

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

AGENDA
April 12, 2021
10:30 AM

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/912420365>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3112](tel:+15713173112)

Access Code: 912-420-365

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Presentation: New Jersey's ITS Architecture – Susan Catlett, NJDOT; Rob Bamford, Transcom; and Manny Insignares, ConSys Tec
- IV. TMA Report – Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon
- V. Information Items
 - 1. Draft FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program Development: Capital Program – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff
 - 2. Congestion Management Process Update - Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
 - 3. GIS Training Update – Gabrielle Fausel, Central Staff
 - 4. Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program Update – Peter Bilton, Central Staff
 - 5. TNJ Initiative Update – Jeff Perlman, Central Staff
- VI. Review of Project Prioritization Committee Action Items
 - 1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Chadwick Beach Island Bridge over Barnegat Bay Project in Ocean County – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
 - 2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Manhattan Avenue Retaining Wall Project in Hudson County – Eve Chamberlain

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Martin Luther King Avenue Bridge over the Whippany River Project in Morris County – Eve Chamberlain
4. Modifications to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Discretionary Grant Funding to Three Programs as requested by NJ TRANSIT – Eve Chamberlain
 - Bus Support Facilities and Equipment (DB# T08)
 - Bus Acquisition (DB# T111)
 - Ferry Program (DB# T700)
5. Modifications to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funding to Two Programs as Requested by NJ TRANSIT – Eve Chamberlain
 - NEC Improvements (DB# T44)
 - Hudson Bergen and Newark LRT System (DB# T87)
6. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program – Eve Chamberlain

VII. Written Information Items

1. FY 2021 Freight Concept Development Program Studies – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff
2. FY 2022 Study and Development Program Update – John Witsch, Central Staff
3. FY 2023-2024 Subregional Studies Solicitation and June Subregional Pass-Through Programs Workshop – Blythe Eaman, Central Staff
4. Planning Tools Expo – Gabrielle Fausel
5. Plan 2050 Development Update – Lois Goldman and Ted Ritter, Central Staff

VIII. RTAC Teleconference – May 17, 2021

IX.. Other

X. Next Meeting: June 7, 2021

XI. Adjournment



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Jehnke, Chair

Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

AGENDA

April 12, 2021

VI. Written Information Items

1. FY2021 Freight Concept Development Program Studies

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff

Two new studies are now underway as part of the FY 2021 Freight Concept Development Program: the Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project in Roxbury, Morris County, and the Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project in Bound Brook, Somerset County. Both studies are scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

The study in Roxbury will look at improving truck circulation along Berkshire Valley Road. Two specific issues will be looked at: low overhead clearance (11 feet, 5 inches), where the Morris County-owned Chester Branch rail bridge crosses over Berkshire Valley Road, and the poorly configured intersection of North Dell Avenue and Berkshire Valley Road adjacent to the crossing with low clearance. The project looks to develop a more direct truck route avoiding residential areas. Freight mobility and safety would be improved by preventing truck-bridge collisions, which often result in the bridge being taken out of service for repairs that hamper rail operations.

The study in Bound Brook will look at the potential elimination of the Port Reading Secondary grade crossing at South Main Street (Queens Bridge). The number and length of daily freight trains result in significant congestion and delay throughout the downtown area when the gates are down. Eliminating this grade crossing would greatly improve mobility.

2. FY 2022 Study and Development Program Update

John Witsch, Central Staff

The NJTPA Study and Development (S&D) Program describes transportation project planning (Concept Development) work to be conducted. It is a critical link between NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the near-term TIP, which allocates funding for later phases of work, including completion of final design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

Projects are selected for inclusion in the S&D Program based on technical evaluation and consultation with interested parties. The goal is to select a reasonable and balanced mix of projects that reflects the priorities of the LRTP and can be accomplished with available

resources. Initial priority setting for most S&D Program projects involves the application of NJTPA project prioritization criteria.

The schedule for the FY 2022 S&D program is closely aligned with the development of the FY 2022 TIP. The FY 2022 S&D program is included as an appendix in the FY 2022 TIP and as a subsection in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The S&D project information is anticipated to be sent to the subregions in late May for their review. Board approval is expected in September.

3. **FY 2023-2024 Subregional Studies Solicitation and June Subregional Pass-Through Programs Workshop**
Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

Central staff are looking ahead and inviting feedback from the RTAC now during development of the next Subregional Studies Program (SSP) solicitation document, which will be issued in June. Staff recently emailed RTAC last year's FY 2022-FY 2023 SSP Solicitation document which will be revised and updated in drafting the new solicitation. Ideas and suggestions for the new solicitation can be sent to Blythe Eaman, at beaman@njtpa.org, no later than Friday, April 16.

The SSP provides technical and financial assistance to subregions and subregional teams, on a competitive basis, to produce studies of important regional mobility and accessibility issues. Studies are conducted over a two-year period and are solicited annually. Studies are listed in Chapter II of the UPWP. The FY 2023 – FY 2024 SSP Solicitation will be issued in June, and all subregions are eligible to submit proposals, except those with studies launching in FY 2022.

On June 7, staff is planning to hold a Pass-Through Program Workshop after the RTAC meeting. Previous workshops have highlighted best practices from recent studies, outlined new and existing administrative program requirements, and addressed RTAC questions on the Subregional Studies and the Subregional Transportation Planning Programs. An agenda for this year's discussion will be provided prior to the Workshop.

4. **Planning Tools Expo**
Gabrielle Fausel, Central Staff

Staff is currently planning the 7th annual Planning Tools Expo. This event showcases some of the innovative tools that were deployed or are under development in the NJTPA region. This year the Planning Tools Expo will update participants on the Esri Hub and the various initiatives that were launched in the past year. The expo will also showcase Rutgers University's NJ Flood Mapper. This tool is an interactive mapping website designed and created to provide a user-friendly visualization tool that will help get information into the hands of local communities who need to make decisions concerning flooding hazards and sea level rise. In addition, there is update on Engage!, an application that provides various resources for public engagement strategies will be presented.

Due to COVID-19, the event will be held as a virtual GoToWebinar on May 20. A formal invitation including agenda and call-in information will be distributed via email in the upcoming weeks. If anything changes regarding the date and format of the event, notification will be sent.

5. **Plan 2050 Update**

Lois Goldman and Ted Ritter, Central Staff

Work continues for Plan 2050: Transportation, People, Opportunity, slated for Board adoption this fall. A fourth background paper, entitled “The COVID-19 Pandemic and North Jersey Freight,” was published recently. The paper discusses the impact that the pandemic has had on freight distribution and highlights coordination between agencies and lessons learned. Previous background papers published last fall were on active transportation, climate change, and technology. They are all available at njtpa.org/Plan2050, under the documents section.

Public outreach during the development phase of Plan 2050 is complete. A contest for young people to express their visions for future transportation through drawings or paintings, video, or written word ended in March. We will be sharing submissions on our website. A formal public comment period will be held over the summer concurrently for Plan 2050, the FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program, and Air Quality Conformity.



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

Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2021

I. Roll Call

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris called the roll, and 16 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting was made by Hudson County seconded by Somerset County and carried with 15 affirmative votes. Middlesex County abstained.

III. Transportation Management Association (TMA) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, said the TMAs are working with Central Staff on the NJTPA Travel Demand Management and Mobility Plan, and assisting with outreach for Plan 2050. She said the TMAs are conducting Street Smart NJ campaigns and planning for more in the spring and summer.

IV. Discussion/Presentation: Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Angel Young, Central Staff, provided an overview of the proposed FY 2022 work program and highlighted some new initiatives, ongoing activities, budget items and comments on the draft, which was posted on the NJTPA website. She noted that the proposed UPWP includes a 14 percent increase in funding for the pass-through programs and includes five new Subregional Studies, funding for the Subregional Transportation Planning Program and for the state's eight TMAs. Ms. Young highlighted a new task, Title VI Compliance and Reporting, to further demonstrate the NJTPA's ongoing commitment to including environmental justice in planning activities, conducting public outreach to underserved populations and striving for equality in the metropolitan planning process.

Ms. Young said the comments on the proposed work plan were generally supportive and provided additional suggestions on how to further streamline the UPWP document and clearly define the task activities, products, and deliverables. She noted that NJDOT commended Morris County for including an activity fostering coordination with railroad operators and interested businesses to consider diverting goods movement toward rail. They also commended Passaic County for including an elective activity to assist with developing policies and methodologies that will result in more accurate crash data in social justice communities.

Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County, referred to a UPWP task in which staff will manage a Community Diversity Study (a Together North Jersey initiative) with technical support from the University of Minnesota. He questioned why a New Jersey university would not be consulted instead. NJTPA Executive Director Mary A. Ameen said Myron Orfield, Director, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity, University of Minnesota Law School has addressed the Board in the past, and his work on metropolitan areas, diversity and suburban demographics has been ongoing for decades. She said Professor Orfield has led some NJTPA diversity conferences in conjunction with Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations and, given his familiarity with New Jersey, she has spoken with him about ways he and the NJTPA can work together to promote the NJTPA's emphasis on equity, Mr. Lysicatos said he is interested in seeing how Prof. Orfield will make inroads into the region's communities.

Mr. Lysicatos questioned the need to invest \$500,000 into PRIME system upgrades. He said he would prefer to see that funding aimed toward improving much-needed county-level crash data analysis. He said his county does not have good crash data in environmental justice communities, for example. Mr. Lysicatos added that resources being allocated to Together North Jersey and PRIME would be better programmed into efforts that help move projects. Jeff Vernick, Central Staff, agreed with the goal of getting more projects moved through NJDOT, and he said the PRIME system enables that by compiling completed study findings that help identify need. He said funding for enhancements will make PRIME easier to use for direct uploading of study data and provide more opportunities to inform NJDOT of projects that need to be moved.

Jared Rodriguez, Citizens' Representative, said the NJTPA should work to create more equitable access to data and pursue a more equitable deployment of projects based on that correct data. Mr. Lysicatos said he understands the challenge, and it is time to have an infusion of money to focus on technical issues. Liza Betz, Union County, agreed with Mr. Lysicatos observation of the need for accurate data. Mr. Jehnke suggested following-up on the discussion.

V. Information Items

1. Title VI Implementation Plan Update

Karen Rosenberger, Central Staff, who is the NJTPA's Title IV Coordinator, said the NJTPA will further incorporate equity into all its planning work to meet federal and state guidelines and

to create a planning process that helps break down barriers to meet the needs of vulnerable and traditionally underserved communities.

Ms. Rosenberger said the Title VI plan focuses on four key areas of the NJTPA transportation planning process:

- Planning and programming, including ensuring equity is addressed in the Long-Range Plan Update;
- Public outreach and involvement, such as targeted outreach to vulnerable and underserved communities;
- Data collection and modeling, including gathering and analyzing data on underserved populations; and
- Subrecipient monitoring and compliance, including a new survey and assistance to subrecipients.

Ms. Rosenberger also said that, in response to feedback from federal sponsors, three sections were added to the plan.

- Designating a Title VI Coordinator
- Developing a wide range of procedures to meet the general requirements of Title VI and ensuring that the NJTPA program complies with federal regulations and procedures.
- Making Title VI program information and resources available to assist subrecipients in achieving and maintaining compliance and conducting periodic pre-grant and post-grant reviews of subrecipients of federal funds to ensure adherence to Title VI requirements.

2. Draft FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program Development: Project Scores

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the Project Pool sheets were prepared in January and staff met with NJDOT project managers to look at the status of the subregions' current and proposed projects that are moving into the program from Study & Development and former TIPs. She said this process produced an unconstrained program that was distributed to the subregions. Ms. Ludwig said a meeting was held with the Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and the state's MPOs to determine funding levels for FY 2022 and beyond. She said the Project Pool consists of 314 projects and programs, including 64 new projects, 52 of which had been already scored. At the time, 15 projects were being scored and results would be sent to the affected subregions.

3. Transportation Demand Management and Mobility Plan

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said the consultant-supported study and plan focuses on identifying programs and policies that support non-automobile travel and provide for increased mobility. He said six priority strategies based on analysis and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) input had been identified:

- Institutionalization of Complete Streets programs
- Land use policies and transportation planning assistance
- Support for telework and teleservices

- Mobility on demand
- Continued support for first and last mile travel
- Enhance existing ride management system

Mr. Bilton said the study team is conducting interviews with targeted stakeholders, agencies and experts in the state. The study is expected to be completed in FY 2021.

4. Plan 2050 Development Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said plan background papers had been published and are available on the Plan 2050 website. She invited all to a financial element TAC meeting on March 12.

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said Plan 2050 public outreach efforts are nearing completion. He noted some outreach activities that were conducted since January:

- January meeting of the UpNext North Jersey young adults advisory group, which focused on the Plan 2050 Climate Change background paper. State Climatologist Dave Robinson was the featured speaker.
- Third in the series of TPA Tuesdays symposia. Robert Puentes of the Eno Transportation Foundation was the guest speaker. Series recordings are available on the Plan 2050 website.
- Series of three one-hour virtual topic talks on transportation and business, bicycle/pedestrian safety and transit. Co-sponsors included the State Hispanic and Asian Chambers of Commerce, New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition, and Tri-State Transportation Campaign.
- Plan 2050 virtual open house events
- Plan 2050 survey

Mr. Ritter said the Plan 2050 team is working with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) Public Outreach and Engagement Team on a one month special outreach project designed for children and teens, who will be asked to create short videos, audio, artwork and poetry on their vision for the region's transportation system.

Inkyung Englehart, Monmouth County, recalled a presentation to the NJTPA by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Fish and Wildlife Services concerning rules for construction adjacent to wildlife crossings—rules that she said often disrupt transportation projects. She asked if the NJTPA is following up with the changing DEP regulations as they relate to impacts on land use resources and future plans for transportation, mobility and access. Ms. Goldman said the NJTPA coordinates with DEP on any changes of direction.

5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the TNJ task forces and NJTPA liaisons are updating the TNJ Plan. They are evaluating current strategies and focus areas and discussing new ideas for the plan. RTAC members had been invited to participate in a survey to collect information on

strategies that have been advancing at the regional and local levels. Plans are underway for task force meetings in March, and VTC completed a review of state and regional plans, nationwide.

Mr. Perlman said the VTC-supported Local Technical Assistance Program is in its third round and has been working with two municipalities since January:

- The Town of Dover, Morris County, sought help for downtown businesses to create a business directory to help bolster post-COVID recovery.
- Passaic County is working with the VTC to develop a public engagement plan that includes art installations that encourage visitors to the Morris Canal Greenway.

Mr. Perlman said Keith Hamas is the NJTPA Central Staff point person for information on the technical assistance work, which is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Mr. Perlman said TNJ, in partnership with VTC and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association, is working on the second round of the Transit Hub Pilot Program, this time analyzing potential enhancements to areas surrounding the Essex Street Station in Hackensack and the Fanwood Station on the Raritan Valley Line. Jeff Vernick, Central Staff, is the point person for information on the project.

VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

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

1. Modifications to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funding to Four Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
 - Route 46, Pequannock Street to CR 513 (West Main Street), Morris County
 - Route 1&9, Interchange at Route I-278, Union County
 - Route 18, East Brunswick, Drainage and Pavement Rehabilitation, Middlesex County
 - Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue, Somerset County
2. Approval of the 2020 Financial Plan Update to the Route 206 Project in Somerset County - Ann Ludwig
3. Approval of the 2020 Financial Plan Update to the Route 72, Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project – Ann Ludwig
4. Approval of the 2020 Financial Plan Update to the Route 3/Route 46, Valley Road and Notch/Rifle Camp Road Interchange Project, Ann Ludwig

Planning and Economic Development Committee

5. Approval of the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program – Angel Young

6. Support for Adjusted Pavement and Bridge Performance Measure Targets Set by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) - Keith Miller, Central Staff

VII. RTAC Teleconference (Tentative for March 15, 2021) – Mr. Jehnke asked members to reach out to him or RTAC Vice Chair Byron Nicholas with proposed topics for discussion.

VIII. Other: Cost Tracking System (CTS) Update

Kaitlyn Davis, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the progress of various elements of the CTS update. She said internal testing of the full system will be conducted in March, external testing with TAC members in April, user training on the new system in May, and the system will be ready for FY 2022 programs by early July.

Liza Betz, Union County, said subregional staff members look forward to using the system with more ease, and she hopes it remains an objective of NJTPA to continue to make software user friendly, as only 10 percent of pass-through funding covers administration. Ms. Davis said she looks forward to hearing more from committee members as certain reports are rolled out for review.

IX. Next Meeting: April 12, 2021

X. Adjournment

At 12:07 a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Attendance
February 8, 2021

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Byron Nicholas (Vice Chair)	Hudson County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Other Attendees	
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Raymond Tomczak	FHWA
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
James Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Farukh Ijaz	
Mark Villinger	
Michael Camerlengo	