



Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes October 12, 2021

I. Roll call

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll, and 20 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021 meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Somerset County, and approved with 18 affirmative votes. Monmouth and Ocean counties abstained.

III. Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) Report

Dan Callas, TransOptions, briefed the Committee on efforts of the state's TMAs, who have been conducting Street Smart NJ pedestrian safety education campaigns and providing several municipalities and residents with Street Smart signage and materials.

Mr. Callas noted that the TMAs continue to advance recommendations from the region's Co-ordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, providing online travel information, senior programs, and non-emergency transportation to medical facilities. He noted that RideWise, Keep Middlesex Moving, Hudson TMA, goHunterdon and Cross County Connection have been working to promote awareness and implementation of electric vehicle charging facilities.

IV. Presentation – Census 2020: Preliminary Results

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, said the latest U.S. Census data shows that the NJTPA region's population grew by 6.8 percent to over 7 million, exceeding pre-2020 Census estimates that projected a 1.8 percent increase. New Jersey's total population is now just under 9.3 million.

Mr. Diogo said Hudson, Essex, Ocean, Middlesex, and Bergen counties saw the largest growth. Warren and Hunterdon had minimal growth (less than 1,000 people), while Sussex County saw a

population decrease of about 5,000. He said it is too early to say how the pandemic affected the count or how it will affect future growth.

Mr. Diogo noted that, in addition to population counts, the Census provides data on the state's racial and ethnic mix, a breakdown of age groups and information about housing vacancy rates. Additional data, including more detailed age breakdowns, will be released in 2022. Mr. Diogo noted that this data is factored into funding formulas and helps to inform planning studies, needs assessments and equity analyses, and it is also the basis for modeling and forecasting.

IV. Information Items

1. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Angel Young, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the development of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 UPWP. Prior to the meeting Ms. Young distributed a package of the following materials to RTAC members: FY 2023 UPWP Development Schedule; New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT's) Transportation Priorities for MPOs; Federal Highway Administration Planning Emphasis Areas; NJTPA long range plan goals and federal planning factors; and a slide presentation overview of the various elements of the FY 2023 UPWP.

Ms. Young highlighted a variety of requirements and current and proposed activities in the program. She said input from the Trustees and RTAC members will be sought throughout the development process, and she asked that any suggestions be submitted by October 31, so they may be incorporated into the first draft, which will be distributed for review in December. Ms. Young said subsequent comments on the draft program are requested by January 4. The final draft will be presented to the RTAC and standing committees in February 2022 and to the Board for approval in March.

Ms. Young encouraged all to review the slide presentation and visit the NJTPA's [UPWP website](#) for information on the current program. She offered to meet separately with newcomers to the NJTPA about the UPWP development process.

Liza Betz, Union County, asked about a new consultant-supported assessment of the subregional pass-through programs. Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said the task has not been scoped yet, and it will determine how well current processes are working for the subregions and the NJTPA and how they can be improved. She added that the RTAC will be asked to provide feedback when the task is fully defined. In answer to another question from Ms. Betz, Beth Johnson, Central Staff, explained that the study is not a sub-component of the consultant-led FY 2022 UPWP Management System Support Services budget line item that is related to reporting and managing UPWP grants.

2. NJRTM-E Travel Demand Model Validation Project

Mr. Diogo said the NJRTM-E model will be validated to a pre-COVID year, because not enough information is available about what a post-COVID world will look like. The validation project will adjust TAZ geographies to use the 2020 Census information and will provide levers in the model to allow adjusting factors such as trip generation, based on what is learned from any post-COVID data to be obtained.. While these adjustment factors will help with post-COVID analysis, they will not replace a validated model. Mr. Diogo said a consultant is engaged and completion of the model validation is anticipated in the first half of 2023. A kickoff meeting has been held, and RTAC representation on the Technical Advisory Committee being formed includes Mr. Jehnke and Dave Schmetterer, Monmouth County. Mr. Diogo welcomed others to participate.

3. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the NJTPA continues to work with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) on the TNJ plan update. Task force meetings will be scheduled for later this year. The first phase of the update concentrated on large focus areas of the original plan, and Phase 2 will focus on strategies and actions that flow from those focus areas.

Mr. Perlman said NJTPA staff, led by Liz DeRuchie will review and update the funding database and try to provide more guidance on available federal resources and how to use them.

Mr. Perlman said that the TNJ Local Technical Assistance Program is now called the Vibrant Places Program to better reflect the program, which is now in its fourth round. It funds technical assistance to subregions, municipalities, and non-profits for developing strategic place-making strategies that enhance communities' social, physical, and economic opportunities. Strategies can leverage arts, culture, and other assets to attract new investment and strengthen local economies. Proposals for implementation will be selected by the NJTPA, VTC and New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the October 18, 2021 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee.

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Utilize Federal Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Program Funds as Requested by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff
2. Support for Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2022 Set by the New Jersey Department of Transportation in Collaboration with the NJTPA and Other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in New Jersey – Keith Miller, Central Staff

VII. RTAC Teleconference – November 15, 2021 (tentative)

VIII. Next Meeting: December 6, 2021.

X. Adjournment

At 11:38 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Sussex County, seconded by Somerset County, and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
October 12, 2021

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Byron Nicholas (Vice Chair)	Hudson County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Michael Swan	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Ray Tomczak	Federal Transit Administration, Region 2
Paul St. Onge	Gibbons Law
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Dede Murray	Hudson County
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Jason Miranda	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Vichika Iragavarapu	STV Group

Dan Callas	TransOptions

