



**North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.**

**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair  
Commissioner Susan Soloway, Vice Chair

**PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner John Kelly, Chair  
Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Vice Chair

**Joint Meeting Agenda**

**June 20, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/93893200536?pwd=eG85QWFpb2lGd1NFU0N2d1h5a09WQT09>

Meeting ID: 938 9320 0536

Passcode: 351593

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

Or:

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 938 9320 0536

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- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes: April 17 joint meeting and May 5 special Project Prioritization Committee meeting
- III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Report – David Antonio, Essex County
- IV. Action Items

**Project Prioritization Committee**

- 1. Approval of the Initial Financial Plan for the Portway, Fish House Road/Pennsylvania Avenue, CR 659 Project – Elizabeth Johnson, Central Staff (Attachment PPC-1)

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Portway, Fish House Road/Pennsylvania Avenue, CR 659 Project in Hudson County as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – John Witsch, Central Staff (Attachment PPC-2)
3. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Pavement Preservation, NJTPA Regional Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – John Witsch (Attachment PPC-3)
4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Pavement Preservation, Statewide Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – John Witsch (Attachment PPC-4)
5. Modifications to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Two Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – John Witsch (Attachment PPC-5)
  - Route 23, Route 80 and Route 46 Interchange, *Essex and Passaic Counties*,
  - Route 35 NB, Bridge over Route 36 NB & GSP Ramp G, *Monmouth County*
6. Modifications to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Three Programs as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – John Witsch (Attachment PPC-6)
  - Restriping Program and Line Reflectivity Management System
  - Bridge Maintenance Fender Replacement
  - Bridge Preventive Maintenance

V. Information Items:

1. Update on the Transportation Improvement Program and the Study & Development Program – Elizabeth Johnson, Central Staff
2. Report on the Autonomous Vehicle Symposium – Andy Kaplan, Central Staff

VI. Written Information Items

1. Demographic and Employment Forecasting – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
2. PRIME 2.0 Update – Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff
3. Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) Refinement and Strategy Effectiveness Project – Keith Miller, Central Staff
4. North Jersey Regional Transportation Model-Enhanced (NJRTM-E) Validation Validation – Bob Diogo, Central Staff
5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update – Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

VII. Executive Director's Update – Dave Behrend, Central Staff

VIII. Other Items

- IX. Next Virtual Meeting: August 21, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
- X. Adjournment



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**VI. Written Information Items**

1. Demographic and Employment Forecasts  
Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff

As an important foundation for the Long Range Transportation Plan update cycle, NJTPA staff works with partner agencies to forecast population and employment for the NJTPA region. To produce consistent forecasts for the entire NY/NJ/CT metropolitan area, the NJTPA collaborates closely with NYMTC and regional and state partner agencies. NJTPA subregions are engaged in the process, including through an opportunity to provide local information about anticipated development or land use changes.

Regional and county total numbers are currently being developed with the support of NYMTC's consultant. NJTPA staff will use the NJTPA's Demographic and Employment Forecast Model (DEFM) to help allocate totals to municipal and traffic analysis zone levels for transportation modeling purposes. We are updating the DEFM with new Census and other regionally available data and will soon be reaching out to all subregions individually to identify pertinent local data to incorporate as well. The complete forecasting process will likely extend through the fall of 2024, and subregions and partner agencies will be provided draft results for review along the way.

2. PRIME 2.0 Update  
Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff

Initiated in January 2022, this project is enhancing PRIME, the NJTPA's interactive online library of planning findings. The consultant team of Michael Baker International, T&M Associates and Synergy Systems and Services is upgrading the system's mapping, user interface and reporting and streamlining data entry. The software development is now nearing completion. Demonstration of a test version for the Technical Advisory Committee is being targeted for early summer. Refinements, documentation and final deployment with on-call user support will continue into the fall, and updated training and coordination with RTAC will follow. In the meantime, use of the existing PRIME 1.0 system has continued, with ongoing entry of planning studies by NJTPA, subregional and partner agency staff.

3. Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) Refinement and Strategy Effectiveness Project  
Keith Miller, Central Staff

This FY23 UPWP project will enhance and provide greater transparency for the RCIS. The consultant selection process has been concluded and a notice to proceed was issued to the selected consultant team (WSP with Urbanomics) on May 31.

Based on a comprehensive review of best practices, the consultant will help the NJTPA improve estimates of the effectiveness of transportation strategies to provide a better connection between investment dollars and transportation outcomes. The consultant will also build on existing NJTPA analyses of historical spending to further refine and clarify RCIS guidelines and target allocations, and develop an interactive web application for communicating, exploring and applying the RCIS.

The consultant selection committee included members from NJTPA and subregional staff, along with NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT. The project will be starting in June and last approximately 10 months. We will be reaching out to RTAC soon to solicit participation on the technical advisory committee and will provide updates to NJTPA committees throughout the project.

4. North Jersey Regional Transportation Model-Enhanced (NJRTM-E) Validation  
Bob Diogo, Central Staff

In September 2021, NJTPA staff began working with a consultant team led by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. and supported by AECOM, Sobers, Gallop, and T.Y. Lin International to validate the NJTPA's transportation model. The NJRTM-E is used by the NJTPA and its partners to forecast future travel impacts including analysis for air quality conformity, the congestion management process, the long range transportation plan, and other regional studies and performances analyses. Model validation is performed periodically to improve forecasting capabilities, calibrating the model to base year data. This project is being completed on time and on budget in June 2023.

The NJRTM-E was validated using 2019 and pre-pandemic 2020 data, lacking sufficient post-pandemic information. The model was also expanded to include scenario tools for various adjustments (e.g., number of work trips generated), providing flexibility for studies to incorporate post-pandemic conditions or other potential travel pattern changes. The model now incorporates Census 2020 data and geography.

The project included discussions about model validation processes and results with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which included representatives from NJTPA staff, NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, the PANYNJ, NYMTC and NJTPA subregions. The final results of the validation are consistent with recognized modeling standards and the NJRTM-E will continue to be a valuable resource for the NJTPA and partner agencies. The validated model will include a version to function in an upcoming update of the Bentley CUBE modeling software platform. The validation results are being incorporated in fully updated documentation that will be available through the travel demand modeling page (<http://www.njtpa.org/Data-Maps/Modeling-Surveys/Travel-Demand-Model.aspx>) on the NJTPA website.

5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update  
Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

On April 28, the Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative, in collaboration with Downtown New Jersey, held a forum on parklet best practices. Speakers discussed lessons learned over the past 10 years since the original Parklet Handbook was released and provided insights and ideas for implementation. A recording of the webinar is available on the [TNJ website](#).

The two Vibrant Places projects will conclude in June. Working with the City of Lambertville, TNJ staff developed a story map and an accompanying augmented reality walking tour that includes visualizations and audio recordings depicting the impacts of climate change and flooding events at six sites in the City. The study raises awareness of local ecological connections and activates community involvement in the process of resiliency planning.

TNJ staff also worked with the Musconetcong Watershed Association to develop a strategic vision plan for the Village of Asbury in Warren County. Recommendations include placemaking, economic development and traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements that help leverage the watershed's many historic, cultural, and natural assets.