



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner John W. Bartlett – Chair
Commissioner Jason Sarnoski – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner John P. Kelly – Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes April 19, 2021

I. Roll Call of Members

Commissioner John Bartlett, Passaic County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll. Fourteen members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 13 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting was made by Warren County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

III. Regional Technical Advisory Committee Update

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities of the April 12 virtual RTAC meeting. He said members heard a presentation by NJDOT and consultant, ConSys Tec, on the updated New Jersey ITS Architecture. Also at the meeting, Central Staff provided updates on several ongoing activities and briefed the Committee on the PPC action items for this meeting. Mr. Jehnke noted that NJDOT staff will provide an update on crash data as part of their Safety Voyager software at a May 17 teleconference.

IV. Presentation

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said the NJTPA is partnering with Sustainable Jersey, the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (VTC), and Together North Jersey (TNJ) on the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program. He said the TNJ plan identified a need to assist municipalities in implementing Complete Streets policy. The project selection process considers strength and clarity of municipality request, opportunity for public engagement, strength of the municipal project team, presence of high crash locations, and extent of the local environmental justice population.

Mr. Bilton said technical assistance services include Walkable Community workshops, bicycle corridor or network plans, demonstration project guidance, conceptual renderings and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Keith Hamas, Central Staff, focused on CPTED, a new addition to the Complete Streets Technical Assistance program that helps complement traffic safety considerations with personal safety. He gave the example of a project at Naaman Williams Park in Franklin Township, Somerset County, where a multi-disciplinary team performed an assessment of a park that residents consider unsafe and developed recommendations for improvements that address crime, accessibility and walkability. The team was composed of planners, police, engineers, elected officials, residents and municipal staff.

Mr. Hamas said a third round of the successful Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program is planned, tentatively, for the fall. “Streets for Everyone,” a public education video on Complete Streets policy is available on the NJTPA Complete Streets [web page](#) and on [YouTube](#). Final reports for Complete Streets projects are also available on the Complete Streets web page.

V. PPC Action Items

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Chadwick Beach Island Bridge over Barnegat Bay Project in Ocean County

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said this locally-sponsored project will be funded with \$12.4 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds from the NJTPA Future Projects Program line item in Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021-2025 for the Preliminary Engineering, Design, Right-of-Way and Construction phases of work.

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Manhattan Avenue Retaining Wall Project in Hudson County

Eve Chamberlain said this locally-sponsored project will be funded with \$51.5 million in STBGP funds from the NJTPA Future Projects Program line item in FYs 2021-2028 for the Preliminary Engineering, Design, Right-of-Way and Construction phases of work.

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Martin Luther King Avenue Bridge over the Whippany River Project in Morris County

Ms. Chamberlain said this locally-sponsored project will be funded with \$8.6 million in STBGP funds from the NJTPA Future Projects Program line item in FYs 2021-2026 for the Preliminary Engineering, Design, Right-of-Way and Construction phases of work.

A motion to approve the three resolutions was made by Morris County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

4. Modifications to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Discretionary Grant Funding to Three Programs as requested by NJ TRANSIT
 - Bus Support Facilities and Equipment (DB# T08) - \$14.67 million to support the Wayne Bus Garage modernization in Passaic County.
 - Bus Acquisition (DB# T111) - \$24.35 million to support the acquisition of articulated buses to be deployed from garages serving Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties and up to eight 40-foot Hilton Bus Garage battery-electric buses to expand service in Newark and Irvington, in Essex County.
 - Ferry Program (DB# T700) - \$4.25 million to support the Underwater Hoboken Ferry project to modernize compromised harbor piles supporting the Hoboken Ferry Terminal in Hudson County

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

5. Modifications to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funding to Two Programs as Requested by NJ TRANSIT
 - NEC Improvements (DB# T44) – Adds \$53.9 million in FY 2021 to maintain state of good repair, increase capacity, and improve efficiency.
 - Hudson Bergen and Newark LRT System (DB# T87) – Adds \$4.827 million in FY 2021 to support the HBLRT Weehawken Tunnel Repairs project.

Ms. Chamberlain said the funding will be reallocated from the Preventative Maintenance-Rail, Rail Rolling Stock Procurement program, and three Transit Enhancements programs. In answer to a question from Jared Rodriguez, Citizens' Representative, Lori Thompson, NJ TRANSIT, said that the agency would not be able to position the funding as a local match in a larger Gateway project negotiation, because the funds are to be used for capital lease payments to Amtrak (\$108 million annually).

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

6. Approval of Projects for the 2020 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

Ms. Chamberlain said the July solicitation yielded 71 eligible applications, which were reviewed by a Technical Review Committee. Ten projects totaling \$8.8 million were selected for implementation with Board approval.

A motion to approve the list of projects was made by NJDOT, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

1. Draft FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program Development: Capital Program

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said that staff received the draft FY 2022 Transportation Capital Program (TCP) from NJDOT and a database of the full ten years of the draft FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She said the subregions will be provided with a comparison report on the current and proposed TIP by April 26 and will work with them during a review and negotiation period to compile a listing of outstanding TCP issues.

2. TNJ Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the TNJ task forces (Resilient, Efficient, Livable and Resilient), in coordination with VTC, continue to refresh the focus areas, strategies and actions in the TNJ plan. The Resilient task force met on March 30 to discuss updating the energy and resiliency focus areas with a new focus on material and recycling. The Livable task force met February 8 to discuss place-making and connections between housing and access. The Efficient task force met on April 9 to discuss transportation technology and locations of transit assets. The Competitive task force will meet on April 22. Mr. Perlman said the updated TNJ focus areas and strategies are expected by end of June.

Mr. Perlman said outreach and analysis work on two Local Technical Assistance Program projects are in progress. The projects are a Dover downtown business guide and a guide for public arts engagement along the Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County.

Mr. Perlman said transit hub planning projects are in progress at the Fanwood and Hackensack train stations. The transit hub program is part of the New Jersey Chapter of the APA's Local Assistance Planning Program.

Mr. Perlman said the TNJ Institute is developing a workshop on workforce development.

Jared Rodriguez, Citizens' Representative, commented that in the energy and climate change focus areas, TNJ should address the potential for using transportation rights-of-way to create districtwide shared heating systems for residential buildings. He said requirements for creating such shared systems align with the residential density of transit oriented development or TOD. New Jersey he said is a leader in TOD and could do the same in supporting low carbon shared heating systems.

3. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said the Federal Railroad Administration announced that the Environmental Impact Statement on the Gateway Program is nearing completion and a final record of decision for the project will be issued by May 28.

Mr. Behrend said the federal government approved New York City's Congestion Pricing Plan and will conduct an environmental impact review. He said the plan calls for a once-a-day toll on any motor vehicle entering Manhattan's central business district. Mr. Rodriguez said this increase in the cost of driving to the city presents an opportunity to reconsider the Secaucus Loop and reactivation of the West Shore Railroad as far north as Newberg, NY.

4. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is chaired by New Jersey Congressman Frank Pallone, introduced the Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow's America (LIFT America) Act, a \$312 billion proposal focused on clean energy infrastructure investments.

Mr. Behrend said that a portion of the proposed American Jobs Act calls for \$621 billion in transportation infrastructure investments including modernizing 20,000 miles of highways, roads, and main streets. He noted that funding for this legislation would exceed what is authorized in the regular surface transportation legislation (currently the FAST Act).

Mr. Behrend said a proposed reauthorization of the FAST Act may be issued as soon as Memorial Day and will include the re-introduction of "project priorities" to be submitted by individual members of Congress. He said submission of a project that is not already in the TIP will require a letter from the NJTPA stating that the proposed project can be added to the TIP. Mr. Behrend recommended that subregions contact him if they are working with a member of Congress to advance their priority projects. Mr. Behrend responded to a number of questions relating to this process and recent developments.

VII. Next Meeting: June 14, 2021

VIII. Adjournment

At 12:05 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by Ocean County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
April 19, 2021**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Bartlett (Chair)	Passaic County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Vice Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Zach Rich	Hunterdon County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Lewis	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Kelly (Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	Newark
Tom Drabic	Somerset County
David Antonio	Essex County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Lewis	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Sharon Young	CCAPSLY
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County

Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Dede Murray	Morris County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Lori Thompson	NJ TRANSIT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Paul Drake	Somerset County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Denise Chaplick	
Denise Nickel	
Paul St. Onge	
Benjamin Peacock	