr. Reedy:

- C5549 – a project on Raleigh Blvd that includes adding ROW and sidewalks is taking longer than anticipated, resulting in the need to delay the ROW acquisition and other items until FY2025. New funding requested through Carbon Reduction Program.
- BL-0032 – a project on Cokey Rd, where the completion date will be moved to 2025 to add ROW and construction updates.
- EB5763 – this is the Monk to Mill Trail. The City needed time for public engagement to ensure that the community’s interests are met and that they are heard throughout the process, and to ensure that the project is meeting the design vision as planned by the City. Brad Kerr commented and said that the scope was just approved by the DOT and the City will engage with a consultant soon.

Mr. Davis asked if there were any questions from the members. None were voiced. Mr. Davis then brought the Action Item to the TAC for a vote.

Richard Joyner made the motion to approve this action item, and Mayor Roberson voiced the second. No opposition was heard.

The action item was unanimously approved.

3.2 Carbon Reduction Fund (CRP) Funding Allocation – C-5549

Approve Allocation of CRP funds to C-5549, Winstead Ave and Raleigh Blvd Sidewalks

Mr. Davis opened this item for discussion, and Jordan Reedy discussed the City of Rocky Mount’s CMAQ project C-5549 (Raleigh Blvd and Winstead Avenue sidewalks), that has been delayed due to unforeseen funding issues. Jordan explained what CMAQ funds are, where they

come from, and then continued by explaining that the City of Rocky Mount worked with the MPO to find a way to increase funding. It was decided by involved parties that the optimal solution to the funding shortfall would be to utilize Carbon Reduction Program (CMAQ) funds.

The MPO has been allocated \$152,843 in Carbon Reduction Program funds annually since 2022 for projects that aid in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (IJA). These funds require a 20% local match from the City of Rocky Mount, and will amount to \$472,000, bringing the total project cost from \$860,000 to \$1,450,000, with a required 20% local match of \$290,000 (total project local match). This project will add over a mile of sidewalk to Raleigh Blvd and Winstead Avenue in the City of Rocky Mount.

Jordan Reedy also explained that Nashville had previously wanted to utilize some CMAQ funds for a project there, but ultimately the Town of Nashville decided to not move forward with the project.

Mr. Davis asked members of the TAC if there were any questions. He asked Mr. Xavian Harrison, who represents Nashville on the TAC if he had any questions. He stated that Mr. Reedy had explained this well, and he had no further questions or comments. Mr. Davis then brought the action item to the floor for a vote.

Mayor Sandy Roberson made the motion to approve this action item, and Mr. Tom Harris voiced the second. The action item was unanimously approved.

3.3 TAC meeting Schedule Modification – Moving September Meeting to Mid-August

Adopt Revised TAC Meeting Schedule

Jordan Reedy explained that the Rocky Mount MPO needs to reschedule our next TAC meeting (September 16th) to a new date between May 24th and August 30th. He stated that prior to making the annual schedule of meetings, he tries to check for conflicting dates, but that due to the NCDOT's revised P7.0 schedule, this was an unexpected conflict.

He added that because of the NCDOT's schedule, the planned September 16th TAC meeting will not align with the NCDOT's release of P7.0 quantitative scores (May 24th) and the deadline for "Regional Impact Local Input Point Assignment" (August 30th deadline). Jordan Reedy also added that it would be best for the TCC/TAC and the MPO Staff to apply both Regional AND Divisional Local Input Points during the requested special-called meeting, that way members would have sufficient opportunity to work through the scoring process.

Some suggested dates were included in the agenda for today's meeting, but Mr. Reedy explained that the MPO's preference is for August 5, 2024, at 4:30pm. Mr. Davis led a discussion with TAC members on dates and times that work best for them. The TAC members decided that Monday, August 5th at 4:30 pm is an acceptable and convenient date. Mr. Davis brought this item forward for a vote.

Mr. Harris made the first motion to approve this action item, and Mr. Robinson voiced the second. The action item was unanimously approved, with Mr. Davis declaring the motion carried.

4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives

4.1 Fun Bike Ride Recap

Jordan Reedy gave an overview of the annual “Fun Bike Ride” on May 4th which was hosted by the MPO and the City of Rocky Mount and included collaboration between the City of Rocky Mount’s Parks and Rec department, Public Works, Police, and Development Services.

He explained that it was a short ride through historic downtown Rocky Mount, open to all levels of riders. The goal was for riders to highlight our park/trail system, bike paths, and to learn the rules of the road. It was exciting to see this group of riders enjoying the city’s amenities.

Jordan Reedy reminded the TAC members to let the MPO know if they would like to be involved in future Fun Bike Rides, or if they would like for the MPO to assist the town/county from where the TAC Members represent/live to create their own bike event.

4.2 EcoInteractive Presentation – MTIP Software

Jordan Reedy gave a visual presentation about Ecointeractive, who produces an MTIP management software. He explained that the software tracks all transportation projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and allows MPOs to manage and track projects from prioritization to execution.

Some of the highlights that Mr. Reedy showcased in his Powerpoint presentation include a public-facing, user-friendly interface that would be accessible by citizens, and that it is also easily modified and updated by MPO staff. Mr. Reedy explained that it saves time, has reporting capabilities, revision tracking, is cost-effective, is easy to use, and can be rolled out and get up-and-running in a short amount of time.

Jordan also explained that as far as cost, he has seen other similar software presentations, and this software is much cheaper. He stated that it is currently in use at the French Broad River MPO, and that the Director there had wonderful things to say about the application – and that there has been a significant increase in public involvement and in the ease of MTIP project tracking.

Mr. Harris asked why is only one MPO using it? Mr. Reedy responded that for some time, the MPOs thought that the state was planning to put something together, so MPOs held off. This was going to be implemented by the Prioritization group at the NCDOT, but it did not move forward. Mr. Reedy also added that there are other programs out there, and some MPOs opt to use those, but the higher costs of these other programs can be a deciding and limiting factor for smaller MPOs such as the Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO. Brad Kerr added that this is

the first program that fits within our budget that we have liked. He stated that it can streamline the management process.

Mr. Davis asked how it will be paid for. Brad Kerr responded that 20% of the cost will come from the regular budget, and that money from another line item that would not likely be fully utilized would be moved to pay for this line item. Jordan Reedy added that there is currently \$30,000 allotted for a traffic study in the budget, and that he expects that this allocation can be shifted to pay for the software.

Mr. Davis then asked if there is any particular time of the year that would be best to start using the software. Mr. Reedy answered that it may be beneficial to wait until delivery of the next STIP, as after prioritization would be the most reasonable time to pull the data into the software for use going forward. James Salmons added that the STIP won't be finalized until the end of the year.

Mr. Davis asked if there were any other questions. Mayor Robinson asked apart from the reasonable price, what is the internal impact of using such a software? Brad Kerr responded that it would save us time. Jordan added that there are many factors, when looking at 10 years' worth of projects at a time, it can be challenging to follow projects, especially related to cost changes. He added that using this software would help not only the MPO, but the DOT as well, as there is often much back and forth when projects are not followed as timely as they could be if using the software.

Jordan Reedy wrapped up this conversation by adding that this is currently NOT an action item as he wants to bring it to the TAC and get their feedback first, then will put it on a later agenda, as it will also require amending the 2025 budget. Mr. Davis stated that this will be added at the next or other future meeting. No opposition was voiced by anyone.

4.3 Airport Tour Update!

Jordan Reedy apologized for the temporary silence on this matter. He stated that Rocky Mount Wilson Airport (RWI) has employed a new Airport Director, Josh Pusser, so the MPO has been in the process of establishing a plan with the new Director to continue where his predecessor left off regarding the airport tour.

Mr. Pusser has suggested a handful of meeting times for interested TAC members to tour RWI, which is to tour the airport on any Thursday in the month of June, at 10 am.

Mr. Reedy added that some of the MPO and City staff did a tour not too long ago, and that it was awesome. Jordan added that a list of members who have communicated their intent to participate in a tour was included in the TAC agenda. He asked if anyone else might be interested, to get in touch with the MPO to let us know.

Mr. Harris suggested that Jordan go ahead and schedule a time for the tour. Mr. Davis agreed and wanted to establish a date. Mr. Harris stated that there were a couple of dates that he was not able to do it, but that he can do the 6th and the 20th. Mr. Joyner added that any

Thursday would work for him. Jordan suggested the 1st Thursday in June and asked if the TAC members agreed. No conflicts in schedule were voiced. Mr. Davis added then that the members who want to attend will meet at the airport in the parking lot. Jordan Reedy stated that he will get in touch with Mr. Pusser and any members not in attendance today to update them on the airport tour plans.

5. Information Items

5.1 STIP Project Status

- U-5026 & R-5720 (Sunset Ave / I-95 Interchange and Eastern Ave widening)
 - \$60.5M
 - **88% 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)
 - **89% Complete.**
 - Revised completion date **6/10/2024**

- U-5996 Old Carriage Road widening
 - \$20.3M (work began 7/12/2022)
 - **63% Complete.**
 - Completion date – **4/30/2025**

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

Members discussed the above projects. Kim Moore mentioned that U-5947 was fulling functioning based on payment being made to the contractor. Brad Kerr added that he has received a draft plan for landscaping, and planting should happen in the fall. Mr. Harris asked if there would be any lights added that it is dark at night and challenging. Kim Moore answered that there are no plans at this time to add lighting there.

Mr. Harris followed up that question to ask if there would be lighting between here and Nashville. Ms. Moore stated that yes, the DOT received the Duke agreements last week, and

lighting should be in place sometime in the summer.

Brad Kerr discussed U5026, Sunset Ave, with Kim Moore informing the group that they will be adding another Roundabout at Morning Glory, but this will be done last, after the rest of the project has been completed. She added that the cost for this is not yet submitted to the DOT, so they can't adjust the completion date until they get it, and that this will be an additional project.

Mr. Davis added that there is more work going on between Nashville and the City of Rocky Mount than he has ever seen. Ms. Moore added that there is more going on in this MPO than is happening in Johnson County.

Brad Kerr asked Ms. Moore what the total investment is for the Old Carriage Rd/Sunset/95 project. Ms. Moore replied that it is about 100 million. Combined with B5980, which is 25 million, the total for all those projects is about 135 million dollars.

6. Other Business

6.1 Open Discussion for TAC Members and the public

The following discussion was had by the TAC members regarding other business:

Mr. Davis asked if Mr. Harrison had any questions about the Nashville roundabouts. He stated that he appreciates the updates given by Kim Moore and is happy that there should be lighting by sometime in the summer. Ms. Moore added that a lot of people are asking, so she wants to spread the news as soon as she can.

Mr. Davis asked Jordan Reedy and Brad Kerr about the appointment of a new TAC chairman, which is set to happen every 2 years, and today is the date that it is supposed to occur. Brad Kerr stated that we the floor can be opened for nomination. Mayor Roberson spoke up and proposed that the TAC do this at the next meeting when more members are present, and to allow members the time for to consider their nominations for TAC chairperson. Mr. Davis confirmed that this motion carries, and the appointment of a new chair will wait until the next TAC meeting.

7. Announcements

7.1 Next TAC Meeting

The next TAC meeting is scheduled to be held **August 5, 2024 at 4:30pm.**

Visit the MPO website at www.RMUAMPO.com for more information.

Mr. Davis asked the TAC members if there were any other items for discussion, or any questions. None were voiced.

8. Adjourn

8.1 The TAC meeting held on May 6th, 2024 adjourned at 5:35pm

Mr. Tom Harris made the first motion to adjourn the meeting held on that date, and Mayor Sandy Roberson voiced the second. The TAC meeting was unanimously adjourned.

***THIS BOXED SECTION CONTAINS MINUTES FROM THE
TAC MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024, AT 4:30PM***

The Technical Advisory Committee held an on-site and virtual TEAMS meeting on Monday, February 20, 2024, at 4:30pm.

Members In Attendance at This TAC Meeting:

Rocky Mount – Reuben Blackwell, Tom Harris

Edgecombe County – Evelyn Powell

Nash County – Robbie Davis

Nashville – Xavian Harrison

Sharpsburg –

NCDOT – Melvin Mitchell

Members Not in Attendance at This TAC Meeting:

Sandy Roberson (alternate was in attendance), Richard Joyner, David Pride

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, FHWA; Elton Daniels, CRM; Todd Gardner, CRM; Carlos Moya, NCDOT; Sandra Harper, Citizen of Rocky Mount; Doan Wilkins, Citizen of Rocky Mount

1. Welcome and Introductions

Robbie Davis called the meeting of the TAC to order at 4:35pm and welcomed those online to the virtual TEAMS meeting. Mr. Davis welcomed a new TAC Member, Xavian Harrison of Nashville, and the two members from the RM community who were present. Those present, as well as those attending virtually, briefly introduced themselves. Mr. Davis established that a quorum was met.

2. Adoption of Previous TAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to adopt the November 2023 TAC meeting minutes was made by Evelyn Powell and Seconded by Tom Harris.

3. Action Items

3.1 Item N STIP Amendments

Adopt NCDOT Item N STIP Amendments for November and December 2023, and January, and February 2024 Mr. Davis opened the discussion for this Action Item. 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).

Mr. Reedy added that the state board meets and adopts any changes needed to the STIP, which then also need to be adopted by the respective MPO and RPO. Mr. Reedy stated that

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 the meeting agenda (Pages 12-22). Amendments will be reflected in the MTIP.

Mr. Reedy discussed specific Item N amendments in our area:

- EB5761: Mr. Reedy stated that this is basically a delay in the project to allow for additional streetscape improvement and other design requirements as well as ROW time. The new date of completion will be in FY 2025.
- U5911: Mr. Reedy stated that this project is for the Red Oak/Battleboro area from NC 48 to NC 4 and is a funding change as well as a change to modify the ROW.
- EB- 5763: Mr. Reedy also discussed this Monk to Mill project delay until FY 2025. This will allow for design modifications and increase the amount of time that the public can be represented and heard and give their input.
- I-5934: Mr. Reedy explained that this is the I95 pavement and bridge rehab project, and the delay will balance the timing for interstate management of the corridor.

Ms. Moore added that in regard to I5934, that this is for bridge and surface rehab.

Mr. Davis asked Ms. Moore if this would bring the project to I87 standards. Ms. Moore responded that yes, it would.

Mr. Davis called the item to vote. Mr. Blackwell made the motion to approve this action item, and Evelyn Powell voiced the second. The action item was unanimously approved, with no opposition heard.

3.2 P 7.0 Local Input Point Methodology

Adopt the P7.0 Local Input Point Methodology

Mr. Davis opened the next item for discussion. Jordan Reedy explained that the NCDOT requires that all MPO's review and approve their local input point methodology prior to May 1, 2024. He added that 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.

Mr. Reedy explained that the NCDOT requires adoption of the methodology. To score the projects, he explained, a list of projects is submitted to the NCDOT, who in turn, puts points on the projects based on a quantitative (data based) approach. The scored projects are returned to the MPO for the addition of local input points, which are qualitative and based on member priorities. Mr. Reedy added that there are 1200 divisional and 1200 regional points in total. 100 points are automatically applied to the highest scoring project in each mode, and the remaining points are divided amongst the members, who then apply their points to projects that are significant to the areas that they represent. Jordan reiterated that all municipalities represented in the MPO will receive at least 100 local input points to apply to any specific project. Mr. Reedy stated that a brief description of the distribution of points can be found on

page 23 of the agenda and suggested that anyone that would like more information should contact Linda Rideout or himself, and/or refer to the attached (via email) P7.0 Local Input Point Methodology.

Mr. Blackwell asked for an explanation if the entity gets to make the decision. Brad Kerr responded that there would likely be a recommendation on the allocation of points, but ultimately, each municipality can discuss their options and apply the points based on their priorities. Jordan added further explanation to this question, stating that it's up to representatives to decide a project's impact and decide where to apply their allotted points. Mr. Blackwell stated that Jordan does a great job of guiding the members and always helps to further projects along that matter to them.

Mr. Davis added that the deadline is May 1st, and wanted to know when we will see the projects come back to the MPO from the NCDOT. Jordan Reedy asked Carlos Moya if he had an idea of when we will see P7.0 submittals. Mr. Moya said he would try to get an answer by Thursday. Mr. Davis called the item to vote. Tom Harris made the motion to approve this action item, and Reuben Blackwell voiced the second. The action item was unanimously approved, with no opposition heard.

3.3 FY 25 PWP Budget

Adopt FY 25 PWP Budget

This action item was opened for discussion by Mr. Davis. Jordan Reedy began the discussion by stating that 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). Mr. Reedy pointed out that a full copy of the FY 25 PWP budget was provided to all TAC members via mail, as it had been printed in error so was included with the agenda.

Mr. Reedy also added that there is nothing out of the ordinary in this year's budget, apart from the inclusion of monies (\$30,000) allotted for an ADA compliance plan, which would be a very broad plan, but that federally, ADA compliance is a strong issue. He continued, stating that the MPO currently doesn't have any adopted plans for ADA matters, so this money would be well used to get the process started.

Mr. Reedy further noted that the NCDOT reimburses the MPO for 80% of the budget, with the City of Rocky Mount adding the other 20%.

Mr. Davis brought this Action Item to vote. Evelyn Powell made the motion to approve this action item, with Xavian Harrison voicing the second. The action item was unanimously approved. No opposition was voiced.

4. Transportation Planning Activities and Initiatives

4.1 City of Rocky Mount – Road Safety Audit (RSA)

Mr. Davis brought this item to the floor. Jordan Reedy explained that the 4.1 heading should have read "Road Safety Audit and not "RCC Grant Applications" and apologized for the error. He continued by adding that on January 31st, a group of staff members from the

NCDOT, City of Rocky Mount, and VHB (transportation planning and engineering consultant) participated in a Road Safety Audit (RSA) on Raleigh Blvd (NC 97) from Wilkins Street to South Franklin Street.

Mr. Reedy added that both CRM Fire and Police had staff representatives there as well, who gave valuable input on pedestrian safety concerns. The goal of the RSA was to identify pedestrian facility deficiencies and see the corridor from the lens of a pedestrian using that corridor. During the RSA, he explained, there were many potentially dangerous conditions as well as pedestrian behaviors observed, which considering the recent number of pedestrian injuries and deaths in the City, were very important to note.

He also stated that the RSA 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, and this will be provided to members once the MPO receives the report.

4.2 TAC Ethics Filing – Required

Mr. Davis opened this item by asking Jordan Reedy to begin this discussion. Jordan stated that it is the time of year where all voting members and alternates are required under federal law to file ethics documentation specific to the MPO/TAC. Mr. Reedy told members that although they may have already filed ethics documentation for your City/Town/County; however, this is a different process and is required annually. He also added that if members who have filed previously log onto their account on the State Ethics Board website, the system will have stored enough information to allow members to move through the process more quickly.

Mr. Reedy also reminded members to be sure to select “RMUAMPO as the organization, as this is one of the often-overlooked selections during the filing process where most problems occur.

He also added that the deadline for filing is April 15, and that the easiest method for filing is electronically. Mr. Reedy added that any members having difficulty with the process can contact Linda Rideout by phone for assistance with filing.

Robbie Davis told members to remember that the deadline for filing is Tax Day.

4.3 TAC Member Term Expiration

Mr. Robbie Davis opened the discussion, with Jordan Reedy explaining that prior to him serving in his current position, that the MPO didn't have structured by-laws, but since the by-laws have officially been adopted, there is a 2-year term set for members. He added that as a result, 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 soon, as their 2-year terms will be ending. Mr. Reedy clarified that although the term runs for 2 years, there is no limit to the number of terms a member can serve.

Mr. Reedy stated that either himself or Linda Rideout will be contacting all City/Town/County Clerks, to notify them that the members' 2-year terms are ending, and the next appointment must be done by May 20th, 2024.

Robbie Davis asked if there were any questions, and reminded members that at the next meeting, we will be voting to elect a chairman to the TAC. No questions were heard.

5. Information Items

5.1 STIP Project Status

Robbie Davis brought this next item up for discussion. Jordan Reedy proceeded to explain the following details of the following projects:

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, supplemental to the above listed project)

- \$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
- **92% complete**
- Revised completion date – **05/11/2024**

Kim Moore added that as she had mentioned at the recent TCC meeting, that the work at Benvenue Rd. is currently stopped due to seasonal limitations on the laying of asphalt, so it may appear that the work has stopped, but the DOT is just waiting until the weather is conducive to continuation of the project.

Xavian Harrison shared the concern that his predecessor had about the lights at the roundabouts coming from Nashville. Kim Moore responded to Mr. Harrison by stating that all roundabouts will have lighting added, which is a separate project with Duke Power than is noted here. She added that this was originally scheduled to be done by March, but now has been pushed back until May. She further stated that there will also be some new lighting on Old Carriage Rd, for a total of about 6 miles and about a dozen lighted roundabouts when the project is complete.

Mr. Davis then brought up a concern about the exit ramp coming west on 64 to Peachtree, where a very large bump exists. Jordan Reedy added in agreement that he himself hit the bump going through there just today. Kim Moore added that a sign was put in place by the contractor without the DOT being aware of it, but that she agrees. She added that recent work was done on 64 where a temporary surface was put down, and the permanent surface will be done when the weather allows it.

Rueben Blackwell asked for clarification if it's currently in a temporary state, but it will be fixed permanently. Kim Moore confirmed that it is close to being complete and will be permanently fixed, but that it is weather dependent.

6. Other Business

6.1 Open Discussion for TAC Members and the public

Robbie Davis opened this item by introducing two members from the community who attended the meeting to share their concerns. The first to speak was Ms. Harper. She stated that she is a senior citizen of 74 years old who likes to get outside and exercise for her health. She stated that she would like to see sidewalks on Benvenue, and she feels that it is dangerous for pedestrians as it currently stands. She told the TAC that she has seen Rocky Mount growing, and the change that she has seen includes an increase in traffic and usage along the section of Benvenue between Thomas Bates and Goldrock Rd. She gave an account of a time when she had to get out of the traffic and had to step on a high curb, which was dangerous for her, and could have caused her to fall back into the oncoming traffic. She asked if not a sidewalk, at least a protected bike lane, as that would help keep pedestrian safe if they are forced onto the roadway.

Ms. Wilkins stated that her concern was about the lighting at the roundabouts on Sunset Ave, and she was thankful for the information given at today's meeting, that there will be lighting installed.

Rueben Blackwell asked the MPO to explain the process for prioritizing sidewalk projects.

Jordan Reedy explained that we currently have bike and pedestrian plans with a list of priorities. He stated that the section of Benvenue that Ms. Harper was concerned about had been discussed previously, but it was not to be built with prior submittals to the NCDOT. It is one of the next things that will be submitted for scoring, at which time the NCDOT will look at it and evaluate the project for scoring.

Mr. Reedy also explained that Benvenue is a DOT corridor, so ultimately it is a project for them to complete, but there is also the potential option of using CMAQ funds for it, which is money used for air quality and congestion matters, which can be applicable to sidewalks and bike projects. However, Mr. Reedy stated that CMAQ wouldn't be enough to build a sidewalk, so funding would have to come through the NCDOT.

Ms. Harper asked if it was cheaper to put a bike path.

Brad Kerr and Jordan Reedy both stated 'yes', then Brad added that pedestrians aren't supposed to use the bike lane.

Ms. Harper added that she is also interested in biking and has one that she uses from time to time, and even a bike path would be preferred to no safe access to that section of road.

Robbie Davis asked Ms. Wilkins if she had anything else to add. Ms. Wilkins responded with 'no', the discussion on the round-about lighting addressed her concerns.

Evelyn Powell asked about a residential area of Battleboro, where a citizen on Daniel Ave has been affected by flooding when it rains, that this citizen has had to move out of their home as a result of it. The citizen sent a photo to Ms. Powell and Mr. Blackwell previously.

Brad Kerr stated that the problem in that area is known to the people in stormwater, and that the situation does need to be addressed. Mr. Blackwell confirmed that he has discussed this with Brad in the past.

Evelyn Powell stated that there is a trailer park nearby to that neighborhood that is worse. She stated that there was a handicap child that lives there whose school bus couldn't get into the park and this creates a problem for transporting the children to school, but especially for this handicap child. Ms. Powell asked who is required to address this matter. Brad Kerr responded that it is a City issue. Ms. Powell stated again that citizens have had to move out of their homes temporarily because of the problem. Brad Kerr addressed Ms. Powell by saying that he would look into it.

7. Announcements

7.1 Next TAC Meeting

*Mr. Davis reminded members that the next TAC meeting is scheduled to be held **May 20th**, 4:00 PM.*

Mr. Davis stated that the 4:30 time shown on the agenda is incorrect, and that the meeting will be at 4:00pm. Visit the MPO website at www.RMUAMPO.com.

8. Adjourn

8.1 The TAC meeting held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 adjourned at 5:17pm.

Mr. Davis called the meeting to close. Reuben Blackwell made the first motion to adjourn the meeting held on that date, and Xavian Harrison voiced the second.

The TAC meeting was unanimously adjourned.