



Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Barkha Patel, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes December 7, 2020

I. Roll Call

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll and 19 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2020 meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Essex County, and carried with 18 affirmative votes. Middlesex County abstained.

III. Information Items

1. Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, highlighted current TMA activities that advance and expand human services transportation:

- Keep Middlesex Moving provides seniors with transportation options and will issue a report on the status of its COVID-19-related operations.
- RideWise is developing a “one-click” online resource for Somerset County transportation information.
- Cross County Connection created a customized interactive map for Food Bank of South Jersey users that shows locations of food distribution points. The TMA also offers trip planning assistance.
- Greater Mercer TMA is considering recommendations from its report on age-restricted communities in Ocean County, with a special focus on volunteer programs. The TMA plans to issue an Ocean County Mobility Guide and update the Mercer County Transportation Guide.
- Trans Options is brokering human services rides for Sussex County using the Lyft Concierge platform. The service is funded through a pilot grant from NJ TRANSIT and

will supplement the County's transportation service for seniors, disabled residents and other human services constituents.

- goHunterdon is the lead agency for developing the Hunterdon County Human Services Transportation Plan update and implementing plan recommendations. The TMA continues to facilitate initiatives funded by a Horizon Foundation for New Jersey grant, including free Lyft and taxi rides to medical appointments.

2. Draft FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, reported that the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) will meet with New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) project managers in early January, and the subregions can expect a pre-scored project listing by early February for their review. A fiscally constrained draft Transportation Capital Program is anticipated to be distributed for review by mid-March 2021.

3. Draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Update

Karen Rosenberger, Central Staff, said the draft UPWP was posted to the NJTPA website and emailed to NJDOT, the Board and RTAC. She said comments are requested by January 11 so they can be incorporated into the final draft plan, which will be presented at the February joint Project Prioritization Committee (PPC)/Planning and Economic Development (PEDC) meeting and to the Board for approval in March. An updated program overview and highlights of new activities proposed for FY 2022 were distributed to the RTAC prior to the meeting.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, asked for the reasoning behind removing site plan review from the work program. Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, explained that these professional reviews are usually funded by municipalities. He said subregional staff may review impacts to transportation, but professional site plan reviews do not advance regional planning. Mr. Howard asked about the site plan reviews for transportation issues. Mr. Jehnke recalled a meeting where this was discussed and clarified that site reviews of impacts related to transportation as a result of development are reimbursable for the FY2022 STP Program. The eligibility of site plan reviews in future STP programs will be evaluated by NJTPA staff in coordination with RTAC. Mr. Perlman offered to discuss the question with Mr. Howard in more detail offline.

4. Plan 2050 Development Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, announced that the Plan 2050 background paper on transportation technology was posted on the NJTPA Plan 2050 website. She thanked staff members who worked on the paper.

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said the initial round of outreach for Plan 2050 included virtual public meetings, an online survey and social media interactions. He said responses to this public engagement effort indicate that riders want to see improvements to transit infrastructure and

customer experience. He said other issues of concern are access to transit, a more regional approach to bicycle/pedestrian planning and better consideration for integrated freight planning.

Mr. Ritter said the NJTPA public outreach team conducted specialized events to reach smaller and more varied audiences. Virtual presentations were made at the TransAction conference and to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, as well as transportation advisory groups in Union and Morris counties. He said the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) team held focus groups with persons reentering society after incarceration and with unemployed residents. He noted that the UpNext North Jersey young adults advisory committee is holding meetings focused on key long-range plan topics.

Mr. Ritter said the December TPA Tuesdays virtual symposium will feature transportation and planning thought leaders who will explore the issue of advancing equitable transportation systems.

Mr. Ritter said 14,000 Plan 2050 bookmarks and flyers are available at public libraries, the Plan 2050 hotline is open, and the outreach team continues to reach out to partner agencies.

Peter Zambito, Central Staff, said a consultant team is preparing to run the financial element model that will provide preliminary data on the region's outlook for transportation funding and expenditures through Fiscal Year 2050. It also will inform the draft financial element chapter of the Long Range Transportation Plan. He asked for volunteers from RTAC to join a technical advisory committee consisting of stakeholders and subject matter experts who will review the draft findings.

5. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Working Group Update

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, said the CMP working group met in November for the fourth time to discuss the completed equity assessment work and to introduce their next task—strategy assignment. At the meeting, project consultants presented findings from the equity assessment and preliminary work on strategy assignment. The working group includes staff and representatives from member subregions, NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, TMAs and neighboring MPOs. Mr. McGuinness said he would circulate the equity assessment to RTAC members later that week for review, and he asked for their feedback. The strategy discussion will continue in the next and final meeting, to be held in early 2021.

6. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative

Mr. Perlman said the TNJ task forces are beginning work to update the TNJ plan. They met in October to discuss the current plan and conduct a “Keep It, Change It or Toss It” survey among participating members. He said, to identify major changes or new focus areas and strategies that might be incorporated in the TNJ plan update, a VTC team has collected regional and state plans from across the country issued since 2015.

Mr. Perlman said the VTC team is setting up calls with stakeholders to discuss focus areas and collect information on what is happening at the local level. They are also developing a survey and asking for RTAC assistance.

Mr. Perlman reported that TNJ received 12 proposals in response to its recent solicitation for the Local Technical Assistance Program. Two projects were selected:

- The Town of Dover requested assistance in marketing their downtown businesses to positioning them for recovery as the pandemic recedes.
- The Passaic County Department of Cultural and Historic Affairs wants help to develop a Morris Canal Greenway public engagement plan.

Mr. Perlman said the partnership with the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association continues. Two NJ TRANSIT stations were selected for the second round of the Transit Hub Pilot Program – Essex Street Station in Hackensack and the Fanwood Station on the Raritan Valley Line.

Mr. Perlman also reported that, in partnership with the NJIT Center for Brownfield Assistance, TNJ conducted three brownfields webinars in November that were aimed at municipalities: Brownfield Basics, Brownfields Funding and It Takes a Village. Recordings of these sessions are available on the TNJ website.

The task forces will meet in February to discuss new focus areas and strategies.

IV. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Central Staff members briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the December 14, 2020 PPC/PEDC joint meeting:

PPC

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Ferry Slip Reconstruction at the CRRNJ Terminal State Historic Site - Phase 1 – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Clay Street Bridge over Passaic River Project in Hudson County – Eve Chamberlain
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Bridge Street Bridge over the Passaic River Project in Essex County – Eve Chamberlain
4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funding for the Portal North Bridge as Requested by NJ TRANSIT – Eve Chamberlain

5. Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Increase Funding on the Route 27, Dehart Place to Route 21, Union County Project – Eve Chamberlain

PEDC

6. Approval of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Title VI Implementation Plan Update – Angel Young, Central Staff
7. Support for Public Transit Agency Safety Plan Targets Set by the New Jersey Transit Corporation – Keith Miller, Central Staff

VI. Election of RTAC Officers for 2021-2022 Term

The Committee voted unanimously to re-elect Mr. Jehnke as RTAC Chair and elect Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, as Vice Chair for the 2021-2022 term.

VII. RTAC Teleconference – (Tentative)

Mr. Jehnke asked members to reach out to him or Mr. Nicholas with proposed topics for discussion.

VIII. Next Meeting: February 8, 2021

IX. Adjournment

At 11:35 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by the City of Newark and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Attendance
December 7, 2020

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Barkha Patel (Vice Chair)	Jersey City
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Ray Tomczak	Federal Transit Administration
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
James Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Syd Chan	
Touraj Tayebi	
Bassey Onlyile	
Cory Hopwood	
David Moss	
Miles-Cole	

