



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo – Chair
County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Freeholder John Bartlett – Chair
Freeholder Matthew Holt – Vice Chair

**Joint Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020**

I. Roll Call of Members

NJTPA Chair Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, called the meeting to order. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll and 12 voting members of the Project Prioritization Committee and 11 of the Planning and Economic Development Committee were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting was made by Warren County, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried unanimously.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

Reporting on the December meeting, RTAC Chairman Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, said that the Committee heard a presentation by the Rails to Trails Conservancy about the importance of trail development and connectivity to the region's transportation network. Megan Massey, NJ TRANSIT, introduced the Transit Friendly Planning, Land Use and Development Program stakeholder survey. Central Staff briefed the Committee on a variety of activities, including the upcoming Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) solicitation, the kickoff of the Accessibility and Mobility Strategy Synthesis study, a travel modeling series of webinars, and UpNext North Jersey, the NJTPA's pilot Young Adults Advisory Committee.

IV. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Freight Concept Development Program Studies

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, said that two projects were selected for the FY 2021 Freight Concept Development Program, which advances regional and local freight initiatives that have been identified through planning studies conducted by the NJTPA, its subregions, and other planning partners. Thirty-seven candidate freight projects that require a Concept Development study and do not have another path toward implementation were scored according to program criteria and submitted to the subregions for their input. Two studies were recommended for Concept Development. They are the Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project in Roxbury, Morris County, and the Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project in Bound Brook Somerset County.

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

2. Four Minor Amendments to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said NJDOT requested a package of four minor amendments. Due to updated construction estimates, additional federal funding is needed for two projects:

- \$24.29 million for the Route 72, Manahawkin Bay Bridges project in Ocean County
- \$16.75 million for the Route 206, Doctors Way to Valley Road project in Somerset County

These costs can be covered while maintaining fiscal constraint through a shift in the funding schedule for construction of the Route 23, Route 80 and Route 46 Interchange project in Passaic and Essex counties. In addition, federal funds previously allocated to the Route 171, Route 130 to Lincoln Avenue project in Middlesex County can be used because that project is now being fully funded with state resources. NHPP funds are available for these amendments.

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

3. Modifications to the FY 2020-2023 TIP to Add Federal Funds to the Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue Project as Requested by NJDOT

Ms. Chamberlain said additional phases of work must be programmed for the project, moving the beginning of construction from FY 2021 to 2022. Funds are available in the Fiscal Constraint Bank to cover increased costs for right-of-way in FY 2020, utilities in 2021, and construction in 2022 through 2024.

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

4. 2019 Financial Plan Update for the Route 3/Route 46, Valley Road and Notch/Rifle Camp Road Interchange Project

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the update for this project in Passaic County reflects a \$48.7 million increase in the total project cost to \$308.9 million. This increase is mainly due to construction change orders and a design change to include a full bridge replacement for the Route 46 Bridge over Lower Notch Road.

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

5. 2019 Financial Plan Update for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project

Ms. Ludwig said the updated plan for this project in Ocean County reflects an increase of \$21.29 million to \$340.9 million, mainly due to increased utility relocations and updated cost estimates.

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

6. 2019 Financial Plan for the Route 206 Project in Somerset County

Ms. Ludwig said the updated plan reflects an increase of \$13.9 million to \$452.8 million, also due to utility relocations and updated cost estimates. Freeholder Jason Sarnoski suggested that NJDOT request the utility relocation estimates earlier in the project development process.

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

Planning and Economic Development Committee

7. Approval of the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

Angel Young, Central Staff, said drafts of the UPWP and budget were distributed to the Board, RTAC, NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, and the federal partners in December for review and comment. Input on the UPWP was received from NJDOT, FHWA, the subregions and others. The input helped the NJTPA clarify work tasks and broaden others to better address important regional issues. NJDOT commended the NJTPA for assessing the potential impacts of new technologies and on addressing civil rights requirements. The subregions were commended for efforts involving resiliency, trail networks and greenways, complete streets, electric vehicles, and safety.

Ms. Young noted that there had been some changes to the UPWP since the initial draft. In particular, the budget revenue assumptions were revised to correctly reflect the balance of PL funding available from prior work programs. Also, a new sub-task activity was added to assist

NJDOT with data collection for MIRE, the state's Model Inventory of Roadway Elements management system.

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

V. Information Items

1. Plan 2050 Overview

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said that Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to update their long-range transportation plans every four years as a condition for receiving federal funding. The NJTPA Board will be asked to adopt an updated plan by fall 2021. She said the plan will be based on a broad array of transportation, economic, demographic, and other data and extensive public outreach and stakeholder collaboration. Rutgers VTC will assist in the outreach effort to engage underserved communities. The NJTPA will contract a consultant for the plan's financial element.

Ms. Goldman said, new for this plan, the NJTPA will release background papers ahead of plan adoption, issuing the first later this year. These white papers will outline current and future conditions and needs on topics such as freight, active transportation, resiliency, local asset management, and technologies.

2. Trans-Hudson and Federal Policy Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said the White House released its budget proposal for FY 2021. The release coincides with the updated Federal Transportation Administrating (FTA) ratings for projects seeking funding through the Capital Investments Grant Program. The rating for the \$1.7 billion Portal North Bridge project increased to medium-high, making it eligible for additional federal funding. The improved rating is mostly due to New Jersey's significant funding commitment of 45 percent under the project's current financial plan. Mr. Behrend said the FTA anticipates engineering to start this year, full funding to be authorized by the end of the year, and project completion in 2026.

Mr. Behrend said the Hudson Tunnel project still has a medium-low rating, and the Gateway Development Commission and project partners are working to improve it.

Mr. Behrend said, while the White House budget proposes robust investment in the long-term, there are immediate short-term reductions. The budget includes a wide-ranging infrastructure proposal – \$810 billion over ten years for surface transportation and \$190 million for infrastructure across various sectors – but for 2021, the budget calls for a 13 percent cut in federal discretionary transportation funding, which includes significant reductions for Amtrak and airport infrastructure.

Mr. Behrend said the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is drafting its reauthorization proposal, which expected to be released in two or three months.

VI. Other Items

Freeholder DeFillippo announced the new roster of standing committee officers:

Project Prioritization Committee

- Chair, Freeholder John Bartlett, Passaic County
- Vice Chair, Freeholder Jason Sarnoski, Warren County

Planning and Economic Development Committee

- Chair, Freeholder John Kelly, Ocean County
- Vice Chair, Freeholder Sara Sooy, Somerset County

Freight Initiatives Committee

- Chair, Freeholder Charles Kenny, Middlesex County
- Vice Chair, Freeholder Joshua Hertzberg, Sussex County

VIII. Next Meeting: April 20, 2020

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
February 10, 2020**

**Project Prioritization Committee
(Committee Membership Rosters Will Change as of the April 20, 2020 Meeting)**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo (Chair)	Morris County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Dan Kelly	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	Ocean County
Hon. Sara Sooy	Somerset County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	Newark
Dan Kelly	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Lewis	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
George M. Ververides	Middlesex County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Monica Etz	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA

Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Salvatore Presti	Passaic County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Peter Palmer	Somerset County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
David Dech	Warren County