



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes October 12, 2022

I. Roll call

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mark Solof, Central Staff, called the roll and 18 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2022 meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Morris County and carried with 16 affirmative votes. Somerset and Bergen counties abstained.

III. Presentation: TMA Speed Studies

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said the rate of roadway serious injuries and death increases with the rate of vehicle speed, and safe speed is one of five components of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe Systems Approach. He said some Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) are implementing local speed monitoring programs. Mr. Bilton introduced Tara Shepherd and Ryan Fisher, goHunterdon TMA.

Ms. Shepherd said, the speed study program began 10 years ago as a loan program and was changed to a study program. She said goHunterdon has conducted 73 speed studies for municipalities seeking objective speed data on certain roadways to enable them to prioritize enforcement by location and time. The municipalities also wanted a traffic calming mechanism. Under the program, municipal departments of public works install a channel post at desired locations to monitor vehicular speed. The traffic monitor operates for two weeks in stealth mode then two weeks in display mode.

Mr. Fischer, goHunterdon's Safety Programs Manager, said the equipment, an 11- or 12-inch radar sign, costs \$3,000-\$4000 and includes a one-year cloud data subscription with

TrafficLogix. After the first year, the annual cost is \$400. He said the radar signs are useful to police for vehicle counts or determining how roadways will be affected by construction projects.

Ms. Shepherd said four TMAs have the speed study units (goHunterdon, Avenues in Motion, Greater Mercer and Ridewise). goHunterdon is the only TMA using the units to provide municipalities with speed studies. The others use their units in conjunction with Street Smart NJ campaigns to evaluate messaging effectiveness. An overview of the Speed Studies program is available on the [goHunterdon website](#).

Mr. Bilton asked if there has been consideration about issues other than enforcement such as interest in a grant application or another kind of traffic calming physical infrastructure or signage. Ms. Shepherd said speed study information has been provided to consultants who prepare applications for infrastructure funding. She said many speed studies focus on school areas and developing school travel plans. She noted that the municipalities differ on how they use speed study data, and they are all very appreciative of the program.

Will Yarzab, NJTPA, said the data can be used for applications to the Highway Safety Grant program. He said the before-and-after speed studies are a good way to prove that road diets work.

IV. TMA Report

Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs were submitting their Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 work programs to the NJTPA. She also reported that Hudson TMA Executive Director, Jay DiDomenico had passed away

V. Information Items

1. FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Angel Young, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the development of the FY 2024 UPWP. She encouraged all to review the package of materials provided to the RTAC including: UPWP development schedule, summary of milestone dates that directly impact the subregional pass-through programs, a PowerPoint slide presentation of a general overview of the UPWP development process, and a reminder of NJTPA planning goals.

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

Ms. Young said input from the NJTPA Trustees and RTAC members will be sought throughout the UPWP development process, and she asked that any suggestions be submitted to the NJTPA 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 13. The final draft will be presented to the RTAC and standing committees in February 2023 and to the Board for adoption in March.

2. TIP Project Prioritization, Environment Goal Category Update

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the Environmental Justice (EJ) criteria was updated in September to include Title VI and EJ considerations. She thanked all RTAC members for their participation in a virtual voting exercise that resulted in an increase in weighting for the EJ criterion. Ms. Ludwig said foreign-born populations had been added to the low-income and minorities population factors that were already included in the criteria. The updated criteria factors will be used when scoring new projects and programs in the FY 2024 Project Pool, which is anticipated to be issued by NJDOT in February.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, asked why foreign-born population is included with the low income and minority categories. Ms. Ludwig said, following federal recommendations, the inclusion of foreign-born populations aligns with the NJTPA Title VI Equity Report.

3. FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

Ms. Ludwig said the NJTPA has produced a video, “MPO 101 TIP,” that provides a succinct description of the TIP. She explained that the TIP is a four-year list of transportation projects and programs that have been developed through a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative planning process. She said the TIP typically takes one year to complete and is developed every two years. The TIP development process starts with the Project Pool, which is an unconstrained list of projects and programs. New projects in the pool are scored and prioritized. A challenge round is conducted with the subregions followed by discussions about new projects and advancement of existing projects. Ms. Ludwig said the NJTPA also participates in a revenue assumptions meeting with NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT where fiscal constraint is imposed. Subsequently, negotiations are conducted with the subregion and air quality conformity is applied. She said there will be meetings with local and NJDOT project managers in January and project scoring will be issued to the subregions in February.

4. Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Competitive Grant Opportunities

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said NJTPA provides letters of support for any applications for IIJA grants. She encouraged the subregions to contact her to request the letters or discuss ideas for applying for IIJA grants. She noted that the NJTPA [IIJA webpage](#) is updated regularly. Ms. Goldman said the application period for the Safe Streets and Roads 4 All program closed in September, and there were six applications from the NJTPA region. Essex, Hudson, and Monmouth counties applied for grants to fund local safety action plans. Hoboken/Jersey City, City of Newark and Middlesex County applied for construction grants.

Ms. Goldman noted the following IIJA grant programs:

- The Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) program provides grants to public sector agencies to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety. Applications are due November 18.
- The Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment (ATTIMD) Program provides grants to state and local governments and others to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment. Applications are due November 18. An information webinar is planned.
- The Thriving Communities Program will provide technical assistance and planning support to grow community capacity to take projects from conception through to delivery. The program is focused on supporting under-resourced and disadvantaged urban, rural, and tribal communities. Applications are due November 22, and webinars are planned for October 12, 13 and 18.
- The Reconnecting Communities pilot program funds planning and construction that reconnects and strengthens communities by removing, retro fitting or mitigating highway or other facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, mobility or economic development. Disadvantaged communities are particularly impacted by these barriers. The application period for FY 2022 funding closed October 13.

Liza Betz, Union County, said the County applied for a Safe Streets and Roads 4 All planning grant. She asked how NJTPA staff learned that three subregions were applying for the program. Ms. Goldman said these subregions requested letters of support for their applications. NJTPA Acting Executive Director David Behrend noted that, at multiple RTAC and standing committee meetings, staff has requested that any subregion planning to apply for an IIJA grant program reach out to staff for letters of support and other assistance.

5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said the TNJ plan update is posted on the [TNJ website](#). She said the 2022 plan includes 15 focus areas that have been revised with updated strategies. The plan serves as a regional guide for achieving a competitive, efficient, livable and resilient future. She thanked all who participated in this effort.

Ms. Eaman said the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers is reviewing applications for the Vibrant Places Program and anticipates awarding two projects that will begin in January. Also, the TNJ Institute will host a training event in December on food security and recovery. An announcement will be posted on the NJTPA and TNJ websites.

VI. Written Agenda Items

Mr. Jehnke read the titles of the four written agenda items that were provided in the agenda package for the meeting. Mr. Howard asked how projects for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding are determined and measured. Rick Cippolletti, NJTPA, said some tools for measuring potential reduction of pollutants are provided by the FHWA, and candidate projects are evaluated based on type and other specifics using a forecasting tool.

VII. Review of Project Prioritization Committee Action Items

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on action items to be considered by the Project Prioritization Committee at the October 17 joint meeting.

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funding to the Portal North Bridge as Requested by NJ TRANSIT
2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Two Local Projects
 - East Main Street Bridge over Rockaway River, as requested by Morris County
 - Meadowlands Parkway Bridge, as requested by Hudson County
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Ferry Slip Reconstruction at the CRRNJ Terminal State Historic Site - Phase 1 as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources
4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 29, Bridge over Copper Creek in Hunterdon County as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation
5. Modifications to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to Three Statewide Programs as Requested by NJ TRANSIT
 - Rail Rolling Stock Procurement
 - Preventive Maintenance - Rail
 - Preventive Maintenance – Bus

VIII. RTAC Teleconference

A teleconference is tentatively scheduled for November 21, 2022. Mr. Jehnke said RTAC members who have ideas for topics for discussion should reach out to him or RTAC Vice Chair, Byron Nicholas, Hudson County.

IX. RTAC Elections

Mr. Jehnke said the election of new RTAC leadership is slated for the February RTAC meeting. He asked anyone who is interested in serving as RTAC Chair or Vice Chair to contact him to be added to the slate of nominations.

X. Next Meeting: December 5, 2022

XI. Adjournment

At 11:20 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by the Union County seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
October 12, 2022

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Byron Nicholas (Vice-Chair)	Hudson County
Christopher Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Michael Dannemiller	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
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Hailey Anilines	NJDOT
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Other Attendees	
Lou Lugio	Dynamic Traffic
Krishna Murthy	EZ Ride TMA
Lisa Lee	EZ Ride TMA
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Mike Manzella	Jersey City
Dede Murray	Morris County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Celeste Alsina	
Dennis Motiani	
J. A. S. Kelly	
Pete	
Avnish Gupta	
Sunil Dhuri	