



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes June 7, 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 19 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

III. Presentation: Planning for Emerging Centers

Blythe Eaman and Keith Hamas, Central Staff, detailed two projects nearing completion under the Planning for Emerging Centers program, which provides technical assistance to municipalities to create more sustainable, supportive, and walkable communities and fosters comprehensive approaches to strategic planning at the local level.

Ms. Eaman said the Borough of Raritan Sustainable Economic Development Plan, which was developed through a consultant-led study of downtown Raritan, identifies land use and mobility strategies that will facilitate expansion of the town's employment and economic base. She said the plan includes a vision for the next 10 years; an implementation toolbox; and a redevelopment plan that includes recommended zoning updates for advancing economic and sustainability goals. Ms. Eaman said outreach for the study was conducted through an online game board that served well to engage the public. Ms. Eaman said study documents are available on the [study website](#).

Mr. Hamas said a consultant team and the NJTPA are supporting the creation of a community-driven Borough of Keyport Complete Streets Policy & Implementation Plan in collaboration with residents, business owners and stakeholders. Mr. Hamas said the plan will help the Borough build a network of complete streets through the development of a Complete Streets Policy and Ordinance and a Complete Streets Design Guide. Mr. Hamas said the study team used some conventional outreach methods, such as surveys and stakeholder meetings, but in 2020 the team

had to shift to a virtual outreach plan. He noted a creative new approach using an online video game format. Mr. Hamas said the public outreach concluded with the installation of a demonstration project at a high-profile location to demonstrate the benefits of Complete Streets design treatments.

Mr. Hamas said the project team is analyzing public outreach results, and he noted that a large majority of responses are supportive of the team's ideas and design treatments. The project is expected to conclude by the end of June, and study documents are available on the project website at keyportstreets.com

IV. Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, briefed the Committee on current efforts of the state's TMAs for Street Smart NJ campaigns in Paterson, West Orange, Garwood, Newark, Little Falls, North Plainfield, Bridgewater Franklin Township and Frenchtown. She also reported on implementation activities for the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, including the RideWise One-Click-One-Call project to provide customers with a single point of contact for all transportation information in Somerset County; EZ Ride's updated list of over 2000 organizations and facilities that serve seniors and veterans and their Ride for Life program; Keep Middlesex Moving's online Vaccination Transportation Directory; TransOptions facilitation of a Sussex County Human Services pilot project using Lyft to provide rides to jobs and non-emergency medical care; and goHunterdon's facilitation of non-emergency medical transportation to Hunterdon's healthcare affiliated offices.

V. Information Items

1. Subregional Pass-Through Programs Workshop

Ms. Eaman reminded Committee members about the workshop, which took place after the meeting. She said topics would include TMA co-ordination within the Subregional Transportation Planning Program, program administration guidance and requirements, an update on the new cost tracking system rollout, the Subregional Studies Program solicitation and discussion of takeaways from the past year's programs.

2. FY 2022 Study & Development (S&D) Program Status

John Witsch, Central Staff, said the S&D program is a schedule of new and continuing concept development work. He said, at the conclusion of the Concept Development phase of work, projects that graduate from the S&D program become candidates for inclusion in the NJTPA Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Witsch said the FY 2022 S&D program was distributed to the subregions in May for review. Since then, six projects were added to the program, and six were removed. A summary of changes to the program was mailed to the subregions on June 3, and considering the changes, the deadline for submitting comments was extended to June 9. Mr. Witsch thanked the subregions for their cooperation in reviewing the draft program, which must be approved by the Board.

3. Transportation Applications and Data Research Pilots with NJIT Program 2020-2021

Rick Cipolletti, Central Staff, reported on two applications based on data visualization research projects administered through the NJIT School of Computer Science. He said the Vehicle Occupancy Project will estimate the number of people riding in each vehicle in the NJTPA region, which will help with performance measures and other planning efforts. He said the second research project involves the second phase of a cloud-based sidewalk inventory application that uses infra-red imagery and can eventually be used to extract other features of the region's transportation landscape. Mr. Jehnke asked about this tool's ability to identify sidewalks at the local or county level. Mr. Cippolletti said the application extracts infra-red imagery provided by NJ Department of Environmental Protection, but there are some issues, such as tree canopy cover, that are being mitigated.

Liza Betz, Union County, asked how well the infra-red imagery works in comparison to conventional aerial imagery. Mr. Cippolletti said the project methodology trains a computer to understand various features and differentiate them, for example, driveways perpendicular to or intersecting a sidewalk. He noted that this research project may enable NJIT to develop a software application specific to NJTPA planning needs.

4. Electric Vehicles Training and Technical Support

Jennifer Fogliano provided an update on the Electric Vehicle (EV) Training and Technical Assistance project. She said the consultant team assembled an EV resource library for the NJTPA website. They will also host a training workshop on June 8, and a PowerPoint presentation is also available. Ms. Fogliano said one of the consultants is providing technical assistance for two small EV facilities plans for Hackensack University Medical Center and the Borough of Somerville. Considerations include recommendations for the expansion of existing public charging infrastructure, proposed electrification schedules, fleet charging infrastructure, installation, funding and procurement.

5. Public Comment Period for Plan 2050, the FY 2022 TIP and Air Quality Conformity

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, provided an overview of public outreach efforts for three of the NJTPA's most important federally required products: Plan 2050: Transportation | People | Opportunity (long range plan); the FY 2022 TIP and the accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination. Mr. Ritter said a 30-day public comment period will begin July 6. It will be advertised in the region's newspapers, and copies of the draft documents will be sent to designated regional libraries. On July 27, a virtual open house public meeting will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will include a virtual main room with an introductory presentation and virtual breakout rooms for each of the draft products. The meeting will be preceded that day by a public workshop for the Air Quality Conformity Determination. After the August 4 conclusion of the formal public comment period, NJTPA staff will respond to all the comments from residents, interested parties, partner agencies and other stakeholders.-.

The draft long range plan, TIP, conformity determination and a summary of comments and responses from the public comment period will be provided to the RTAC and to the standing committees for PPC endorsement in August and to the Board for approval in September.

6. Draft FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program Update

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, thanked the subregions for their assistance in reviewing the unconstrained Project Pool, which is the basis for the constrained Transportation Capital Program (TCP). She said the TCP and draft TIP were distributed to the subregions for review, and their responses were submitted to NJDOT in April. This evaluation process is anticipated to conclude by the end of June, and a complete draft TIP will undergo a public comment period beginning July 6.

7. TNJ Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the four TNJ task forces (Efficient, Livable, Competitive and Resilient) have been working with the Voorhees Transportation Center to refresh the TNJ Plan with updated focus areas and initiatives. The draft update is expected to be completed by the end of June. He said June will also see the conclusion of the Dover Business Directory and Recovery project and the Linear Arts District Engagement Plan for the Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County. Both projects are implemented through the TNJ Local Technical Assistance Program.

Mr. Perlman announced a June 16 TNJ Institute webinar on Post-Pandemic Workforce Development Challenges and Changes.

VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff, briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the June 14, 2021 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee:

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Bayonne Commuter Ferry Pier and Dock Improvements Project in Hudson County – Eve Chamberlain
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Utilize Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Program Funding as Requested by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – Eve Chamberlain
4. Modification to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 4, Bridge over Palisade Avenue, Windsor Road and CSX project in Bergen County – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
5. Approval of the Initial Financial Plan for the Route 80, Route 15 Interchange Improvements Project in Morris County – Ann Ludwig

VII. RTAC Teleconference

Mr. Jehnke said an RTAC teleconference was tentatively scheduled for July 19, 2021 and asked members with any ideas for discussion to reach out to him or Committee Vice Chair Byron Nicholas.

VIII. Adjournment

At 11:31 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by the Port Authority, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
June 7, 2021

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Byron Nicholas (Vice Chair)	Hudson County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	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
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Raymond Tomczak	Federal Transit Administration
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Robert Werkmeister	GPI
Thomas Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Farukh	
George Worth	
Jalena Lasko	
Leah Hunt	