



## **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner John P. Kelly – Chair  
Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski – Vice Chair

## **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair  
Commissioner Susan Soloway – Vice Chair

### **Joint Meeting Minutes April 17, 2023**

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#### **I. Roll Call of Members**

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll. Thirteen voting members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 13 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Monmouth County, and carried unanimously.

#### **III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update**

RTAC Vice Chair Andras Holzmann, Passaic County, reported on the activities at the February 14, 2023 RTAC meeting, where members heard a presentation by Elias Guseman, Jersey City, on the progress of the City's Vision Zero Initiative. Also at the meeting, NJTPA staff presented information items covering a zoning and land use database, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding opportunities, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 solicitation for the Subregional Studies Program, a report on the NJTPA pilot Outreach Liaisons Program, and an update on Together North Jersey activities. Written information that was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting included updates on an upcoming autonomous vehicle symposium, the FY 2024 Study and Development Program, and an introduction to the new Complete Streets Demonstration Library. Mr. Holzmann said the Committee was also briefed on the six joint committee action items that are on this day's joint meeting agenda.

#### IV. Action Items

##### Project Prioritization Committee

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

John Witsch, Central Staff, said the Federal Transit Administration has allotted an additional \$25.02 million in discretionary Capital Investment Grants program funding for the project's Engineering, Right-of-Way and Construction phases of work in Federal Fiscal Year 2023.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by NJ TRANSIT, seconded by Hudson County, and carried unanimously.

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds for Two Projects in Morris County as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – John Witsch

Mr. Witsch said the amendments will add federal funds to two projects in Morris County:

- For the Route 80/15 Interchange Project, the request is to delay National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funding for Right-of-Way from FY 2023 to FY 2025 and to increase this funding by \$2.8 million for a revised total of \$4 million. This action also advances Construction funding from FYs 2029-31 to FYs 2027-29 and increases multiyear NHPP funding for construction by \$39.5 million for a revised total of \$144.5 million.
- For the Route 80, Bridges over Howard Boulevard Project, the request is to change the source of Construction funding from NHPP funds to Bridge Formula Program funds and to add \$19.1 million of this funding to Construction in 2023 for a revised total of \$463 million.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by NJDOT, seconded by Bergen County, and carried unanimously.

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Transfer NJTPA Carbon Reduction Program Funds to NJ TRANSIT's Transit Enhancements Program as Requested by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and NJ TRANSIT

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said this request supports the joint New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and NJ TRANSIT greenway project to convert a nine-mile former rail right-of-way into a recreational transportation corridor that addresses connectivity. She said the NJTPA and NJ TRANSIT are working to transfer \$27.3 million of FYs 2022 and 2023 unobligated Urbanized Carbon Reduction funds to NJ TRANSIT's Transit Enhancement Program to fund the greenway/transitway from Montclair to Jersey City.

In answer to a question from Trevor Howard, City of Newark, Lou Millan, NJ TRANSIT, said several years ago an NJ TRANSIT project connected the Boonton lines to the Montclair branch leaving an inner portion of the old Boonton Line between Montclair and Secaucus essentially abandoned. He said there is interest in constructing a trail there with recreational amenities and retaining the right-of-way for some future form of transit service.

Jeff Perlman, NJTPA, said the NJTPA and NJDEP are discussing the Essex Hudson Greenway and think that funding a greenway and a transitway would be a good use of carbon reduction funds. He said NJDEP has started to develop a main plan for the entire trail corridor, and the requested funds will help get part of the greenway moving.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Union County, seconded by NJ TRANSIT, and carried unanimously.

#### 4. Approval of Projects for the 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff, said NJDOT issued a solicitation for the 2023 program last May, and 68 eligible applications were received from the region. A Technical Review Committee comprised of NJTPA Central Staff, NJDOT Division of Local Aid, Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety, and Bureau of Environmental Program Resources reviewed the applications. Thirty-two top scoring projects in the region were funded with a total of \$35.8 million.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by the Citizens' Representative, and carried unanimously.

#### 5. Approval of the 2022 Financial Plan Update for the Route 80, 15 Interchange Project

Ms. Ludwig said projects costing from \$100 million to \$500 million in federal funding require financial plans. Since the last update of this project's financial plan, the cost has increased by about \$48 million due to inflation and the price of steel. To date, \$9 million (about five percent of the total cost) has been spent. Construction is expected to begin in 2028, and completion is expected by the end of 2032.

A motion to approve the financial plan was made by Warren County, seconded by Sussex County, and carried unanimously.

#### Planning and Economic Development Committee

#### 6. Support for Pavement, Bridge, Travel Time Reliability, and Freight Performance Measure Targets Set by New Jersey Department of Transportation

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said, as part of the federal transportation performance management process, Central Staff has begun to set two- and four-year targets for national performance measures for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025. He said NJDOT and New

Jersey's three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) worked together to identify and agree upon statewide targets for the following measures:

- Six measures of condition for the National Highway System (NHS), four involving pavement condition and two for bridges. Four involve pavement condition, Interstate and non-Interstate NHS roadways and two involve the condition of NHS bridge decks.
- Two performance measures involve the reliability of travel times on both the Interstate and non-Interstate NHS.
- A freight performance measure that involves truck travel time reliability on the Interstate system.

Mr. Miller said, while federal regulations allow MPOs to develop their own targets, it is appropriate for the NJTPA to support the New Jersey statewide targets since they were collaboratively developed by NJDOT, NJTPA, the state's other two MPOs, and other stakeholders.

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

#### V. Information Item: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Update

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) can be found at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and updates on funding resources through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act are posted on the [NJTPA website](#). All cost reimbursement programs require a 20 percent non-federal match. She said the NJTPA can provide letters of support for applicants and strategies to create stronger proposals.

Ms. Eaman said a NOFO for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program was released in March. She said the program provides two funding categories - Community Charging and Fueling Grants (Community Program) and Alternative Fuel Corridor Grants (Corridor Program). Applications are due May 30. Ms. Eaman noted that the NJTPA and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) are discussing the potential for subregions and municipalities to apply jointly with NJDEP in coordination with the NJTPA.

Ms. Eaman said a NOFO from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost Savings Transportation (PROTECT) Formula Program is expected soon.

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said the cities of Orange and East Orange in Essex County will receive technical assistance through the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program to help them advance recommendations from an NJTPA subregional study of Freeway Drive and crossings over Route 280 in the area. The aim is to make the area safer and more connected for pedestrians and promote economic development and livability.

Ms. Goldman said the FY 2022 NOFO for year two of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program was released in March and applications are due July 10, 2023. She noted that several subregions received grants in FY 2022 for local safety action plans. Ms. Goldman noted that

implementation grants must have local safety action plans that are at least substantially completed in place. She said webinars about the program are planned.

Ms. Goldman spoke about the competitive Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program. The two-year NOFO opened in April and applications are due August 1, 2023. The program funds educational programs and construction. She noted that applicants must partner with NJDOT for their grant.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, asked if the state has responded to NJTPA Chair John Bartlett's testimony before the Special Committee on Infrastructure and Natural Resources. NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend said there is no news yet of specific steps that the state is taking in response to the testimony.

In the chat box, Jared Rodriguez, Citizens' Representative, asked if the NJTPA recommends design standards or guidelines for the Safe Streets and Roads for All program. He suggested informing the subregions and municipalities about design guidelines issued by the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). Ms. Eaman noted that on the NJTPA webpage for the new NJTPA Complete Streets Demonstration Library, through which subregions and municipalities can borrow materials for demonstration projects, NACTO guidelines are recommended as resource.

#### VI. Written Information Items Provided in the Meeting Agenda Package

1. Autonomous Vehicle Symposium Update – Andy Kaplan, Central Staff
2. Complete Streets Demonstration Library – Peter Bilton, Central Staff
3. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update – Blythe Eaman

There were no questions or comments on the written items.

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

Mr. Behrend said the Biden administration announced an additional \$700 million in the proposed federal budget for the Hudson River Tunnels project as part of a recommendation for large transportation grants across the nation. He said the federal budget still needs to be finalized and approved, but this demonstrates the current administration's commitment to moving the overall Gateway Program forward. Work to secure a full funding grant agreement is underway with the Gateway Commission and various partner agencies.

Mr. Behrend said the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration issued a draft report on the November certification review for staff review and comment. The agencies indicated that the report will be finalized by May 1. He said the overall draft was very positive and included several thoughtful and valuable suggestions from the federal review team on how the NJTPA can improve various aspects of its planning process. The NJTPA received ten commendations in a wide range of areas including various aspects of work in local safety, complete streets, congestion management process, performance-based planning, freight planning, public participation and public outreach. The review did not result in any corrective actions.

VIII. Next Virtual Meeting: June 20, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

IX. Adjournment

At 11:25 a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by NJDOT, and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ATTENDANCE  
April 17, 2023**

**Project Prioritization Committee**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Betty Jane Kowalski (Vice Chair)	Union County
Hon. Susan Soloway	Hunterdon County
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
David Dech	Warren County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andrew Swords	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

**Planning and Economic Development Committee**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Susan Soloway (Vice Chair)	Hunterdon County
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
David Antonio	Essex County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Dolores Martinez Wooden	City of Newark
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andrew Swords	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Citizens' Representative	Jared Rodriguez

Also in Attendance	
Hon. Jeff Kuhl	Hunterdon County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County

John Hayes	Morris County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Tavainya Smith	NJDOT
Eric Powers	NJDOT
Andy Clark	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
John Ernst	Ocean County
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Tom Drabic	Sussex Cuntty
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Pat Hillard	