



Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Barkha Patel, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes **February 10, 2020**

I. Roll call

Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll and 17 voting members were present. One more arrived after approval of the minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting was made by Bergen County, seconded by Somerset County and carried with 16 affirmative votes. Hudson and Middlesex counties abstained.

III. Presentation: New Jersey Trails: Building Networks

Elizabeth Sewell, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, advocated for connecting regional trails for transportation and recreation throughout New Jersey, such as the East Coast Greenway and the September 11th National Memorial Trail. She suggested that the Morris Canal Greenway Working Group, for example, could look at regional connections with other trails; the NJTPA could include the New Jersey Urban Trail Network's "Stitching NJ Trails Together" initiative in their next long-range transportation plan; and the agency could consider establishing working groups for other trails in the region.

Ms. Sewell said the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) assembled a team to work on establishing a network of over 800 miles of planned trails by 2040 through the Greater Philadelphia Circuit Trails coalition. She said the coalition of counties, municipalities and other agencies in the DVRPC region has gleaned policy recommendations for various levels of governments and compiled their goals in the document "500 by 2025."

In answer to a question from Steve Brown, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), about sharing rights-of-way with various users, Ms. Sewell said she works on projects that run along active railroads, and in some cases a trail is built to preserve a rail corridor (the conservancy's mission), and should train service be reactivated along these corridors, the trail could be moved to run alongside the trains.

In answer to a question from Michael Lysicatos, Passaic County, about the possibility of lobbying the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for changes to the conflicting guidelines for trail width and stormwater drainage, Ms. Sewell said her colleagues have acknowledged this administrative problem. They said NJDEP needs to understand trail development better.

Mark Solof, NJTPA, inquired if there is a designated circuit trail in the Philadelphia area that is promoted to the public. Ms. Sewell referred him to <https://circuittrails.org/>

IV. Information Items

1. Transportation Management Association (TMA) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, reported that the TMAs continue to advance Street Smart NJ campaigns throughout the state and implement Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) initiatives. She said that the TMAs are reaching out to employers and commuters to ensure awareness of the New Jersey Commuter Benefit law which was to become effective March 1. The law requires employers of at least 20 workers to allow a pre-tax deduction of up to \$265 per month for public transit fares and parking costs.

Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs are members of the steering committee for the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan update. They are also responding to the New Jersey Energy Master Plan and meeting with NJDEP to discuss collaboration. Ms. Shepherd said several TMAs have planned information sessions with municipalities and the business community to help facilitate purchasing electric vehicles enabled by the state legislation that became effective in January and subsidizes electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

In answer to a question from Trevor Howard, City of Newark, Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs play a role in road safety audits in different ways, some as part of their NJTPA work programs, others = as part of the Safe Routes to School program.

2. Transit Friendly Planning, Land Use and Development Survey

Megan Massey, NJ TRANSIT, announced the update of the Transit-Friendly Planning, Land Use and Development Program, which will include assessing the program, updating a handbook and establishing an interactive webpage on the NJ TRANSIT website. She encouraged all to participate in a 10-minute online survey to provide feedback that will inform the update process.

3. CMAQ Solicitations for Spring 2020

Rick Cippoletti, Central Staff, said the NJTPA will issue separate solicitations for the Transportation Clean Air Measures (TCAM) and Local Mobility Initiatives programs, which are funded through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. The

TCAM program consists of ready-to-implement projects that demonstrate the potential for reductions in emissions and congestion and meet or exceed the requirements for matching funds.

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said the NJTPA partners with NJ TRANSIT to administer the Local Mobility Initiatives program, which provides operating and capital support for shuttle services that reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and congestion. He said a public information session to provide guidance on the application process and project eligibility for both programs are anticipated for March.

In answer to a question from Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, Mr. Bilton said there is no limit on the number of thumbnails applicants can submit. Mr. Cippoletti and Mr. Bilton encouraged municipalities to work with their counties when developing their thumbnails for either program.

In answer to a question from Mr. Jehnke, Mr. Cippoletti said he would provide the subregions tools from the Federal Highway Administration to run spreadsheet-based emissions analyses , and Central Staff support for use of the tools will be available. He noted that other tools can be used if a proposed project does not fit standard emissions analysis, and staff can assist with modeling. He said briefing on the tools would be provided during the public information session.

4. Kickoff of Accessibility and Mobility Strategy Synthesis

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, said the NJTPA held a kickoff event in January for the Congestion Management Process update study, called the Accessibility and Mobility Strategy Synthesis. He said the meeting was attended by subregional representatives, partner agencies and other stakeholders. Staff summarized feedback from a previous November meeting on the subject, and consultants provided a project overview and facilitated group discussions on objectives for the future of the plan. He thanked RTAC members for their participation. Mr. McGuinness said the next meeting, slated for March, will focus on goals, objectives and performance measures.

5. Travel Modeling NJTPA Web Series

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, announced four webinars featuring MPOs who will talk about their model structure, data requirements, cost of development, and improvements. The webinars are scheduled for March 11 and 23, and April 8 and 22. He said the webinars will require some travel demand modeling experience. Mr. Diogo encouraged RTAC members and members of the North Jersey Regional Transportation Model-Enhanced (NJRTME) Users Group to attend. He said, although the current NJTPA NJRTME is still doing well after 12 years, it is time to think about adapting it to new and changing conditions.

In answer to a question from Mr. Howard, Mr. Diogo said a new model to try to achieve very localized analysis would be expensive and require more data. He said it is better to have a regional model and use supplementary models for some localized analysis. He said this issue will

be part of the discussion. Mr. Jehnke said Ocean County took advantage of a subregional study to accomplish a very useful tool for local analysis that can be updated with NJTPA funding.

Concerning the webinars, Steve Brown, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, said it will be interesting to hear other MPOs' best practices for incorporating freight data into their models.

Mr. Diogo noted that the NJRTME update will be used for the next five years.

6. Draft FY 2021 UPWP Update

Beth Johnson, Central Staff, said drafts of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and budget were distributed to the Board, RTAC, NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, and the federal partners in December for review, and a list of comments and responses and revisions to the draft would be distributed shortly. She said there was no change to overall proposed budget. In general, the comments were supportive and provided suggestions for further streamlining the UPWP document and clearly defining task activities and deliverables. Ms. Johnson outlined the revisions and said the updated draft would be posted to the NJTPA website. She said she appreciates the subregions' efforts to communicate their priorities.

In answer to questions from Michael Lysicatos, Passaic County, about an evident reduction in Morris Canal Working Group (MCWG) activity, Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the NJTPA conducted a Morris Canal Corridor study, and would support the group's meeting again. He said the NJTPA looks to help the group to advance its work but may not have the staff resources to establish another group and manage all its activities. Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said the MCWG has not been meeting regularly since the conclusion of the corridor study and is discussing ways to advance some ideas from the study with other stakeholders. Mr. Lysicatos said he welcomes any discussions of next steps and the opportunity to participate.

Concerning Mr. Lysicatos's question about regional purchasing of data and shared resources, Ms. Johnson said the NJTPA Information Systems Department is taking a more entrepreneurial approach internally, expanding to share information with partner agencies, streamlining the process, and where available, taking opportunities to procure data for use by everyone. She noted that sometimes data apps, especially from private firms are difficult to leverage to outside communities, but the NJTPA has been able to adapt some for sharing. She said data acquisition is an ongoing process that will develop over the years.

Liza Betz, Union County, suggested working more with East Coast Greenway efforts. NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen said the NJTPA can play a role with other organizations that are working on trails and greenways and looking at alternatives to motorized vehicles. She said even if there is not a specific project funded in the FY 2021 UPWP, the NJTPA can still start planning such activities for the next cycle. She said planning takes a long time, and discussion of ideas now might lead to some specific project. In the meantime, she said, the NJTPA can

participate in the ongoing efforts of institutional structures that already exist without necessarily creating another one.

7. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the TNJ task forces could be a good place to advance conversations about trails and greenways.

Mr. Perlman said TNJ is approaching five years of the implementation phase of the consortium's regional plan, and the next TNJ forum and task force meetings will be held at the Bloustein School on March 30 (since postponed until June). Discussions will focus on taking stock and setting objectives for the next five years.

Mr. Perlman said the task forces continue to coordinate with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), which offers technical assistance. He said the Resilient Task Force recently completed an on-line Sustainability Toolkit for county and municipal governments, and it is available on the TNJ website. The Competitive task force is looking at examining tourism, economic development, and marketing practices in and outside of state. He said they interviewed public and private stakeholders, and a report of the findings will be posted on the TNJ website.

Mr. Perlman said two municipal projects were selected recently for VTC technical assistance. Bergen County is interested in an art-walk placemaking project in downtown Hackensack, Bergen County, and a way-finding guide is planned for Bound Brook, Somerset County.

Mr. Perlman said a micromobility workshop is being planned for late spring.

8. UpNext Update

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said the NJTPA's pilot advisory committee for young adults, UpNext North Jersey (UNNJ), held its first subregion-based event at the Paterson Museum and the Great Falls in Passaic County in January. He said Passaic County Freeholder John Bartlett welcomed the group and provided information about transportation planning efforts in the county. At the event, the group provided input on their use of transit and technology and noted infrastructure improvements they would like to see in the future—feedback that will help inform the next long-range transportation plan. Mr. Ritter encouraged the subregions to let him know if they are interested in getting UNNJ involved in outreach for any projects. More info about UNNJ can be found on the NJTPA website at www.njtpa.org/upnext.

V. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff briefed the Committee on the following action items:

Project Prioritization Committee

1. FY 2021 Freight Concept Development Program Studies – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff
2. Four Minor Amendments to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
3. Modifications to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue Project as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain
4. 2019 Financial Plan Update for the Route 3/Route 46, Valley Road and Notch/Rifle Camp Road Interchange Project – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff
5. 2019 Financial Plan Update for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project – Ann Ludwig
6. 2019 Financial Plan Update for the Route 206 Project in Somerset County – Ann Ludwig

Planning and Economic Development Committee

7. Approval of the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program – Angel Young, Central Staff

VI. RTAC Teleconference – March 16, 2020

VII. Next Meeting: April 13, 2020.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
February 10, 2020

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Barkha Patel (Vice Chair)	Jersey City
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato (via phone)	Warren County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Other Attendees	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
John Boyle	Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
David Moss	Cambridge Systematics
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon/TMAC
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Frank Scarantino	Mott MacDonald
Ed Gooden	Nj Bike & Walk Coalition
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Bettina Zimny	NV5
Mike Dannemiller	NV5
Liz Sewell	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Andras Holtzman	Somerset County

Chloe Tyznik	Somerset County
John Manzoni	STV Inc.
Sonia Szczesna	TSTC

