



**North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.**

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)**

David Antonio, Chair  
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

**AGENDA**  
**April 8, 2024**  
**10:30 AM**

---

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/94885535831?pwd=QWtqUjJJekp1N0J5OVU4RUFXZE41dz09>

Meeting ID: 948 8553 5831  
Passcode: 160969

Dial by your location  
• +1 305 224 1968 US  
• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
• 877 853 5247 US Toll-free  
Meeting ID: 948 8553 5831

- 
- I. Roll Call
  - II. Approval of Minutes
  - III. Presentation: Get to Know a Subregion: Warren County – Ryan Conklin, Assistant Planning Director, Warren County
  - IV. Information Items
    1. TMA Update – Ronda Urkowitz, Cross County Connection
    2. Financial Plan Updates for Two NJDOT TIP Projects – Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff
      - a. Route 3, Route 46, Valley Road and Notch/Rifle Camp Road Interchange

b. Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue

3. Regional Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program – Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff
4. FY 2025 Online Quarterly Reporting Tool for Subregional Programs – Kaitlynn Davis, Central Staff
5. Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program Update – Peter Bilton, Central Staff
6. Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
7. PRIME 2.0 Users Group – Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff

V. Written Information Items

1. RTAC Input on the FY 2026-2027 Subregional Studies Solicitation – William Long, Central Staff
2. Climate Action Planning Update – Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff
3. Population and Employment Forecasts Update – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
4. Regional Capital Investment Strategy Update – Keith Miller, Central Staff
5. Vibrant Communities Initiative Placemaking Event – Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

VI. Review of Standing Committees Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add the Elizabeth Intermodal Transportation Infrastructure Planning Project in Union County as Requested by the City of Elizabeth – John Witsch, Central Staff
2. Modification to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Federal Funds to the Route 80/15 Interchange Project in Morris County as Requested by the NJDOT – John Witsch, Central Staff
3. Modification to the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 3 EB, Bridge over Hackensack River and Meadowlands Parkway Project in Bergen and Hudson Counties as Requested by the NJDOT – John Witsch, Central Staff

VII. Other Items for Discussion

VIII. RTAC Teleconference – May 20, 2024 (Tentative)

IX. Next Meeting: June 10, 2024

X. Adjournment



**North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority**  
**Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**  
David Antonio, Chair  
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

**April 8, 2024**

---

**V. Written Agenda Items**

**1. RTAC Input on the FY 2026-2027 Subregional Studies Solicitation**

William Long, Central Staff

Last year's Subregional Studies Program (SSP) solicitation was distributed to RTAC members on March 21. Committee members are being asked to provide feedback and comments on the solicitation, which Central Staff will consider in developing the upcoming SSP solicitation. Feedback should be submitted to William Long no later than **Friday, April 12**. The FY 2026 – FY 2027 SSP Solicitation is scheduled for release the week of June 3.

**2. Climate Action Planning Update**

Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff

Central Staff worked closely with partners in New York to submit the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for northern and central New Jersey and the New York metro area to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on March 1. The plan is available on the [Climate Action Plan webpage](#). The PCAP covered three main sectors — transportation, stationary energy, and waste — and included nine overarching measures to reduce pollution in our region. The measures include several actions that enabled eligible applicants to apply for Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation funding. The project team is now shifting its focus to develop the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, which will build off the PCAP and incorporate other required sectors such as industry, agriculture, and natural and working lands. These sectors will also be added to the greenhouse gas inventory. In addition, a workforce analysis element will be added to the plan. The project team is planning more outreach and engagement.

**3. Population and Employment Forecasts Update**

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff

In preparation for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, Central Staff has been collaborating with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) on revisions to the region's previously adopted 2050 population, households, and employment forecasts. In February, Central Staff circulated draft county-level forecasts to subregions and partner agencies for review and comment. The revised forecasts were assessed to be reasonable, and Central Staff conveyed this with NYMTC's Forecast Working Group at a March 20 meeting.

With data provided by most subregions and other sources, Central Staff is now in the process of allocating the forecasted county-level growth to municipality and traffic analysis zones. In coming months, the draft local forecasts will be provided to the subregions for further review and comment. Final forecasts should be completed by fall for use in the LRTP and upcoming air quality conformity analyses.

#### **4. Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) Refinement and Strategy Effectiveness Project Update**

Keith Miller, Central Staff

The third Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held on February 23, with participants from many NJTPA divisions, along with the Port Authority, New Jersey Department of Transportation and subregional partners. The new RCIS categories, core performance outcomes, guidelines, and target allocations were presented to the TAC. The meeting gathered valuable input from TAC members, which is being incorporated in a refined RCIS document. The TAC will be asked to review and comment on the revisions before they are finalized. The consultant's subsequent task will be to develop a website that helps to communicate the RCIS to decision-makers and the public.

#### **5. Vibrant Communities Initiative Placemaking Event**

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

Through the Vibrant Communities Initiative, NJTPA and the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University will host an event in New Brunswick on Friday, April 26. *Placemaking in Context: Honoring the Culture and History of Communities* will examine placemaking through a lens of arts and humanities with transportation, highlighting the culture and histories of local communities and encouraging safe, active transportation through the built environment.

This workshop is open to municipalities, planners, and anyone else interested in learning about placemaking. Speakers represent a variety of projects and places with different goals and outcomes – remembering events of the past, preserving community memories, acknowledging changing landscapes, and celebrating communities that occupy spaces in the present. Nina Cooke John, architect of the newly installed Harriet Tubman monument in Newark, will serve as the keynote speaker. To register for the event, visit <https://placemakingVPP.eventbrite.com>.



*John P. Kelly, Chair*  
*Charles Kenny, First Vice Chair*  
*David W. Behrend, Executive Director*

## **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

David Antonio, Chair  
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

### **Meeting Minutes February 13, 2024**

---

#### I. Roll call

RTAC Chair David Antonio called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll and 18 voting members were present.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2024 meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

It was noted that, going forward, the TMA report will be provided at every other RTAC meeting.

#### III. Presentation: Vulnerable User and Vehicle Traffic Counts Viewer

Aimee Jefferson, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the NJTPA's new database of traffic counts. The database focuses on pedestrians, cyclists, and micro-mobility riders. She emphasized the importance of collecting comprehensive data to support safety programs and various analyses like road diet feasibility studies and signal warrant analysis. Ms. Jefferson said the database includes over 400 count locations and is continuously updated. She encouraged the subregions to share their data counts in the app. Ms. Jefferson provided a brief live demonstration of using the app and provided a link to the [online viewer](#).

#### IV. Information Items

##### 1. Vibrant Communities Initiative

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, announced a name change from the Together North Jersey Initiative (TNJ) to the NJTPA Vibrant Communities Initiative. The change reflects the evolution of the program's focus on sustainable development and regional planning. Originally created to develop a regional plan, TNJ engaged stakeholders over several years. The name change to Vibrant Communities Initiative aims to better reflect the program's current goals, as the program has shifted towards providing technical assistance and training to local partners. Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said this is a logical evolution for TNJ

with a more direct focus on NJTPA-funded programs that are bringing exciting projects to towns and counties in the region.

## 2. Local Safety Action Plan Development

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said eight counties and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, with NJTPA assistance, are developing Local Safety Action Plans (LSAPs) for reducing injuries and fatalities on the region's roads. She said progress on these plans is positive, with many in various stages, and a dynamic webpage has been created to centralize the plans and promote constructive collaboration and learning among stakeholders. Ms. Goldman said seventeen municipalities have also received grants to develop their own plans, presenting an opportunity for close coordination and mutual support. She encouraged engagement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), emphasizing ongoing coordination with them to support the initiatives.

Keith Hamas, Central Staff, said he recently sent an email to RTAC members from participating counties concerning establishing local implementation committees to oversee LSAP plan development and post-plan implementation and monitoring. He said the email included a draft list of potential representatives for the local implementation committees and a request for calls with county engineers to help refine the list and address any questions.

Mr. Hamas said success depends on local stakeholders taking a lead in developing and implementing their LSAPs, which include not just infrastructure-related actions but a wider range of potential strategies and policies that might include enforcement efforts, education efforts, or incorporating environmental design. He noted that local implementation committees are a required LSAP component under the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program and will help participating subregions earn grant eligibility.

Mr. Hamas said, after a discussion to confirm the local implementation committee membership, meetings will begin in March. He said each participating county will have its own distinct website that will include data dashboards. A public engagement plan will be developed tailored to each county's specific needs. First LSAP drafts will be expected around November or December 2024.

In response to a question from Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, about the first calls with each county engineer, Mr. Hamas said the calls will serve as initial contact to address any questions from the counties, and the discussion will cover logistics, timeline, and steps in the planning process. He said the goal is to refine the list of implementation committee members.

## 3. Update on Performance Measure Target Setting

Keith Miller, Central Staff, noted that the NJTPA Board adopted annual 2024 regional performance measure targets in November. He said a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for roadway safety measures includes a shift to a three-year instead of annual cycle. The date that the change will take effect is being determined. Mr. Miller said the NPRM would also require roadway safety targets to be declining.

Concerning infrastructure condition and system performance measures, Mr. Miller said NJDOT will be submitting a report to FHWA in October discussing progress toward meeting the two-year targets that were set in 2022, and NJDOT will prepare the region's biennial CMAQ Performance Plan. He noted that, at midpoint, the NJTPA will also have the option to modify four-year targets. The coordination groups for the three urbanized areas (UZAs) for which the NJTPA needs to set targets will meet to discuss whether to modify the UZA-level targets. Those UZAs are New York-Newark, Philadelphia, and Allentown, and all state Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that overlap the UZA are required to agree to a single unified target for each UZA.

Mr. Miller said a new FHWA performance measure for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has been finalized and will measure the percent change in carbon dioxide emissions on the National Highway System relative to 2022 emission levels. He said the targets are required to be declining. NJDOT has been collaborating with New Jersey's three MPOs and will report an initial statewide GHG target representing a modest reduction in 2025 emissions. Mr. Miller noted a unique element for the GHG measure – the rules require that, whenever UZA overlaps multiple MPO boundaries, those MPOs must collaboratively set a quantitative GHG reduction target for that area.

#### 4. Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) Refinement and Strategy Effectiveness Project Update

Mr. Miller said the review of the existing RCIS and a literature review on strategy effectiveness have been completed, and tech memos will be posted on the NJTPA's "Active Studies" web page shortly. He said the project consultant is working on a methodology for refining the list of categories, the principles and guidelines, and allocations. He said the team is exploring ways to make the RCIS more comprehensive, focusing particularly on the connection between investments and desired outcomes relating to regional goals. Next steps include developing a website that helps to communicate the RCIS and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on February 23. He thanked the RTAC members who have been participating on the TAC representing Somerset, Essex, Passaic counties, along with NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, and Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

#### 5. Capital Programming Team Update / Federal Approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Vanessa Koenigkramer, NJTPA Director of Capital Programming, introduced the current Capital Programming team, highlighting the experience and responsibilities of each. She also announced updates to the Capital Programming web pages on the NJTPA website, especially the [FY 2024 TIP](#) and the NOTIS platform for project information. Capital Programming team members are as follows:

- Zhen Liu, Database Development Manager
- John Witsch, Principal Project Information Specialist
- Munsif Husami, Senior Project Information Specialist

#### 6. Draft Regional and County Demographic and Employment Forecasts

Brian Fineman, Central Staff, noted that an email on the topic had been sent to the Committee members and included a spreadsheet with draft population, household, and employment forecasts for the region and member counties. He said these long-term forecasts, now out to 2050, are a critical part of

developing the NJTPA long range transportation plan. The NJTPA has been coordinating with New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) to have a consistent set of forecasts across the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metro area, and NYMTC's consultant continues to support this effort. Mr. Fineman urged RTAC members to provide feedback on the numbers for their jurisdictions, especially local data and potential impacts on the numbers presented. Comments on regional and county numbers are requested by the end of February.

#### V. Written Information Items

The following written information items were included in the agenda package, and there were no comments or questions about them:

1. Online STP and SSP Reporting System – Justine Recio-Patel and Kaitlynn Davis, Central Staff
2. Climate Pollution Reduction Grants – Priority Climate Action Plan Update - Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff
3. Hudson County Local Safety Program Update – Aimee Jefferson, Central Staff
4. Local Concept Development Program Update – Sarbjit Kahlon, Central Staff
5. NJ TransAction Update – Ted Ritter, Central Staff

#### VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Various members of Central Staff briefed the Committee on the following action items to be considered by the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee at their February 20 joint meeting:

##### Project Prioritization Committee

1. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Two NJDOT Projects – John Witsch, Central Staff
  - a. Portway, Fish House Road/Pennsylvania Avenue, CR 659, Hudson County
  - b. Route 9, Throckmorton Lane/Ticetown Road to Poor Farm Road/Hartle Lane, Middlesex County
2. FY 2025 Freight Concept Development Program Studies – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, inquired about the process for selecting projects in the next funding cycle. Mr Rowinski explained that the selection process occurs every 3 to 4 years and involves updating the list of candidates by reviewing planning documents completed since the previous round. He said this process will be repeated and the candidate list updated as needed before the final selections are made.

Ken Wedeen from Somerset County expressed interest in exploring consultant assistance to identify funding sources for advancing a project, particularly navigating environmental stages. Mr. Rowinski said



that a budget for assistance will be included in the upcoming contract, and this assistance will involve researching potential grants and providing support for applications.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

3. Approval of the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program – Angel Young, Central Staff

VII. RTAC Teleconference – Tentatively set for March 18.

VIII. Next Meeting: April 8, 2024

IX. Adjournment

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee  
Attendance  
February 13, 2024

Voting Members	
David Antonio (Chair)	Essex County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Mike Manzella	Jersey City
Linda Weber	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Farzana Ahmed	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Other Attendees	
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Ashley Dominguez	Hudson County
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Jim Vari	NJ TRANSIT
Rosemary Nivar	NJ Turnpike Authority
Tavainya Smith	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Adam Branford	Passaic County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Jay Robaina	
Gavin Rozzi	
Ruchi Shrivastava	
Lisa Lee	
Ryan Fisher	
Jessica Zohlen	
Gavin Rozzi	