



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Hon. John W. Bartlett, Chair
Hon. Jason Sarnoski, Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Hon. John P. Kelly, Chair
Hon. Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes June 15, 2020

I. Roll Call of Members

Freeholder John Bartlett, Passaic County, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Twelve members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 12 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee were participating.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Passaic County and carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 PPC teleconference was made by Morris County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

III. Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update – Mark Jehnke, Ocean County

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities of the June 8 RTAC meeting. He said the meeting featured a presentation on the 2019-2020 Subregional Studies program that included a program overview by Central Staff. Two RTAC members described their subregions' recently completed studies. Barkha Patel, Jersey City, talked about the Jersey City Parking Management Plan, and Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County, spoke about the Paterson/Newark Transit Market Study.

Mr. Jehnke said, also at the meeting, NJTPA staff presented a range of information items covering: the next Subregional Studies Program solicitation; the Congestion Management Process; employment and population forecasts; the NJTPA's next long range transportation plan; a recap of the June 5 virtual Board retreat; and Together North Jersey activities.

Mr. Jehnke said the committee also had a chance to review the action items on the agenda for this Joint Committee meeting.

IV. PPC Action Items

1. Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add Federal Funds to the Route 80, Riverview Drive (CR 640) to Polifly Road (CR 55) project as requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said based on recently updated schedule and cost estimates, this action would advance \$36 million in design funds into Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 from 2023 and add \$7.759 million in federal NHPP funds. Also, a correction of the spelling of Polifly Road in the title was needed. She said funds are available from unobligated prior year funds.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Union County, seconded by Sussex County, and carried unanimously.

2. Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 46, Main Street/Woodhouse Road (CR 644) to Route 287, ITS Project as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Ms. Chamberlain said, based on recently updated schedule and cost estimates, \$0.5 million in NHPP funds is needed for right-of-way in FY 2021, and the construction phase of work must be reprogrammed into FY 2022, with an increase of \$0.995 million to a total of \$9.7 million in NHPP funds. She said funds are available from prior year unobligated funds.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Morris County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

V. Information Items

1. Plan 2050 Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said three themes emerged from a survey distributed to the Board before their June 5 retreat – infrastructure and investment, inclusion and affordability, and bicycle/pedestrian issues. During the retreat, the consultant team facilitated breakout discussions to discuss the topics. The infrastructure and investment group discussed equity, planning for the effects of the pandemic and other potential threats, and access to broadband, among other topics. The affordability and inclusion group included discussion of the critical commuting needs of essential workers and how warehousing in rural areas has impacted the need for public transportation and affordable housing in those areas. The bicycle/pedestrian group included discussion of the need to balance needs among bicyclists and pedestrians, freight deliveries, and other vehicular traffic. Ms. Goldman said the meeting concluded with attendees' answers to the sentence, "NJTPA needs to pay attention to...". Responses included equity, land use, black

communities, economic recovery, cost-benefit analysis, freight and logistics, climate change, and redundancy.

2. Trans Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said the Federal Transit Administration upgraded the rating for the Portal Bridge Replacement project, which makes it eligible for federal funding. He said the Federal Railroad Administration allocated \$55 million toward the project, along with over \$36 million for some related North East Corridor improvements. Mr. Behrend said, after a recent meeting with Governor Murphy, President Trump tweeted that he is giving the Portal Bridge project “authorization to proceed,” but no formal agreement about the federal funding share of the estimated \$1.8 billion project has been announced. Mr. Behrend noted there has been no apparent movement forward on the Hudson River Tunnel project at the federal level.

3. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend reported that the FAST Act expires September 30, 2020, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released their draft of the next transportation reauthorization bill – Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST Act). He said the proposed bill would increase funding over the next five years with \$494 billion for highways and transit (the FAST Act was \$280 billion).

Mr. Behrend said several provisions in the bill would affect the work of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), including revisions and additions to planning factors. In the area of climate change, the bill mentions resiliency, adaptation, sea level rise, extreme weather, and reduction of fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Long range plans would be required to include strategies to mitigate and reduce climate impacts and a vulnerability assessment of critical transportation assets, evacuation routes, and facilities repeatedly damaged by disasters. He said the NJTPA did this type of assessment a few years ago in cooperation with New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and other regional partners. Also, a greenhouse emissions performance measure would be required.

Mr. Behrend said the INVEST Act calls for stronger emphasis on the connection between transportation planning and investment and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns, including housing— already a focus of NJTPA planning activities. Also, MPOs would be encouraged to use virtual public engagement.

Mr. Behrend said the INVEST Act would keep the amount of funding sub-allocated to local projects at 55 percent in the federal Surface Transportation Program, which is below the previous level of 63 percent. He said national organizations are pushing to increase the percentage. The bill also would continue several discretionary grant programs and create some new ones.

Mr. Behrend said that while the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the highway section of a Senate bill, but much more work remains on other transportation-related

areas covered by other Senate committees. He said it is not likely a new full authorization bill will be passed before the November elections.

VI. Next Meeting: August 17, 2020

VII. Adjournment

At 11:04 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
June 15, 2020**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Bartlett (Chair)	Passaic County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Vice Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
David Antonio	Essex County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	Newark
John Ernst	Ocean County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Jeremy Farrell	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Jerry Rohsler	Morris County
John Hayes	Morris County

Trevor Howard	Newark
Kimberly Singleton	Newark
Blanca Quinde	NJ TRANSIT
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Eric Powers	NJDOT
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Liza Betz	Union County
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay	USDOT
Brandon R	
Fidelia Flores	
Jill	
Mamadou Sy	
Sara Eladl	
Tola Chen	