



JUMPO NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE JACKSONVILLE URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Fiscal Year 2012 • 2nd Quarter

Transportation, Community and System Preservation Grant

The City of Jacksonville submitted a grant application for the 2012 Transportation, Community and System Preservation discretionary grant program. Our request is for \$755,000 to construct the Lejeune Boulevard Trail that will include nearly two miles of off-road multi-use path, providing a safe and healthy alternative means of transportation connecting downtown Jacksonville

to numerous points of interest within our community and aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. Letters of support were provided by numerous State elected officials as well as organizations whose goals align with providing healthy, safe commuter and recreational alternative transportation facilities.

Transit System Development Plan

Recommendations of the draft Transit System Development Plan were presented to the Jacksonville City Council on September 20th with the overall consensus from Council being supportive. The final document has been completed and is available for review on the Jacksonville Transit and Jacksonville MPO web pages. MPO staff has been working with

Jacksonville Transit since early December to restructure the system based on the recommendations of the plan. At this point, it appears that the new route structure will be implemented in early 2012. The new route system will include new service to the Sandy Run and Georgetown neighborhoods as well as the Freedom Village commercial area on Yopp Road.

Jacksonville Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Jacksonville MPO staff has been working with the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) on a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) for the Jacksonville area. The CTP supplements our long-range transportation plan by acting as a multi-modal needs list for projects that are further out on the horizon than the scope of our long-range plan (post 2035). Additionally, the CTP is not a fiscally constrained document, so there is no limit to the number of projects, or their corresponding dollar value, that can be contained within the plan. Based on conversations with TPB staff, it was origi-

nally intended for the CTP to be adopted in unison with our long-range plan; however, the absence of a full-time MPO coordinator in Jacksonville from February to June 2010 caused the CTP to fall behind. Consequently, when the long-range plan was adopted in June, the CTP did not follow suit. With the recent departure of our NCDOT MPO Coordinator, Martin/Alexiou/Bryson has been recruited to assist with finalizing a CTP draft for adoption by the TAC and TCC in 2012. A draft of the CTP is currently available and will be released for public comment in mid January.

For additional information regarding any newsletter topic, visit jumpo-nc.org

TIP Projects

B-4214: Buddy Phillips Bridge replacement – Estimated completion July 2013.

U-4906: Widening Gum Branch Road (Timothy Road to Richlands) – Starts August 2014.

U-3810: Widening of Piney Green Road (US 17 to NC 24) - Starts September 2012.

U-4007 A: White Street Interchange (Bell Fork Road to Western Boulevard) – Estimated completion December 2013.

U-4007 B: Jacksonville Parkway (Country Club Road to Western Boulevard) – Estimated completion September 2013.

U-5168: Jacksonville Computerized Signal System - Starts January 2012.

U-5132: Camp Lejeune Base Entry Road - Starts May 2012.

Resurfacing Projects

US 258/NC 24 (McGowan Road to Richlands); Bell Fork Road (total length) – Complete

Western Boulevard (NC 24 to US 17) - Estimated completion Spring 2012

Johnson Boulevard (US 17 Business to New River Drive) – Starts May 2012

Hargett Street (total length) – Delayed due to utility conflicts, schedule TBD

NC 53 Corridor Study

In June, Jacksonville MPO staff released an RFP to begin selecting a consultant to complete the next corridor study on our priority list – NC 53 (Western Boulevard). Martin/Alexiou/Bryson has been selected to complete the project. M/A/B has worked in Jacksonville since 2004 through the city’s on-call Traffic Impact Analysis contract, in addition to several other transportation-related initiatives including the Hargett Street/Johnson Boulevard road diet pavement marking plans. Traffic count data has already been collected for the traffic simulation part of the project and a significant amount of preparation work has been completed in anticipation of a kickoff meeting in January. The NCDOT Program Development Branch has agreed to collaborate with MPO staff on this project, allowing it to take the place of a project feasibility study for this area of Western Boulevard. Partnering with NCDOT on this corridor study will save time and money, by eliminating redundant efforts.

NC 24 Corridor Study, Phase II

On November 22nd the project steering committee reviewed a draft of the NC 24 Corridor Study in detail, making a number of specific recommendations for improving the document. To date, the project is approximately 90% complete and the final results are expected to be presented to City Council in February.

Traffic Signal System Upgrade

Design plans for the ITS project were approved by NCDOT staff in Raleigh. NCDOT let the project in January and construction is expected to begin in late February or early March.

SPOT 2.0

Since May the Jacksonville MPO has been working with the NCDOT to conduct a strategic prioritization process in anticipation of the upcoming 2013-2022 State Transportation Improvement Program. The TAC approved the TCC recommended project list on November 29th with no substantive changes and the final project weighting/ranking for our region was submitted to NCDOT on November 30th. A draft 2012-2022 STIP should be available from the NCDOT in the spring of 2012.

NCDOT Resurfacing Projects

Following their most recent pavement condition inventory, NCDOT Division 3 staff identified multiple routes within the City of Jacksonville that are in need of resurfacing including: Western Boulevard, between NC 24 and US 17; Bell Fork Road, in its entirety; Hargett Street, in its entirety; and US 24 Business (Johnson Boulevard), in its entirety. Jacksonville MPO staff has worked with the NCDOT and Jacksonville Public Services Department to ensure that pending utility improvements are coordinated with resurfacing projects to ensure that newly resurfaced streets are not disturbed by utility improvements. Bell Fork Road is now complete, Western Boulevard is partially complete and Johnson Boulevard will be resurfaced in the spring of 2012. Hargett Street has been delayed due to unexpected utility conflicts at the New River Drive intersection. At this point, it is unclear when Hargett Street will be resurfaced, although it remains a high priority for our NCDOT District Office. The completion of Western Boulevard will be delayed until spring due to seasonal paving limitations; however, a considerable amount of the work has already been completed.

For additional information regarding any newsletter topic, visit jumpo-nc.org or contact JUMPO staff at jumpo@ci.jacksonville.us.nc

Upcoming Events

Jan. 2 - Holiday, City of Jacksonville offices closed, Jacksonville Transit running on regular schedule

Jan. 3 - City of Jacksonville City Council

Jan. 4 - Onslow County Board of Commissioner meeting

JAN 5 **Jan. 5** - TCC Meeting

Jan. 16 - Holiday, City of Jacksonville offices closed, Jacksonville Transit running on regular schedule

Jan. 17 - City of Jacksonville City Council

Jan. 18 - Onslow County Board of Commissioner meeting

JAN 26 **Jan. 26** - TAC Meeting

Feb. 6 - Onslow County Board of Commissioner meeting

Feb. 7 - City of Jacksonville City Council

Feb. 20 - Onslow County Board of Commissioner meeting

Feb. 21 - City of Jacksonville City Council

Mar. 5 - Onslow County Board of Commissioner

Mar. 6 - City of Jacksonville City Council

Mar. 19 - Onslow County Board of Commissioner

Mar. 20 - City of Jacksonville City Council