



PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner John P. Kelly – Chair
Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair
Commissioner Susan Soloway – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes December 12, 2022

I. Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Melissa Hayes, Central Staff, called the roll. Thirteen members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 13 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2022 meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Monmouth County, and carried with 19 affirmative votes. Bergen County abstained.

III. Presentation: Hackensack River Greenway Working Group

Sam Schroeder, Hudson County, said the county continues to work on developing the eight-mile Hackensack River Greenway, one of several planned for the region. He briefed the committees on the efforts of the Hackensack River Greenway Working Group to identify and facilitate improvements and connections along the Greenway. He said the working group consists of representatives from Hudson County, Bayonne, Jersey City, Secaucus, NJTPA, New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority, Skyway Park Conservancy, and Hackensack Riverkeeper. Mr. Schroeder noted that some state, county and municipal projects, along with developers' projects in the area, are key elements to realize further connectivity of the Greenway to other trails and destinations.

IV. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities at the December 5, 2022 RTAC virtual meeting. He said the meeting featured a presentation from Central Staff about the NJTPA's Roadway Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2023. He said staff also presented information items covering: the Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the NJTPA-supported Local Safety Action Plans, and an update on Together North Jersey. Written items provided to the Committee prior to the meeting included an update on PRIME 2.0, information on the [Electric Vehicle Resources Website](#), and NJDOT's Urban Boundary and Functional Classification Updates. Mr. Jehnke noted that the Committee was also briefed on the action items on this day's joint meeting agenda.

Mr. Jehnke said the next RTAC teleconference is set for Tuesday, January 17 and will focus on the NJTPA-supported Local Safety Action Plans and elections for the RTAC chair and vice chair for the 2023-2024 term.

V. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 80, Bridges over Howard Boulevard in Morris County and to the Pavement Preservation, NJTPA Regional Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said for the Route 80, Bridges over Howard Boulevard project in Morris County, one amendment will move \$14 million from Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2024 to 2023, and add \$16 million, for a revised total of \$44 million for Construction in 2023. The funding source will be changed from National Highway Performance Program funds to Bridge Formula Program funds. The additional cost is due to the increased price of materials and changes needed to meet storm water requirements.

Ms. Chamberlain said the other amendment will add \$49.5 million to the NJTPA Pavement Preservation Program in FFY 2023, for a new total of \$68.26 million. The additional funds are required to advance 10 pavement preservation projects in the region, and they are anticipated to be authorized in the current fiscal year.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by Monmouth County, and carried unanimously.

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Two Local Projects as Requested by the Morris County and Somerset County

Ms. Chamberlain said the minor amendments would add two local projects that have completed Concept Development and are ready to be programmed into the current TIP with federal funding.

The Route 24, Eastbound Ramp to Columbia Turnpike project in Morris County will be allocated \$17 million. The Great Road, Bridge over Bedens Brook project in Somerset County will be allocated \$6.9 million. Both projects will be funded from the NJTPA Future Projects line item, covering Preliminary Engineering through Construction from FY 2025 to 2028.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Passaic County, seconded by Warren County, and carried unanimously.

3. Modification to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Program Federal Funds for the Kapkowski Road – North Avenue East Improvement Project as Requested by the City of Elizabeth

Ms. Chamberlain said this modification will program federal funds and update the project schedule. The revised total for the project is \$18.4 million through Fiscal Year 2027.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Union County, seconded by the Citizens' Representative, and carried unanimously.

4. Modification to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to Three Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Ms. Chamberlain said this modification funds three projects as follows:

- Route 280, Westbound Ramp over 1st & Orange Streets, Newark Subway & NJ TRANSIT, Essex County – this modification will advance \$16.1 million in programmed funds from FFY 2024 to FFY 2023 and add \$11.674 million for a revised total amount of \$42.774 million for Construction in FFY 2023. The cost increase is based on updated construction engineering, construction inspection, and utility estimates.
- Route 440, Route 95 to Kreil Street, Middlesex County – the modification will add \$4.8 million for Preliminary Engineering in FFY 2023, increasing the total to \$7.8 million. The project's complexity has increased the estimated cost of this phase of work, which includes additional efforts for environmental engineering, stormwater design, traffic control design, and community involvement.
- Drainage Rehabilitation & Improvements, Statewide – the modification adds \$11.217 million for Engineering and Construction in FFY 2023 for a new total amount of \$22.451 million.

In answer to a question from Trevor Howard, City of Newark, about what necessitates a change in funding source, Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said New Jersey's three MPOs have a memorandum of understanding on TIP modifications, which can be found on the back of TIP on the NJTPA website, and she offered to send him a copy. She said staff follow a process for making changes to projects, such as changes in schedules and funding sources, based on ongoing communication and coordination with partners at NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT. Lou Millan, NJ

TRANSIT, said for each federal program, there are projects that are expected to be funded, but any of them may have schedules changed. He said that what gets funded, and when, is a moving target.

A motion to approve the modification was made by NJDOT, seconded by NJ TRANSIT and carried unanimously.

5. Approval of the 2022 Financial Plan Update for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff

Ms. Ludwig said, under federal law, financial plans are required for projects costing between \$100 million and \$500 million. This project is anticipated to cost \$131 million. As of August 29, the project had expended \$14.1 million. Construction began in January 2021 and will continue through May 2025. Ms. Ludwig said there has been no change in the construction cost since last year.

A motion to approve the financial plan was made by Monmouth County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kowalski turned the meeting over to Commissioner Charles Kenny, Middlesex County.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

6. NJTPA Roadway Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2023

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the region must adopt regional roadway safety targets that meet federal requirements and advance the safety priorities described in Plan 2050, the NJTPA long-range plan. He said the proposed targets will help move towards the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries in the region, consistent with federal policy and the Vision Zero plans developed by Jersey City, Hoboken, and Middlesex County. The NJTPA's target setting, he said, is also consistent with and supports state safety policies including the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said the NJTPA is required to establish roadway safety targets within 180 days of NJDOT establishing targets, either setting its own targets for the region or by agreeing to plan and program projects that support attaining the state's targets. He said, this year, the NJTPA is setting roadway safety targets that are specific to this region for the first time to reflect the long-term goal of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

Mr. Miller said the five roadway safety performance measures are five-year rolling averages of: number of fatalities, rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles travelled (VMT), number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT and number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries. He said target-setting this year is particularly challenging due to a change in the federal definition of serious injuries and data that reflects

increased unsafe travel behavior since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. This data shows increases in all five performance measures for both New Jersey overall and the NJTPA region. Mr. Miller pointed out that NJTPA projects and programs intended to help the region meet set targets include: the Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Programs, Complete Streets Technical Assistance, Travel Demand Management, and others.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Morris County, seconded by Jersey City, and carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

1. FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Angel Young, Central Staff, said the Board and RTAC were notified that the draft work program had been posted to the [NJTPA website](#) and was distributed via email to NJDOT. She requested that comments be submitted by January 13, so they could be incorporated into the final draft, which will be presented to the standing committees at their joint meeting in February and to the Board for adoption in March. The handout for the meeting included an updated PowerPoint presentation with a general overview and highlights of new activities for FY 2024 along with a draft budget summary, chart of anticipated revenues and expenditures, list of new contractual activities and a detailed list of pass-through program activities. Ms. Young encouraged all to review these materials and visit the website for more information. She offered to meet with newcomers to the Board and RTAC to explain the work program and answer their questions.

2. NJTPA-Supported Local Safety Action Plans

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said creating Local Safety Action Plans is intended to address the traffic fatality and serious injury crisis at the local level with guidance on implementing proven safety countermeasures. She said the plans are a requirement for accessing federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program implementation funding, and will be useful for accessing other funding sources.

Ms. Goldman said the development of the Local Safety Action Plans will be a consultant-supported effort in coordination with any subregion that wants to participate. The plans will use crash data to identify high-crash locations on all roads and effective strategies to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. Strategies may include infrastructure improvements, policy, education and enforcement, public engagement, attention to disadvantaged and underrepresented roadway users, and elements related to emergency services.

Ms. Goldman said an RTAC teleconference that will focus on the effort is being planned for January and a Request for Proposals will initiate the process in the spring so that local plans can be developed quickly to make the region's counties and municipalities eligible to apply for Safe Streets and Roads for All program implementation funding, which can be used for planning, design, construction and implementing strategies outlined in action plans.

3. Trans-Hudson Update

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend reported that the Federal Railroad Administration released a newly updated prioritized inventory of projects along the Northeast Corridor. Mr. Behrend noted that the Portal Bridge North project is tied for first with a Baltimore rail tunnel, and the Hudson River Tunnel project is the next-highest ranked project. He said these highly ranked projects are now eligible for an increased share of federal funding, and this could reduce the local contribution needed from New Jersey and New York.

Mr. Behrend said the Gateway Development Commission plans major construction of the new tunnel to begin by fall 2024 and end in 2035. After completing the new tube, it will spend three years rehabilitating the existing tunnels, ultimately doubling track capacity to reduce delays and increase service. He said these projects remain essential to the region, as overall NJ TRANSIT rail ridership is holding steady at 70 percent of pre-pandemic levels. He noted that ridership is higher on midweek trains, and there is evidence that office markets for New York-bound commuters and hybrid commute workers continue to rebound.

Mr. Behrend said, in November, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey released its \$8.3 billion 2023 budget, which includes continuing commitments to key projects including: replacement of the Midtown Bus Terminal; new fare collection systems for PATH and AirTrain; expanding PATH capacity; rehabilitating the George Washington Bridge; and others.

4. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said the US Department of Transportation released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the next round of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program. The deadline to apply is February 28. Details are available on the [NJTPA IJJA webpage](#). He urged the subregions who are applying for the grant to coordinate with NJTPA staff, who can provide guidance, access to data, and letters of support.

Mr. Behrend reported also that Congress is facing a December 16 deadline to fund the federal government, including transportation programs, and according to reports, negotiations on an omnibus budget bill are progressing better than many anticipated. However, Congress still might need to pass a continuing resolution that would keep the government open at current funding levels.

Mr. Behrend said the change in leadership in the House next year will mean a new chair for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee – likely Missouri Rep. Sam Graves, the current ranking member. He said this change in control could result in increased oversight and scrutiny of the Biden Administration's infrastructure law implementation.

Mr. Behrend reminded all about the 2023 TransAction conference, to be held at the Tropicana in Atlantic City, April 18-20.

Mr. Behrend thanked Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, who will end his tenure as RTAC Chair in January. He said Mr. Jehnke has done a fantastic job leading the committee and has gone above and beyond expectations by previously extending his term.

VII. Other

NJTPA Chair, Commissioner John Bartlett, Passaic County, said a recent poll of Board members indicated a consensus that in-person meetings have value and a majority supports resuming them. He said, beginning in March, the Board will return to fully in-person meetings at the NJTPA meeting room in Newark. He said standing committee meetings will continue virtually for the foreseeable future.

Commissioner Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, said she was leaving the Board after nine years. She thanked everyone, especially staff, for all they have done during some very trying times.

Commissioner Bartlett expressed appreciation and admiration for what Commissioner DeFillippo accomplished for the NJTPA as Chair under very difficult circumstances. He thanked her on behalf of the Board and wished her well. Mr. Behrend echoed Commissioner Bartlett's remarks and noted that her leadership during the pandemic not only benefited the agency but safeguarded the well-being of Board members and staff. Commissioner Kowalski said she appreciated working with Commissioner DeFillippo, and Commissioner Charles Kenny, Middlesex County said she was welcoming and helpful to him when he joined the Board.

VIII. Next virtual meeting: February 21, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

IX.. Adjournment

At 11:55 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
December 12, 2022**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski (Vice Chair)	Union County
Hon. Susan Soloway	Hunterdon County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
David Dech	Warren County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Susan Soloway (Vice Chair)	Hunterdon County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
David Antonio	Essex County
Mike Manzella	Jersey City
Dolores Martinez Wooden	City of Newark
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also in Attendance	
Christopher Helms	Bergen County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Bob Werkmeister	GPI

Mark Baudermann	Hatch
Sam Schroeder	Hudson County
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
John Hayes	Morris County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Massiel Ferrara	Passaic County
Stephan Pezdek	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Francesca Giarratana	
Shiya	
Syd Chan	
Paul St. Onge	
Amar Patel	