

Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Barkha Patel, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes April 13, 2020

Mark Jehnke

I. Roll call

Beverly Morris called the roll and 17 voting members were present. One more arrived after approval of minutes

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried with 16 affirmative votes. Middlesex County abstained.

III. Discussion: Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

Immediate Impacts on NJTPA Subregional Work Programs - Angel Young, Central Staff, said the NJTPA understands that the subregional partners are adapting to a new work environment in response to the COVID19 pandemic, and that it may be challenging for some to submit and meet the current established deadlines for reporting on expenditures and task activities for the third quarter period ended March 31, 2020. She advised them to contact Central Staff if they foresee any issues with meeting their programmatic requirements and completing final products and deliverables. Ms. Young said that quarterly reporting reminder emails were sent to the subregions on April 1 and they included guidance for reporting under the special circumstances.

Long Term Plan 2050 Considerations - Lois Goldman, Central Staff, led a wide-ranging discussion on the potential impacts the COVID19 pandemic on future transportation planning work for the region and how this will be reflected in the long-range transportation plan update. Committee members discussed a variety of issues, including economic recovery, downtown and retail development, air quality, climate change, employment, equity, teleworking, transportation funding, commercial office market, and technology.

IV. Information Items

1. TMA Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, said in response to the COVID19 public health emergency, the TMAs activated their business continuity plans and moved to remote operations in March. To stay in communication with all stakeholders, including schools, employers and municipalities, the TMAs updated their websites to inform stakeholders of the status of remote operations and to share contact information. Ms. Shepherd said they are also leveraging social media platforms extensively. She said several TMAs are involved in direct response activities, and she noted that, while shuttles and on demand ride services are reduced or suspended, transport for dialysis patients continue.

2. CMP Working Group

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, said the NJTPA held its second meeting of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) Working Group in March online via GoToMeeting. The meeting was supported by the consultants, ICF and AECOM, and included representation from subregions, state partners, and neighboring MPOs. The group discussed technical materials and reviewed draft CMP objectives. Participants also discussed the use of performance measures relating to accessibility to destinations; alternatives to driving alone; public transit usability; freight; walking and bicycling; and travel time reliability. Mr. McGuinness said the objectives and performance measures will be used to guide the upcoming needs assessment phase of the study. The next working group meeting is slated for June.

3. PRIME Update

Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff, said 29 planning studies and policies have been entered into the PRIME system consisting of 19 studies, 10 brief summaries and about 400 recommendations. He said the system is beginning to be used to retrieve and apply information. In terms of uses, Mr. Vernick said staff is looking to leverage the information in PRIME and explore ways to report that information. For example, NJTPA staff, in an advisory capacity, used PRIME to prepare comments on some NJDOT Capital Program Selection Committee (CPSC) projects and have identified potential funding opportunities. Also, the NJTPA has used the application to respond to a request from NJ TRANSIT and the Federal Transit Administration to identify New Jersey locations that are potentially suitable for funding sources such as the Section 5311 Intercity Bus Program.

Mr. Vernick said it is hoped that the information in PRIME can be used earlier in the project planning process as projects are identified or scoped. He said he will be reaching out to RTAC members to identify more studies to be entered into the system and determine more ways PRIME can serve as a resource.

Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, asked if NJDOT should be required to include study recommendations from PRIME as part of their normal project development process for consideration by the CPSC. Jim Vari, NJDOT, said the agency already reaches out to county and local governments to incorporate or at least speak to ideas about any given project, sends CPSC agendas to counties and MPOs, and takes comments. He said PRIME can be a part of that going forward if that is the preferred vehicle for relaying comments to NJDOT.

V. Written Information Items

Ms. Goldman provided additional information concerning the long-range transportation plan update as a written item accompanying the agenda. She said staff is working on background papers, including one on asset management. She said the subregions have been very helpful reviewing bridge data and providing corrections and additions. She said Keith Miller, Central Staff, will send pavement data soon for their review. A variety of background papers will be released on a staggered schedule, beginning this fall.

VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the April 20 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Committee:

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Downtown Toms River Loop Road Project in Ocean County
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Laurel Avenue, NJ TRANSIT North Jersey Coast Line Bridge Project in Monmouth County
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Rumson Road Over the Shrewsbury River (CR 520) Project
4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Kearny Riverbank Park Bike Trail Project as Requested by the Town of Kearny

VII. RTAC Teleconference – May 18, 2020 (Tentative) – Mr. Jehnke asked members to reach out to him or RTAC Vice Chair Barkha Patel with proposed topics for discussion.

VIII. Next Meeting: June 8, 2020.

IX. Adjournment

At 11:38 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County, seconded by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Attendance
April 13, 2020

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Barkha Patel (Vice Chair)	Jersey City
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Terrence Howard	City of Newark
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Blanca Quinde	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Other Attendees	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
James Beattie	AECOM
James Hess	AECOM
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Lisa Lee	ezride
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
John Mullen	McCormick Taylor
Christina Arlt	McCormick Taylor
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Andrew Swords	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Steve Brown	PANYNJ

Andras Holzmann	Somerset County
Mike Camerlengo	STV Inc.
Janey Keiser	WSP
Courtenay Mercer	
Stan Olszewski	
Cory Hopwood	