



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes August 9, 2021

I. Roll Call

RTAC Vice Chair Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll, and 17 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Sussex County and carried with 16 affirmative votes. Monmouth County abstained.

III. Presentation: Planning North Jersey's Transportation Future: Plan 2050, TIP and Conformity

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said the region's long range transportation plan, Plan 2050, focuses on transportation, people, and opportunity. Among its priorities are safety, accessibility, equity, active transportation, climate change, transportation technologies and freight. He said the plan contains a series of technical appendices covering outreach results, performance measurement and other topics. It is the region's first long range plan to include a report on the region's progress toward meeting federally mandated performance targets to assure accountability, transparency and better investment decisions.

Mr. Ritter said outreach for the plan began in 2019 with the Planning for 2050 Speaker Series at Board meetings, a virtual board retreat in June 2020 and a wide variety of virtual public outreach, including a series of symposiums (TPA Tuesdays), a multi-media contest and an online survey that was taken by over 2,100 persons. Four background papers that focus on key planning priorities for the region were issued:

- Active Transportation in the NJTPA Region
- Climate Change and Transportation
- The COVID-19 Pandemic and North Jersey Freight
- Transportation Technology

Mr. Ritter said the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the four-year fiscally constrained list of projects and programs that comprise short term implementation of the long range plan. He said the current draft TIP includes 273 projects and programs totaling more than \$1.8 billion for highways and bridges and over \$1.3 billion for NJ TRANSIT projects and programs in the first year. He noted that the TIP emphasizes safety and maintaining infrastructure in a state of good repair.

Mr. Ritter said the Air Quality Conformity Determination is a federally mandated analysis of three main pollutants – ozone, fine particulate matter and carbon monoxide – for all of the projects in the long range plan and TIP. He said the current conformity determination confirms that all projects in the long range plan and TIP meet federal air quality standards and will not worsen air quality.

Mr. Ritter said a 30-day public comment period was held for the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination and Plan 2050 from July 6 to August 4 and included a public workshop on the conformity determination, a virtual open house meeting, the online survey, and a social media campaign.

He said staff would provide a summary of the comments and responses from the public comment period to RTAC, the Planning and Economic Development Committee and the Board.

IV. Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) Report

Dan Callas, TransOptions, briefed the Committee on current efforts of the state's TMAs, who have started work on their FY 2022 work programs. He said, along with familiar activities, there is a new focus on promoting programs related to electric vehicles.

Mr. Callas said the TMAs continue to implement the Street Smart NJ Pedestrian Safety Program:

- goHunterdon concluded a Street Smart campaign in Frenchtown Borough.
- Hudson TMA is working with the North Bergen Police Department to procure materials and signage for a campaign along Bergenline Avenue, and they worked with Secaucus last spring to address speeding and safe crossing at a Route 3 exit into the town.
- TransOptions has launched a social media ad campaign to target specific behaviors at locations in Morristown and Dover in Morris County and conducted Street Smart campaigns in Little Falls and Wayne in Passaic County.
- Keep Middlesex Moving has posted Street Smart signs in communities throughout Middlesex, East Brunswick, Old Bridge and Piscataway.
- Greater Mercer TMA supported a weeklong radio promotion over the July 4th weekend on two Ocean County stations for the “heads up phones down” Street Smart message.
- Cross County Connection held a campaign in Somerdale, Camden County, and plan a larger campaign in the fall. They also conducted health related campaigns in Pennsauken and Collinswood.

In other areas, Mr. Callas said the TMAs continue efforts related to recommendations from the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

- Cross County Connections has updated their COVID-19 web map showing vaccination sites along shuttle routes, and they provided data to NJ TRANSIT for their own map.
- goHunterdon continues their health care access transportation project for non-emergency patient transportation using Uber and Lyft
- TransOptions continues to dispatch Lyft rides as part of the Sussex County Transportation Network Company pilot projects that started last fall.
- Keep Middlesex Moving is involved in the development of the Middlesex County Plan 2040, which will help define additional human services activities.
- Greater Mercer TMA completed two new downloadable mobility guides – a new guide for Ocean County and a fully updated one for Mercer County. Both include information on all NJ TRANSIT, county, municipal, community and private services.

V. Information Items

1. FY 2023 Subregional Transportation Program (STP) Solicitation

Peter Zambito, Central Staff, said NJTPA staff is drafting the FY 2023 STP solicitation and RTAC participation in the process is essential. The draft solicitation would likely be distributed for RTAC review by the week of August 23. He said a virtual meeting will be held in early September for RTAC members to discuss the draft and provide feedback before it is issued to the subregions later that month. Draft work programs will be due during the first half of October, followed by a few weeks for NJTPA review and collaboration between Central Staff and subregional staff.

Mr. Zambito said quarterly progress report templates for the FY 2022 STP program would be provided soon.

2. TNJ Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, reported on the activities of the TNJ team, who have completed the first phase of the TNJ Plan update. He said a solicitation for the next round of the TNJ Local Technical Assistance Program is being drafted. In response to several applications to the program, this round may focus on placemaking. The solicitation will be issued in early September and two applications will be selected for projects lasting three to four months. Mr. Perlman said, for this round, the program team may partner with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, who have their own local technical assistance programs and can provide some additional resources that TNJ can leverage around placemaking and local economic development.

Mr. Perlman said the TNJ team contracted with the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity at the University of Minnesota, led by Myron Orfield, who gave a presentation about community diversity at a NJTPA Board meeting. Mr. Orfield's group will support the Voorhees Transportation Center in conducting a community diversity study to identify and address impediments to regional, economic, and demographic stability. The analysis will include a look at how community demographics support and relate to travel, housing, and education.

VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff, briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the August 16, 2021 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee:

1. Approval of *Plan 2050: Transportation, People, Opportunity*, the Long Range Transportation Plan and Accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination – Lois Goldman and Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff
2. Approval of the FY 2022 Study and Development Program – John Witsch, Central Staff
3. Approval of NJ TRANSIT CMAQ Funding Request for Bike Shelter Program – Jeff Perlman
4. Approval of the FY 2022 North Jersey transportation Planning Authority Self-Certification – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff
5. Approval of the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program and the Accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination – Ann Ludwig

VII. RTAC Teleconference

Mr. Nicholas said an RTAC teleconference was tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2021, and he asked members with any ideas for discussion to reach out to him or RTAC Committee Chair Mark Jehnke.

VIII. Adjournment

At 11:15 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by the Essex County, seconded by Hunterdon County, and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
August 9, 2021

| Voting Members | |
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| Byron Nicholas (Vice Chair) | Hudson County |
| Peter Kortright | Bergen County |
| David Antonio | Essex County |
| Carrie Fellows | Hunterdon County |
| Elias Guseman | Jersey City |
| Doug Greenfeld | Middlesex County |
| Inkyung Englehart | Monmouth County |
| John Hayes | Morris County |
| Trevor Howard | City of Newark |
| Andras Holzmann | Passaic County |
| Adam Bradford | Somerset County |
| Tom Drabic | Sussex County |
| Liza Betz | Union County |
| Brian Appezzato | Warren County |
| Brian Leckie | NJDOT |
| Jay Shuffield | Port Authority of New York & New Jersey |
| Jared Rodriguez | Citizens' Representative |
| Other Attendees | |
| Anna Aleynick | AECOM |
| Neile Weissman | Complete George |
| Jeffry Nielsen | Governor's Authorities Unit |
| Robert Werkmeister | GPI |
| Thomas Malavasi | Hudson County |
| Solomon Caviness | Middlesex County |
| Vijayant Rajvanshi | Middlesex County |
| Dede Murray | Morris County |
| Simone Gore | NJ TRANSIT |
| Sal Presti | Passaic County |
| Benjamin Szeto | |
| Chris Mroczka | |
| Jasmine Grossmann | |
| Jim Hess | |
| Marjoly Mascarenhas | |
| Vichika Iragavarapu | |