



## **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

Mark Jehnke, Chair  
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

### **Meeting Minutes December 6, 2021**

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#### **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 October 12, 2021 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Somerset County and carried with 18 affirmative votes. Monmouth County abstained.

#### **III. Presentation: Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program**

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, reported on the third round of the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program, which is conducted with support from Sustainable Jersey and the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers. The program assists municipalities with developing Complete Streets policies. Mr. Bilton said these “micro projects” can include walkable community workshops, conceptual renderings of potential Complete Streets results, planning around a demonstration project, etc. He noted that program participants do not receive any direct funding, only technical assistance.

Mr. Bilton said the application period for this round of the program is open, and up to eight projects will be awarded. He said two informational webinars were to be held – one to show potential applicants what types of projects they can apply for and the other to provide instructions on completing the applications using an online app that is maintained by Sustainable Jersey. The application period will close in February. Completion of selected projects is anticipated by March 2023.

Mr. Bilton expressed appreciation for RTAC support in promoting the program and helping municipalities through the process. More information is available on the [Sustainable Jersey website](https://www.sustainablejersey.org/).

#### IV. Transportation Management Associations (TMA) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, briefed the Committee on efforts of the state's TMAs, who have been conducting Street Smart NJ pedestrian safety education campaigns, promoting the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program, working with municipalities interested in adopting support for electric vehicles, and working on implementation of the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs continue to provide transportation information and paratransit services and to advance recommendations from the region's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

#### V. Information Items

##### 1. Draft FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Update

Angel Young, Central Staff, briefed the committee on the development of the UPWP update. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Young distributed a package of the following materials to RTAC members: an updated PowerPoint presentation that provides a general overview of the draft UPWP, a draft budget summary, and a list of new contractual and consultant supported efforts. She noted some new and continuing activities.

Ms. Young encouraged the Committee members to visit the [UPWP website](#) for the current program. She reminded all that comments to the draft work program are requested by January 14 for incorporation into the final draft that will be presented at the Project Prioritization Committee/Planning and Economic Development Committee joint meeting in February. Board adoption of the FY 2023 UPWP is slated for March 14.

##### 2. User Survey in Advance of PRIME 2.0

Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff, thanked RTAC members for serving on the consultant selection committee for the PRIME database update. Mr. Vernick said, to date, the system provides access to findings of approximately 60 studies. Mr. Vernick said the update project will begin in January, and outreach will be conducted for opinions on ways to upgrade the system. He said a workshop will be held in January for Committee members and other planning professionals. Also, the project team will reach out to the broader planning community with a survey.

##### 3. Morris Canal Working Group

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said the Morris Canal Working Group (MCWG) is active again after a year and a half of inactivity due to the pandemic. A virtual meeting was held on November 17 and attended by about 65 people. Mr. Ritter invited RTAC members to submit ideas for a featured greenway-related presentation for the next MCWG meeting. A recording of the November meeting is available at [morriscanalgreenway.org](http://morriscanalgreenway.org).

#### 4. TNJ Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the solicitation for applications to the 2022 Local Technical Assistance Program, now branded as the TNJ Vibrant Places Program, was released late last summer and two proposals were selected for the current round. He said Perth Amboy, in Middlesex County is seeking technical assistance with redesigning a pocket park, and the Township of Belleville, in Essex County needs help with branding their downtown commercial district. Mr. Perlman said the projects will be completed by the end of May 2022.

Mr. Perlman said the second phase of the TNJ Plan update is in progress and focuses on strategies and actions. He said completion of the plan update is anticipated by early 2022. Mr. Perlman noted that Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff, is leading an update of the funding resource database that was developed as part of the first TNJ plan six years ago.

#### VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the December 13, 2021 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee.

1. Approval of the Financial Plan Update for Replacement of Bridge S-32 on County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Ferry Slip Reconstruction at the CRRNJ Terminal State Historic Site – Phase I as Requested by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds for the Portal North Bridge as Requested by NJ TRANSIT – Eve Chamberlain

#### VII. RTAC Teleconference – January 17, 2022 (tentative)

#### VIII. Next Meeting: Monday, February 14, 2022

#### IX. Adjournment

At 11:12 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee  
Attendance  
December 6, 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
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Joseph Ettore	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
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Neile Weissman	Complete George
Ryan Fisher	GoHunterdon
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Sunil Dhuri	ICF
Michael Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Stephen Dunn	City of Newark
James Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Villinger	Ocean County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Lou Luglio	Sam Schwartz
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Dan Callas	TransOptions