



Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Barkha Patel, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes June 8, 2020

Mark Jehnke

I. Roll call

Beverly Morris called the roll, and 19 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 meeting was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by Passaic County and carried unanimously.

III. Discussion/Presentation:

Barkha Patel, Jersey City, presented on the Jersey City Parking Study, focusing on the outreach process. Local-level public meetings were held and recommendations from the project consultant team were presented at a public workshop. Ms. Patel said, outreach leveraged email, website, social media and virtual meeting technology to inform the public and glean their responses. However, due to time constraints, the effort did not sufficiently reach persons lacking internet access or who are not used to participating in virtual meetings. In answer to a question from Jared Rodriguez, Citizens' Representative, Ms. Patel said outreach to Jersey City's 80-90 percent "communities of concerns" (minorities and low-income populations) included input on the need to balance discouraging automobile dependency with providing more off-street parking facilities.

Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County, said the Paterson Newark Transit Market Study team used a mix of traditional and new outreach approaches, including focus groups with major employers and pop-up public events, which proved to be most effective. He said the consultant team, FHI, also recorded and translated a presentation for the Passaic County website, which elicited several very pointed email comments. The study looked at an industrial corridor that runs between Newark and Paterson in terms of its potential for transit use. The service area would include two environmental justice communities and the ON3 development in Nutley and Clifton. In answer to a question from Trevor Howard, Newark, Mr. Lysicatos said the project team worked very

closely with NJ TRANSIT throughout the study, which better positions it for project pipeline consideration.

IV. Information Items

1. TMA Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, said the TMAs continue to work remotely, modifying their programs in creative ways to ensure service delivery. They are creating more virtual content on their websites, developing webinars, using social media, and engaging employers with surveys to identify their needs. Ms. Shepherd said some TMAs participated in May's National Bike Month with virtual events, and the TMAs are seeing online communities forming around such activities, providing more opportunities to communicate within their service areas.

Ms. Shepherd said most TMAs have suspended direct shuttle services, except for Greater Mercer TMA and Cross County Connection, which continue to operate shuttles for essential workers. Also, EZRide continues to run their Ride for Life program. Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs are sharing information with NJ TRANSIT, private bus carriers, and employers as the state prepares for reopening under COVID-19 constraints.

Ms. Shepherd said, as the TMAs operate modified Street Smart NJ campaigns, communities are reporting that speeding has become a significant concern, and requests for speed studies have increased.

Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs that receive Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP) funding are updating their inventories of local human services transportation, conducting surveys and outreach, developing online tools, and assisting counties with developing or updating their own plans.

Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs are involved with the NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety plan process and Safe Routes to School plan as well as the NJTPA's mobility plans.

2. FY 2022-2023 Subregional Studies Program (SSP) Solicitation

Blythe Eaman said the subregions were notified by email that the solicitation for the SSP would be issued on July 1. She said Central Staff welcomes telephone conferences with the subregions in June to discuss their study ideas. Thumbnail sketch proposals are due on July 6, and eligible full proposals will be due September 4. Applicant interviews will take place later in September.

3. Congestion Management Program (CMP) Update

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, said the CMP workgroup, with input from state and subregional partners and neighboring MPOs, has produced a technical memorandum, which was

distributed to RTAC members. The memo lays out objectives and performance measures that will be used to assess transportation needs throughout the region and highlights strategies for addressing them. The workgroup plans to meet again early this summer.

4. Employment and Population Forecasts Update

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, said the NJTPA has been working with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) to update the population, household, and employment forecasts for the NY/NJ/CT region. He said the updated forecasts would be sent to RTAC members for review with an explanation of how the 2020 and 2025 forecasts were adjusted due to the impacts of COVID-19. Mr. Diogo thanked RTAC members for their participation and said he plans to continue working with members on the recommended changes.

5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the four TNJ task forces held well-attended meetings in May RTAC members participated in multiple sessions. He said during the next fiscal year TNJ members will help review and refresh the strategies and actions in the Together North Jersey Plan. At the May meetings, participants considered how downtowns and small businesses will recover when the state opens-up from COVID-19 constraints, how to meet increasing demands for street space (outdoor dining, parklets, etc.) and issues of equity.

Mr. Perlman said two projects under the Local Technical Assistance program administered by the Voorhees Transportation Center are nearing conclusion – the Hackensack Demarest Place Art Walk and the Bound Brook Visual Identity and Wayfinding projects. He announced a June 16 micro-mobility workshop, and said details are available on the TNJ website.

6. Plan 2050 Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said three themes emerged from a survey distributed to the Board before their June 5 retreat – infrastructure and investment, inclusion and affordability, and bicycle/pedestrian issues. During the meeting, the consultant team facilitated breakout discussions to discuss the topics. The Infrastructure and Investment group discussed equity, planning for the effects of the pandemic and other potential threats, and access to broadband. The Affordability and Inclusion group discussed the critical commuting needs of essential workers and how warehousing in rural areas has impacted the need for public transportation and affordable housing. The Bicycle/Pedestrian group discussed the need to balance needs among bicyclists and pedestrians, freight deliveries, and other vehicular traffic. Ms. Goldman said the meeting concluded with attendees' answers to the sentence, "NJTPA needs to pay attention to...". Responses included equity, land use, African American communities, economic recovery, cost-benefit analysis, freight and logistics, climate change, and redundancy. She thanked all for their participation.

V. Written Items

Referring to the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program Update written agenda item, Liza Betz, Union County, requested that the counties be kept apprised of all the municipal projects accepted into the program.

VI. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the June 15 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Committee:

1. Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add Federal Funds to the Route 80, Riverview Drive (CR 640) to Polifly Road (CR 55) Project as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Mr. Lysicatos asked for more information about the project. Jim Vari, NJDOT, said the large and expensive project is in the Preliminary Engineering phase and may be broken up into three contracts. It was agreed that Mr. Lysicatos would be provided with a fact sheet on the project to better inform Passaic County decision makers.

2. Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add Federal Funds to the Route 46, Main Street/Woodhouse Road (CR 644) to Route 287, ITS Project as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

VII. RTAC Teleconference – July 30, 2020 (Tentative)

VIII. Next Meeting: August 10, 2020

IX. Adjournment

At 11:43 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Newark, seconded by Passaic County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Attendance June 8, 2020

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Barkha Patel (Vice Chair)	Jersey City
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
David Antonio	Essex County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Andras Holzmann	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Blanca Quinde	NJ TRANSIT
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Steve Brown	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Other Attendees	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
James Beattie	AECOM
Tara Shepherd	Hunterdon County
Elias Guzman	Jersey City
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Raymond Fusco	
Cory Hopwood	
Matthew Maher	
Sal Presti	
Jerry	