



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner John W. Bartlett – Chair
Commissioner Jason Sarnoski – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner John P. Kelly – Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021

I. Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Warren County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll. Twelve members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 12 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by Warren County, and carried with 16 affirmative votes.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities at the October RTAC meeting. He said Peter Bilton, Central Staff, gave a presentation on the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program, which provides municipalities with free technical assistance on projects that help advance local complete streets initiatives. Mr. Jehnke said staff also provided updates on the draft 2023 Unified Planning Work Program, efforts to enhance the PRIME project tracking database and a related user survey, the Morris Canal Working Group, and the Together North Jersey (TNJ) initiative.

IV. Presentation: Essex Hudson Greenway

Francesca Giarratana, Hudson County Office of Planning, introduced Dene Lee of the Open Space Institute, a regional land trust and conservation organization that is leading the initial phase of developing the greenway, which involves the state's purchasing an unused rail line from

Norfolk Southern and the development of visual materials, such as renderings and maps, designed for engaging the public in the vision for the greenway.

Ms. Lee said the Essex-Hudson Greenway Project will create a nine-mile greenway across eight communities from Montclair to Jersey City. She said, in addition to recreational features, the proposed linear state park will enhance transportation options, including bike commuting in the most densely populated part of the region. Partners in the effort include NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor's Office, New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, and the September 11th National Memorial Trail. Ms. Lee shared several of the maps and renderings during her presentation.

V. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Federal Funds for the Portal North Bridge as Requested by NJ TRANSIT

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said the project received additional funding through the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act in the amount of \$77.8 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2022. This additional funding will support design, engineering, construction and other project elements.

A motion to endorse the resolution was made by NJ TRANSIT, seconded by the Citizens' Representative, and carried unanimously.

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 (NJDEP)

Ms. Chamberlain said NJDEP has requested that this project in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, be added into the current TIP as it is ready to be authorized. The project received a Passenger Ferry Grant Program award for \$5.9 million, and \$1.53 million in additional funding will be provided by NJDEP with State Parks Capital Funds. Also, sponsorship of the project has been changed from NJDEP to NJDOT.

A motion to endorse the resolution was made by Hudson County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

3. 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, said financial plans are required for major projects with total costs from \$100 million to \$500 million in federal funding. This financial plan update reflects an increase of \$16 million, which is mainly due to updated construction-related costs. Construction began in January 2021 and will be completed by May 2025.

A motion to approve the financial plan update was made by Monmouth County, seconded by Middlesex County, and carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

1. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Angel Young, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the development of the FY 2023 UPWP. Ms. Young said the draft program had been posted to the NJTPA website and emailed to NJDOT. Comments are requested by January 14 to be incorporated into the final draft, which will be presented to the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee at their joint meeting in February and to the Board for adoption in March.

Ms. Young highlighted a variety of proposed new activities for FY 2023 in the areas of systems planning data and forecasting, long range transportation planning, environmental and sustainability planning, freight planning and coordination, capital programming, local project development, communications and public affairs, and information technology. She also provided details on the pass-through programs – Subregional Studies Program, Subregional Transportation Program, and Transportation Management Associations Program.

2. 2022 Local Safety Program/High Risk Rural Roads Program Solicitation

Christine Mittman, Central Staff, said December 20 is the tentative release date for the program solicitation. She said the application and guidelines for the program were overhauled by NJDOT in 2020 to create one process to be used by all three New Jersey Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Ms. Mittman said the new application and guidelines had been shared with the subregional engineers. Applications are tentatively due March 15. She said review of the applications by a Technical Review Committee is expected to conclude by September, and projects recommended for implementation will be submitted to the Board for approval at their November 2022 meeting.

3. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said that the Army Corp of Engineers granted a joint permit to NJ TRANSIT and Amtrak for the Hudson Tunnel project. He said the permit constitutes the last major federal approval needed for construction to proceed, once all the funding is in place. The project still needs a higher financial rating from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) before it can receive the federal funds necessary to go forward. Mr. Behrend said a revised financial plan was submitted to the FTA, and an upgrade to the rating is anticipated, perhaps soon enough to allow construction to begin next summer.

4. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is, in part, a five-year transportation reauthorization. The bill includes reauthorization of existing formula funded programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ), Transportation Alternatives, etc. He noted that the programs will receive substantially more funding, which could create opportunities for more projects. The bill includes two new formula programs to address climate change – the Carbon Reduction Program and the PROTECT program.

Mr. Behrend said the IIJA bill has a greater focus on competitive discretionary grants that will be managed directly by USDOT. They cover a wide range of areas, such as freight related projects, bridge investments, technology, alternate fuels, green street infrastructure, active transportation, grade crossing elimination, Vision Zero efforts, and more.

Mr. Behrend noted that the priorities of the infrastructure bill align very well with those set out for the region in Plan 2050. Also, there are no earmark projects in the bill. He said the IIJA will cost about \$1.2 trillion for a variety of investments. USDOT will receive \$567.5 billion over the five years of the bill, nearly double that under the FAST Act.

Mr. Behrend noted that there has not been any increase in the federal gas tax to fund the Highway Trust Fund, so Congress is again turning to the General Fund, transferring \$118 billion to the trust fund to fill the gap.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of the IIJA funding one-seat train rides into Manhattan from western New Jersey, which had been mentioned in recent news reports. Lou Millan, NJ TRANSIT, said that, first, numerous elements of the Gateway Program, such as the Portal Bridge project, need to be advanced. Mr. Behrend noted that expansion of trans-Hudson infrastructure through the Gateway Program could eventually open other commuter rail options in the state.

VII. Other Items

NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen announced that the Board Nominating Committee met earlier in the month and will be prepared to recommend a slate of new Board officers for consideration at the January 10 board meeting. The Committee consists of Chair Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County; County Executive Thomas DeGise, Hudson County; and Commissioner Thomas Arnone, Monmouth County.

VIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2022, 10:30 a.m. via Go to Meeting

IX. Adjournment

At 11:35 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
December 13, 2021**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Vice Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Kelly (Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Sara Sooy (Vice Chair)	Somerset County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
David Antonio	Essex County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
John Hayes	Morris County
Phillip Scott	City of Newark
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also in Attendance	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Linda DiGiovanni	CCAPLJD
Mohammed Nasim	CCAPMNN
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Brian Goodson	FHWA New Jersey Division
Robert Werkmeister	GPI
Francesca Giarratana	Hudson County

Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Kevin Force	Hudson County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Dene Lee	Open Space Institute
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Mark Villinger	Ocean County
Dene Lee	Open Space Institute
Lori Jeane Moody	Open Space Institute
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Brendan Latimer	
Andrew Lappitt	