



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 August 15, 2022

I. Roll Call of Members

NJTPA Chair John Bartlett, Passaic County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll. Thirteen members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 12 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022 meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Hudson County, and carried with 17 affirmative votes. Monmouth and Ocean counties abstained.

III. Presentation: The Safe System Approach

Caroline Trueman, Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety said, from 2009 through 2019, the number of pedestrians struck and killed in motor vehicle crashes increased by more than 50 percent. She urged the adoption of a Safe System approach “grounded in an ethical imperative that no one should be killed or injured when using the roadway system.” She noted that the Safe System approach is not a new concept, having existed in countries around the world for more than 30 years, and early adopters have seen marked decreases in traffic fatalities across their roadway systems—at least a 50 percent decline in fatalities.

Ms. Trueman said the Safe System approach addresses the safety of all road users on an equal basis and acknowledges a shared responsibility for safety by both roadway users and system managers. She said a key focus of the approach is to reduce death and serious injuries through design that accommodates human mistakes and injury tolerances. Ms. Trueman gave the example of a modern roundabout intersection that forces drivers to slow down.

Ms. Trueman said the FHWA has developed resources to help agencies implement a Safe System approach. More information on implementing the Safe System approach is available at the FHWA [Zero Deaths and Safe System webpage](#).

Ms. Trueman noted that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established a new [Safe Streets and Roads for All](#) (SS4A) discretionary grant program, which will provide \$5 to \$6 billion in grants over the next five years. The funding supports regional, local and tribal initiatives to prevent roadway death and serious injury.

Ms. Trueman ended her presentation with the following quote, “Zero is our goal. A Safe System approach is how we get there.”

Chair Bartlett thanked her for her informative presentation and noted that roundabouts can be politically controversial, but it is hard to dispute the data. He reminded all that NJTPA has technical support for subregions that want to apply for the [SS4A funding opportunity](#). Applications are due September 15.

IV. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities at the August RTAC meeting. He said NJTPA staff gave a presentation on preparing for grant opportunities from the SS4A program. He said the NJTPA has proposed a consultant effort for its fiscal year (FY) 2024 work program that would allow subregions to develop Local Safety Action Plans, which are required to apply for implementation grants under SS4A.

Mr. Jehnke said staff also provided information on project prioritization criteria goal rescoring, the Complete Streets Demonstration Library, and updates on PRIME 2.0, the Subregional Pass-Through Program, and Together North Jersey activities. The Committee was also briefed on the four action items on the joint committee meeting agenda.

Mr. Jehnke noted that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) will provide training on Intelligent Transportation Systems at a September 19 RTAC teleconference.

Chair Bartlett turned the meeting over to Ocean County Commissioner John Kelly, PPC Chair.

(continued)

V. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

Commissioner Kelly indicated that two action items were being considered for approval by the Project Prioritization Committee:

1. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Three Statewide Programs as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the amendments adds three state programs funded through IJJA:

- Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Program – funded with \$68 million in National EV Program funds for FY 2023-2026
- Carbon Reduction Program – funded with \$123 million for FY 2023-2031
- Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program – funded with \$335 million for FY 2023-2031

Ms. Ludwig noted that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the U.S. Department of Energy announced recently that all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico had submitted EV Infrastructure Deployment plans under the National EV Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. The plans are required for unlocking the first round of IJJA formula funding.

Commissioner Kelly asked if the funding includes local EV charging stations. Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said federal law requires that state departments of transportation first apply NEVI funding to building out EV infrastructure on interstate corridors. He said the second phase of funding can be used for community EV charging.

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

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Transfer Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Funds to Two NJ TRANSIT Programs as Requested by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and NJ TRANSIT.

Ms. Ludwig said \$43.645 million has been suballocated for use in the New York-Newark urbanized area. Under a joint proposal, the funds will be transferred from the NJTPA Future Projects line item to NJ TRANSIT to provide \$24.5 million for bus support facilities and equipment and \$19.145 million for the Transit Enhancements Transportation Alternative Program/Alternative Transit Improvement Program line item.

Lou Millan, NJ TRANSIT, thanked NJTPA staff who worked with NJ TRANSIT on the funds transfer and noted that the IJJA enables the transit agency to accomplish initiatives they would not normally be able to do.

Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, said the amendment is a “big win” for active transportation users throughout the region.

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

Commissioner Kelly turned the meeting over to Middlesex Commissioner Charles Kenny, PEDC Chair.

Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC)

Commissioner Kenny thanked all involved in arranging for the two presentations related to the Safe System approach, one by author Jessie Singer at the July Board meeting and Ms. Trueman’s. He noted that Middlesex County rolled out its Vision Zero plan under the leadership of Middlesex Transportation Director Solomon Caviness, Planning Director Doug Greenfeld, Supervising Engineer Mike Dannemiller and others.

3. Endorsement of Established Traffic Congestion Performance Measure (CMAQ) Targets for the New York-Newark, Philadelphia, and Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Urbanized Areas

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said two types of performance measures targets under the CMAQ program are due to be reported to NJDOT by October 1. One is traffic congestion targets for the second four-year performance period, 2022-2025, for three urbanized areas—New York-Newark, Philadelphia, and Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton. Mr. Miller explained that performance measures and targets are part of a set of national goals, and they cover safety, infrastructure condition, traffic congestion, system efficiency, freight, the environment, and project delivery. These targets are for two performance measures:

- Non-Single Occupant Vehicle Travel, which sets goals for the percentage of people who commute to work by any other means than driving alone, such as carpools, public transit, walking or biking.
- Peak Hour Excessive Delay per capita, which measures the delay people experienced when travelling on the National Highway System on weekdays from 6-10 a.m. and 3-7 pm, over a calendar year

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

4. Approval of CMAQ Emissions Reduction Performance Measure Targets for the NJTPA Region

Mr. Miller said another set of performance measure targets, which deals with reducing air pollutants and their precursors from projects funded through the CMAQ program within nonattainment and maintenance areas, is also due October 1. He said they are cumulative measures of reductions over the federal fiscal year funding cycle. The measures support national

goals to reduce on-road mobile source emissions. Mr. Miller noted that the region is in nonattainment, meaning it does not meet air quality standards, for ozone and its precursors, and portions of region are in maintenance for carbon monoxide and particulate matter, which means they have the potential to exceed air quality standards.

Mr. Miller said the NJTPA must update its CMAQ Performance Plan every two years. The plan covers traffic congestion measures and the emissions reduction measures.

Sudhir Joshi, NJDOT, noted that the October 1 deadline for the performance measures targets might be extended, pending a letter from the FHWA.

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

VI. Information Items

1. Trans-Hudson Update

NJTPA Acting Executive Director David Behrend said that Chair Bartlett and he attended the groundbreaking for NJ TRANSIT's Portal North Bridge project. He said the bridge project, along with the construction of a new Hudson River Tunnel and other related Gateway improvements, are vital to the region and important to the state and the nation. This was evidenced by the participation of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Governor Murphy at the event, along with New Jersey's two U.S. senators, many members of the House, NJDOT Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti, NJ TRANSIT CEO Kevin Corbett, and others. The Portal North Bridge project is expected to take approximately five and a half years to complete. Mr. Behrend said the groundbreaking came after New Jersey and New York reached a funding agreement on the bridge and tunnel projects.

Mr. Behrend noted that New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority released an [environmental assessment](#) for its Central Business District Tolling Program, more commonly known as congestion pricing. He said the document shows several potential scenarios for tolling vehicles entering the city's central business district, defined as Manhattan, south of 60th Street. Across the scenarios, charges will range from \$9 to \$23 per vehicle. Virtual public hearings on the environmental assessment were scheduled for August 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31.

2. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said there are several ongoing activities connected to the IIJA, which is also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He said NJTPA staff continue to distribute relevant information as new funding opportunities are announced, and all that information is also available at NJTPA.org/IIJA. He recommended that counties and municipalities reach out to NJTPA staff if they are planning to apply for any IIJA programs. Staff can supply letters of support and other assistance.

Mr. Behrend noted that President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law. He said this

climate-focused legislation has several components that are related to transportation. Notably, the bill contains \$3 billion for a new program called “Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants,” which is aimed at redesigning arterial roadways to improve safety and provide more mobility options, especially in traditionally underserved areas. He noted that, unlike the similar Reconnecting Communities program in the IIJA, this is not a pilot program and thus is already part of U.S. Code, which means it should be around for many years. Mr. Behrend said the new law also contains tax credits for EVs and other measures to encourage reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. He said staff will notify subregional representatives about new funding opportunities related to the Inflation Reduction Act as they become available.

Mr. Behrend said USDOT announced the latest round of Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program grants. Of 166 awards, New Jersey received two, including one in the NJTPA region. The City of Elizabeth received a \$5 million planning grant to assess the feasibility of ferry service from Elizabeth to Manhattan. More details on the RAISE awards can be found at the [RAISE Discretionary Grants website](#).

Mr. Behrend thanked Commissioner Kenny for his comments about the two presentations related to the Safe System approach by Jessie Singer and Caroline Trueman, and he thanked Mr. Perlman and Ms. Goldman for their help in arranging the presentations.

VII. Next Virtual Meeting: October 17, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

VIII. Adjournment

At 11:52, a motion to adjourn was made by NJDOT, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
August 15, 2022**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Kelly (Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Betty Jane Kowalski (Vice Chair)	Union County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Susan Soloway	Hunterdon County
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
David Dech	Warren County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Sudhir Joshi	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. John Bartlett	Passaic County
David Antonio	Essex County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
John Hayes	Morris County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Sudhir Joshi	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Todd Goldman	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also in Attendance	
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Caroline Trueman	FHWA
Bob Werkmeister	GPI

Jason Kelly	HDR
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Dolores Martinez Wooden	City of Newark
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Andrew Mikesh	Northern Valley Greenway
Betsy Longendorfer	NVG
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
PE Doherty	
Keith Skilton	FHWA
Pankti Mehta	
Christopher P.	