



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

ANGEL ESTRADA, CHAIR

MINUTES

January 13, 2020

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

Chairman Angel Estrada, Freeholder, Union County called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Beverly Morris reported that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of this meeting had been forwarded to the *Star Ledger*, the *Asbury Park Press*, the *Courier News*, the *Daily Record*, the *Home News Tribune*, the *Jersey Journal*, *New Jersey Herald*, and *The Record*. It was posted in the Essex County Hall of Records, Newark, New Jersey, and on the bulletin board of the Lieutenant Governor, Trenton, New Jersey.

B. Salute to the Flag

Chairman Estrada led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Following the salute to the flag, Beverly Morris called the roll. Eighteen voting members were present. (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Passaic County and carried with 15 affirmative votes. Bergen, Ocean and Somerset counties abstained.

E. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Estrada said this meeting marked the end of his tenure as NJTPA Chair. He said it has been a great experience working with the Board and staff over the last two years and an honor to be the first Latino to hold the seat. He said he is proud of everything that they achieved together, and thankful for the support of his fellow Board members as they tackled some big challenges in their work to improve transportation in the region. He noted that during his term the Board hired a new executive director, oversaw the staff restructuring, and underwent a successful federal

certification review that resulted in several commendations. The NJTPA Board also adopted a new Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as well as Title VI and public engagement plans that will ensure that the agency's work is inclusive and accessible.

Chairman Estrada said that, through all the challenges, the NJTPA has played a key role in planning the transportation system, funding projects, ensuring that the transportation network is in a state of good repair, and serving as a forum for regional discussion for critical transportation issues. He said that in an era of hyper-partisanship, he is proud to say that the NJTPA's long-standing tradition of working in a truly bipartisan way continues.

The Chairman said that when he became Chair in 2018 he talked about three E's he considers critical priorities for the region: the economy, the environment, and equity. He said transportation investments made during his term were critical to the economy. Raising the Bayonne Bridge, for example, supported growth of the goods movement and the logistics industry. He commended the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey for its financial commitment to the region and its economy.

Concerning environment, Chairman Estrada said the NJTPA has approved funding for transit projects, signal optimization, and shuttles that will help improve air quality. He said he looks forward to the continuation of those efforts and the cooperation among 14 states in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic that are participating in the Transportation and Climate Initiative.

For his final E, equity, the Chairman commended the NJTPA staff for developing a Title VI Implementation Plan that establishes a framework for ensuring non-discrimination and opportunities for participation by all people in the work of the NJTPA. Among other initiatives, he said, the NJTPA has launched Up Next North Jersey, a young adult advisory group, and will develop a liaison program that will boost outreach with low-income and minority communities.

Chairman Estrada noted that safety is woven throughout the NJTPA's work. The Board has allocated \$145 million to 115 projects since the Local Safety Program began in 2004. And more than \$20 million has been allocated to 21 projects through the High Risk Rural Roads program since its inception in 2009. He said these two programs fund construction of cost-effective, high-impact safety improvements on county and local roads.

Chairman Estrada said he is particularly proud of the NJTPA's Street Smart pedestrian safety campaign, which hit a major milestone of 100 partner communities last year. He noted that the Street Smart website and social media messages were translated into Spanish for the first time, reaching a broader audience.

The Chairman encouraged all to carry on the great work being done. Chairman Estrada said many challenges remain, chief among them is building new Hudson River rail tunnels, but he is confident that the NJTPA and its partners will be able to meet these challenges.

F. Executive Director's Report

NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen thanked Chairman Estrada for an extraordinary two years of service. She said he has provided wise guidance on Board issues as well as the important day-to-day work of Central Staff and the subregions during a very productive and fulfilling two years.

Ms. Ameen reported on some key Central Staff activities since the last Board meeting:

- In the area of safety, Ms. Ameen said the NJTPA actively participates in the development of the next State Strategic Highway Safety Plan, led by NJDOT. The first of three stakeholder safety summits was held in November at The College of New Jersey. A second Summit is planned for January 21.
- With the NJTPA's own safety initiative, Street Smart NJ, the agency continues to reach out to law enforcement and local officials across the state. This includes presenting at a AAA Pedestrian Safety Enforcement training for Hudson County police officers and meeting with officials from Edgewater, Blairstown, Harrison, and Berkeley Heights. In addition, Fair Lawn, who first partnered with the NJTPA last year, is kicking off another safety initiative in January and many more campaigns are planned for this spring.
- The NJTPA is reviewing applications for the Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads programs, and recommended projects will be announced shortly for consideration by the Project Prioritization Committee.
- The NJTPA continues to work with Rutgers and others in Together North Jersey (TNJ). A December TNJ workshop looked at Neighborhood Empowerment, and the next TNJ Forum is being planned for March.
- Ms. Ameen said the NJTPA continues collaboration with Sustainable Jersey to promote complete streets. NJTPA staff joined Sustainable Jersey, Rutgers Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), and others at a very well-attended panel on this program at the League of Municipalities conference in November. She thanked Chairman Estrada for attending that session. Another round of technical assistance grants will be announced shortly.
- The NJTPA's participation in the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum continues. In December, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council hosted the forum's annual meeting of Metropolitan Planning Organizations in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.
- Several key planning efforts in various stages of consultant selection will begin soon and carry into the next fiscal year. They include work to systematically evaluate regional mobility needs and strategies, as well as a study of Transportation Demand Management approaches. Consultant support will also be engaged for the financial and outreach elements of the next long-range transportation plan.

- Ms. Ameen noted that NJTPA is using its own in-house staff expertise to develop a series of background papers for the long-range transportation plan. Topics include assessing local infrastructure conditions, promoting non-motorized transportation, and responding to climate change.
- She asked Board members to review and provide comment by January 17 on the draft FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is posted on the NJTPA website. Chapter 1 details Central Staff activities. Chapter 2 addresses subregional planning including the subregional studies program. Chapter 3 details the work of the eight Transportation Management Associations; and Chapter 4 describes other regional transportation planning activities by partner agencies. The document includes a detailed budget. The Planning and Economic Development committee will consider the work program for adoption in February, and it will go before the full Board in March.

Ms. Ameen announced a few upcoming events:

- A second summit for the state Strategic Highway Safety Plan will be held January 21 at The College of New Jersey.
- The New Jersey American Planning Association conference will take place January 23 and 24 in New Brunswick. The NJTPA will be presenting at two sessions.
- The Central Jersey Transportation Forum meeting will meet on February 4 at the Plainsboro Public Library.
- And the 11th Annual New Jersey Bike and Walk Summit will be held March 7 at Mercer County Community College.

G. Planning for 2050 Presentation - The Decade of Transformation: Economic and Demographic Disruptions

Dr. James W. Hughes, University Professor and Dean Emeritus of the Edward J Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers, provided a demographic profile of New Jersey, noting key trends as we plan for the future. The state is affluent, with high incomes and high economic capacity, but has a severe cost and affordability problem, he said. Dr. Hughes said New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the nation and has a high proportion of mass transit use, even as it contends with congestion and long commutation times. He added that diversity “is in our DNA” and the state has unique environmental attributes.

Dr. Hughes said New Jersey somewhat lags the nation in terms of economic growth and is suffering a loss of population to other regions, partially made up for by an influx of foreign immigrants. He said the country is in the midst of a great generational transition as Baby Boomers age and Millennials mature. He noted the increasing diversity of the successive generations. Dr. Hughes pointed out that the current economic expansion since the last recession is the longest in history—almost 11 years—and noted that many jobs remain unfilled. “We may

be approaching the point where the region may have to be remarketed or rebranded to compete in this new era of rolling disruptions and regional shifts,” he said.

H. Committee Reports/Action Items

Project Prioritization – Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Chairman

Freeholder DeFillippo reported that the Committee considered two action items at the December joint meeting. First, the committee recommended approval of a Minor Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2020 to 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the North Plainfield Downtown Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements project in Somerset County. She noted that the project has its own funding designated by Congress.

Freeholder DeFillippo said the Committee also recommended approval of a Minor Amendment to the TIP to add the Fifth Avenue/Fair Lawn Avenue Bridge over Passaic River Project in Passaic County. She said this would allow the project to advance to construction.

Action Item 1: Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add North Plainfield Downtown Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvement, Somerset County (Attachment 2)

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

Action Item 2: Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Fifth Avenue Bridge (aka Fair Lawn Avenue Bridge) over Passaic River, Passaic County (Attachment 3)

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

Planning and Economic Development – Freeholder John Bartlett, Chairman

Freeholder Bartlett thanked Chairman Estrada for his two great years as Chair. He reported that there were no action items at the December 9 joint meeting. The Committee received a briefing on the 2021 UPWP, which was posted online for review. The work plan will be considered at the February round of committee meetings, with Board action scheduled for March. The Freeholder noted that the work program not only supports planning by NJTPA Central Staff but also key projects and planning initiatives around the region.

Freeholder Bartlett said, like other city and county subregions, his home county of Passaic receives formula-based funding for a core set of planning functions through the UPWP. This funding supports compilation and maintenance of up-to-date data, use of GIS mapping systems, identification of project needs, and public outreach. He said, in the coming year Passaic County will also undertake one of two new studies funded competitively through the Subregional Studies

Program. This effort will focus on creating a bicycle plan for the county. He said the UPWP provides much needed support for the subregions, and he urged all to review it to see how their areas will benefit.

Freight Initiatives – Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chairman

Freight Initiatives Committee Vice Chair Freeholder John Kelly, Ocean County, congratulated the Chairman on two successful years and said he is excellent to work with.

Freeholder Kelly said that at the Committee's December meeting Central Staff reported that port commerce continues to grow, including a dramatic increase in large ships reaching the port thanks to the raising of the Bayonne Bridge. The committee was also notified that a special conference call meeting may be held in January to consider new Freight Concept Development projects recommended for the program.

Freeholder Kelly said that, for the third year in a row, the meeting featured a moderated discussion on the New Jersey Industrial Real Estate Market, with a panel consisting of a real estate broker and two developers:

- William Waxman, Executive Vice President of the real estate firm CBRE, said 2019 was “a great year.” Ms. Waxman said that, while growing demand for space has pushed up lease rates, users have generally been willing to pay. He cautioned that the trend towards ultra-fast delivery to consumers may not be sustainable, because it leads to concerns about congestion, pollution, and waste.
- Matt Schlindwein, President of Development and Construction, Greek Development described his company's work on 4.1 million square feet of distribution facilities at Tremley Point in Linden. He said the site, like others in the region, is attractive because one-third of the U.S. population can be reached from it in a day's drive, and approximately 10 percent of that population can be reached in an hour.
- Jeff Milanaik, Partner, Northeast Region, Bridge Development Partners, said his company was redeveloping the Ingersoll Rand site in Phillipsburg with 4 million square feet of warehousing and distribution space. A big attraction for tenants is the availability of a labor force that is ready, willing, and able to work. His company has found it worthwhile to clean up even heavily contaminated sites because of the strong demand for industrial space in the region.

Freeholder Kelly said presentations from the panel discussion are on the NJTPA website.

I) Public Participation

Tim Sevenser, Transit Village of Mount Tabor, representing the New Jersey Association of Rail Passengers and a coalition of environmental groups, proposed a system of Solar Renewable and Energy Storage instead of the proposed new 100 MW natural gas plant planned in the Meadowlands to power the NJ TRANSIT grid. He said rail electrification based on solar power

generation has a revolutionary potential to reduce transportation greenhouse emissions. Mr. Sevenser said this clean renewable electric power is being used extensively in Europe and in India. He identified several locations where solar panels could be installed on NJ TRANSIT properties including rail station rooftops, platforms, parking lots, and rail yards.

J. Report of Nominating Committee

Chairman Estrada said the Nominating Committee consisted of Hudson County Executive Thomas DeGise, Hunterdon County Freeholder Matthew Holt and the Chairman himself. He said, after discussion and by unanimous decision, the Committee recommended the following slate of officers for the Executive Committee of the NJTPA Board of Trustees for the 2020-2021 term:

Chair..... Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County
 First Vice Chair..... Freeholder John Bartlett, Passaic County
 Second Vice Chair Freeholder John Kelly, Ocean County
 Secretary Freeholder Jason Sarnoski, Warren County

There were no additional nominations, and the nominees accepted.

A motion to elect the slate of officers was made by Sussex County, seconded by Middlesex County, and carried unanimously.

In accordance with the NJTPA bylaws, the new Chair appoints the Third Vice Chair. As her first Act, the Chair appointed Freeholder Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, who was not present but had indicated his willingness to accept the appointment prior to the meeting.

The Chair said she is honored that the Board entrusted her with the position, and she is eager to continue the great work of the NJTPA. She also said she is honored to follow in the footsteps of Freeholder Estrada and all the former chairs who served NJTPA well. She said she is always amazed at the quick responsiveness of NJTPA Central Staff to questions, problems, and concerns that constituents or counties have brought up. She thanked the staff and her peers, saying she looks forward to working with the Board and the public to improve transportation and quality of life in the region. The Chair also thanked the many persons who come frequently to Board meetings to share their ideas and provide information. She said she will share her vision for her term as Chair at the next Board meeting.

The Chair and Ms. Ameen then presented Freeholder Estrada with a commemorative plaque in recognition of his dedicated service to the people of the region, staff, and his peers.

Freeholder Estrada thanked everyone for their support and said, although he was Chair, nothing could have been accomplished without the contributions of so many individuals, including employees, elected officials, and members of the public.

K) Time and Place of Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the NJTPA will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 10:30 a.m., at the NJTPA offices at One Newark Center, Newark, NJ.

L) Adjournment

At 11:45 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Ocean County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: January 13, 2020

Subregion/Agency	Voting Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Bergen County	Hon. James Tedesco Peter Botsolas	
Essex County	Sanjeev Varghese	David Antonio
Hudson County	Byron Nicholas	
Hunterdon County		Ken Bogen
Jersey City	Barkha Patel	Elias Guseman
Middlesex County	George Ververides	Tony Gambilonghi
Monmouth County		Joseph Ettore
Morris County	Hon. Kathy DeFillippo Gerald Rohsler	Deena Leary
Newark	Phillip Scott	
Ocean County	Hon. John Kelly	John Ernst
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	
Somerset County	Hon. Sara Sooy Walter Lane	
Sussex County	Tom Drabic	
Union County	Hon. Angel Estrada	Liza Betz
Warren County	Hon. Jason Sarnoski David Dech	
Governor's Office	Lauren LaRusso	
NJDOT	Andrew Swords	Jim Lewis Danielle Graves Tom Houck
NJ TRANSIT	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan	
Port Authority of NY & NJ	Steve Brown	
Citizen's Representative	Jared Rodriguez	

Other Attendees	
Jim Hess	AECOM
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Jim Yeager	Michael Baker Intl.
Frank Scarantino	Mott MacDonald
Tim Sevener	NJARP
Dan Callas	TransOptions

Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2020 – 2023
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO
ADD NORTH PLAINFIELD DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE
AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS, SOMERSET
COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the northern New Jersey region; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA formally adopted the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA is anticipating approval of the FY 2020 – 2023 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which includes the NJTPA TIP, by the United States Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA on September 24, 2012 approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and NJ TRANSIT on procedures to amend and modify the State Transportation Improvement Program and the NJTPA TIP; and

WHEREAS, the TIP may be revised any time; and

WHEREAS, according to the MOU the addition of a project to the TIP or the addition of federal funds to a project where none are currently programmed, and a new air quality conformity determination is not required constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of North Plainfield is requesting the addition of a project: North Plainfield Downtown Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements, Somerset County (DB# N1125) to be programmed with federal (DEMO FY 2010 Appropriation) funds; and

WHEREAS, this minor amendment is exempt from an air quality conformity determination and does not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to this action; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2020 TIP conforms to the MAP-21/FAST Act performance-based planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, consistent with NJTPA public participation procedures, the NJTPA has provided opportunities for review of these actions; and

WHEREAS, no action authorized by the NJTPA shall have force or effect until ten (10) days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hereby approves the specified amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2020 – 2023
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO
ADD THE FIFTH AVENUE BRIDGE (AKA FAIR LAWN
AVENUE BRIDGE) OVER PASSAIC RIVER, PASSAIC
COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the northern New Jersey region; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA formally adopted the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA is anticipating approval of the FY 2020 – 2023 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which includes the NJTPA TIP, by the United States Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA on September 24, 2012 approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and NJ TRANSIT on procedures to amend and modify the State Transportation Improvement Program and the NJTPA TIP; and

WHEREAS, the TIP may be revised any time; and

WHEREAS, according to the MOU the addition of a project to the TIP or the addition of federal funds to a project where none are currently programmed and a new air quality conformity determination is not required constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority on behalf of the County of Passaic is requesting the addition of a project: Fifth Avenue Bridge (AKA Fair Lawn Avenue Bridge) over Passaic River (DB# NS9606), Passaic County to be programmed with federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBGP – NY/NWK) funds; and

WHEREAS, this minor amendment is exempt from an air quality conformity determination and does not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to this action; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2020 TIP conforms to the MAP-21/FAST Act performance-based planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, consistent with NJTPA public participation procedures, the NJTPA has provided opportunities for review of these actions; and

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