



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

AGENDA
June 13, 2022
10:30 AM

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Access Code: 761-836-877

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Presentations: Highlights and Findings of the FY 2021-FY 2022 Subregional Studies:
 - Jersey City on the Move – Elias Guseman, City of Jersey City
 - Bike Passaic County – Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
- IV. TMA Report – Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon
- V. Information Items
 - 1. Subregional Pass Through Programs Update – Peter Zambito, Central Staff
 - 2. Performance Measure Target Development – Keith Miller, Central Staff
 - 3. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update – Jeff Perlman, Central Staff

VI. Written Information Items

1. Transportation Applications and Data Research Projects with NJIT – Rick Cippolletti, Central Staff
2. North Jersey Regional Transportation Model—Enhanced (NJRTM-E) Model Validation Update – Bob Diogo, Central Staff
3. Equity Analysis Application – Gabrielle Fausel, Central Staff

VII. Review of Project Prioritization Committee Action Items

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Bayonne Commuter Ferry Pier and Dock Improvements Project as Requested by the City of Bayonne – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add 29 Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funding to the Pavement Preservation Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain
4. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Three Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation - Eve Chamberlain
5. Modification to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to the Bridge Street, Bridge over the Passaic River as Requested by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority – Eve Chamberlain

VIII. Other Items for Discussion

IX. RTAC Teleconference – July 18, 2022 (Tentative)

X. Next Meeting: August 8, 2022.

XI. Adjournment



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

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VI. Written Agenda Items

1. Transportation Applications and Data Research Projects with NJIT
Rick Cippolletti, Central Staff

Over the last five years, NJTPA has collaborated with NJIT's School of Computer Science on transportation applications, data research and innovative technologies. This past year, two projects were worked on:

- The Analysis Tool for Near-Crash Detection Project involves is a tool that can estimate near miss crashes though available video at select intersections. Using this tool, we can confirm which driving behaviors, walking behaviors, and turning movements are dangerous and can lead to crashes. The tool uses video modeling to identify pedestrians and vehicles; when the two are too close, a near crash is identified. Through a tool like this, crash prevention measures can be tested and developed.
- Phase 3 of the Sidewalk Inventory of the NJTPA region is being developed from the latest New Jersey Color Infrared Orthoimagery. The project creates a sidewalk Geographic Information System (GIS) layer, addressing the current lack of sidewalk data for the region. This project builds off Phases 1 and 2 by enhancing artificial intelligence/machine learning techniques. The application uses an open-source GIS platform, which is then migrated to NJTPA's ESRI GIS platform.

2. North Jersey Regional Transportation Model—Enhanced (NJRTM-E) Model Validation Update
Bob Diogo, Central Staff

Work on the validation of the NJTPA's North Jersey Regional Transportation Model—Enhanced (NJRTM-E) has progressed with the completion of the project's first technical memorandum in late April. Model validation is performed periodically to improve forecasting capabilities, calibrating the model to base year data. In this case, 2019 and pre-pandemic 2020 are being used for this baseline. The technical memorandum describes the first four tasks of the project—data collection (including demographics, traffic count and transit ridership), highway and transit network development, and traffic analysis zone adjustments. The model geographies and base year socioeconomic data incorporate the latest changes from the 2020 Census.

The consultant-supported project team has now started the actual validation, comparing model runs with this data. The Technical Advisory Committee, which convened earlier in the year with NJDOT, NJ Transit, Port Authority, neighboring MPO and NJTPA subregional staff, will continue to be engaged through the project's completion in Spring 2023.

3. Equity Analysis Application
Gabrielle Fausel, Central Staff

The [NJTPA's Equity Analysis application](#) was developed to help support internal staff and the subregions as they work towards engaging and analyzing traditionally underserved populations in the region. The tool is mirrored on DVRPC's Equity Analysis for the Greater Philadelphia Region. Their tool, like NJTPA's, calculates a composite score based on certain demographic factors. The tool can be accessed through the NJTPA's newly launched [Equity Resources Hub site](#). The site offers guidance for NJTPA staff, subregions, and partner agencies to gain a better understanding of the impacts that plans, programs, and projects may have on underserved residents and communities.



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Byron Nicholas, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

I. Roll call

RTAC Vice Chair Byron Nicholas called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris called the roll, and 18 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Union County and carried with 17 affirmative votes. Bergen County abstained.

III. Presentation: Pedestrian Counts Study - Results, Trends and Next Steps

Aimee Jefferson, Central Staff, said the NJTPA Local Programs Group has been collecting traffic counts for a few years at specific project locations through the Local Safety Program and other consultant-assisted projects. While some of those counts included pedestrian and bicycle data, in general, there is not very much data on non-vehicular movements throughout the region. She said this led to the effort to determine how to go about collecting trial non-vehicular data to start building a database for the region. Ms. Jefferson thanked RTAC members who participated on the project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which met in May and August 2021 and was presented with initial data findings and recommendations.

Michael Blau, Toole Design Group, briefed the Committee on the project methodology and findings. He said the project team shared potential goals and objectives based on researching other NJTPA documents and non-motorized count programs nationwide. He said the goals that emerged from this process include making walking safe and accessible for all, ensuring that a pedestrian network serves disadvantaged communities, using pedestrian count data to support Local Safety Program projects, and creating a connected and convenient transportation network. He said goal prioritization informed the methodology for selecting count locations and ensuring

environmental justice. NJTPA staff and TAC members worked closely to ensure a final list of count locations that aligned with agency priorities.

Mr. Blau said, in consultation with RTAC, the study team narrowed down potential locations to 101 count sites, and a vendor, Quality Counts, collected data in the field for 24 hours at each location. There were at least three count locations in each subregion.

Ms. Jefferson said the study team identified several recommendations to advance the goals of standardizing data collection and expanding the count database. She said the team will work with subregional partners to continue collecting traffic counts for all modes and intends to develop an online platform to share count data. The study is expected to be completed in June, when an executive summary of high level findings will be issued.

IV. TMA Report

Dan Callas, TransOptions, said the TMAs continue to implement the Street Smart NJ program, and campaigns are scheduled or being planned in Milford and Flemington, Hunterdon County; Dover, Morris County; Lakewood, Ocean County; North Plainfield and Bernardsville, Somerset County; Orange, Essex County; and Plainfield, Union County. He said Keep Middlesex Moving will host a webinar with Will Yarzab, NJTPA, on April 19, EZ Ride is preparing five reports for campaigns conducted in Newark, and TransOptions is working with the Morristown Public Safety Department on more targeted pedestrian safety initiatives resulting from prior Street Smart campaigns.

Mr. Callas said all TMAs have been featuring electric vehicle (EV) promotion and information, including EV-focused grant information, presentations and webinars. Some TMAs continue to implement Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan initiatives, including online travel information and enhanced paratransit services.

V. Information Items

1. Regional Active Transportation Plan and RTAC Input

Keith Hamas, Central Staff, updated the Committee on the plan development activities, which began in March. He said the goal of the plan is to develop a conceptual regional network of safe, accessible and highly functional active transportation facilities to better connect residents to their important destinations by walking or cycling. RTAC members representing a cross-section of subregions will be invited to participate on the study TAC to help guide the planning process and capture the perspectives of different parts of the region. All RTAC members will be asked to engage in outreach and collaboration. Mr. Hamas noted that the effort will emphasize equity, and public outreach will inform an assessment of existing conditions and recommendations. Mr. Hamas said mechanisms for public/stakeholder engagement will include an interactive web map application and survey tools. Outreach includes reaching out to the partner agencies, advocacy groups, subject matter experts, the cycling community, and others. Mr. Hamas said there is also a

small supplemental task for this project to conduct technical assistance for three active transportation case studies that represent different project types and regionwide locations.

2. Subregional Pass-Through Programs Workshop and Subregional Studies Program Solicitation

Peter Zambito, Central Staff, said RTAC members will be asked for input into the solicitation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Subregional Studies Program (SSP). He noted that the previous solicitation was distributed to the subregional representatives, who were asked to provide their input by April 14. He said the solicitation is likely to be released in early June. Thumbnail sketches will be due in July, and full proposals in August.

Mr. Zambito said the annual pass-through program workshop for both the SSP and Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) programs will be held right after the June 13 RTAC meeting, and RTAC members were asked for input on content proposed for the workshop by the end of April. He said the deadline for third quarter STP and third and seventh quarter SSP progress reports is April 14.

3. Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said the selection process for the third round of the Complete Streets Technical Assistance program is complete. He said the program assists municipalities with developing small complete streets projects in partnership with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers and the Sustainability Institute at the College of New Jersey. Mr. Bilton said this year's program will include assistance with creating or updating a complete and green streets policy.

Mr. Bilton said the following seven municipal projects were selected for implementation in 2023:

- Dunellen, Middlesex County
- Oakland, Bergen County
- Seaside Heights, Ocean County
- Plainfield, Union County
- Passaic, Passaic County
- Bound Brook, Somerset County
- Belleville, Essex County

4. Performance Measure Target Setting

Keith Miller, Central Staff, briefed the committee on activities for the four-year national Transportation Performance Management (TPM) period beginning 2022. He said NJDOT, in collaboration with the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), is federally required to report on whether performance targets for the previous four-year period were met and to set new targets for the current period. The performance targets address bridge and pavement conditions and system performance measures for congestion, travel time reliability, freight and emissions reduction. He noted that safety performance measures are addressed on a different annual cycle, and the Board approved the last round in November.

Mr. Miller said the NJTPA collaborates closely with NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and neighboring MPOs to conduct the TPM process. He said the MPOs lead in setting congestion traffic targets for large, urbanized areas.

Mr. Miller said the region met its targets for the first performance period but faces significant challenges to set targets for the second performance period, particularly due to ongoing impacts of the pandemic. He said performance measures targets dealing with urbanized areas (traffic congestion measures and emissions reduction targets) must be approved by the NJTPA Board by October 1, and other measures six months later. He noted that staff is working on an update to the CMAQ Performance Plan, a biannual report that discusses traffic congestion and emissions reduction targets that will be submitted to NJDOT for inclusion in their report to the Federal Highway Administration, also by October 1.

5. Planning for Emerging Centers Solicitation

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said the Planning for Emerging Centers Solicitation was issued, and an information session was conducted to discuss the program and application process. Municipalities applying to the program were asked to provide a letter of support from their host counties by May 16, the due date for applications to the program. She said NJTPA technical support for selected studies is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.

6. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said NJTPA staff has been working with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) to finalize the TNJ plan update, and the final draft will be shared with all TNJ members on the TNJ website for review and comment. TNJ participants will be invited to attend a virtual open house tentatively scheduled for May 18, where they can discuss their thoughts on the updated plan.

Mr. Perlman said work on Belleville's Washington Avenue Corridor Placemaking Plan and Perth Amboy's vision plan for Fink Park continues under the TNJ Vibrant Places technical assistance program. He said the VTC team has been gathering best practices, conducting research, and distributing virtual surveys to public and business stakeholders. He said, with this round of the program, the VTC team is working with the local planning group at the New Jersey Department

of Community Affairs, who provide data and analysis that will be useful for formulating recommendations and preparing reports.

Concerning community diversity, Mr. Perlman said the TNJ team is working with Myron Orfield, University of Minnesota, whose team has issued a draft memorandum on demographic changes in the NJTPA region. A meeting of subject matter experts and statewide policy makers will be held to discuss this information. This effort is expected to conclude by the end of June.

VI. Review of Project Prioritization Committee Action Items

Eve Chamberlain briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration at the April 18 joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee/Planning and Economic Development Committee:

1. Approval of Projects for the 2022 Safe Routes to School Program
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Route 57/182/Hackettstown Mobility Improvements Project in Warren and Morris Counties as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation
3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 22, Bridge over Echo Lake Project in Union County as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation
4. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022 - 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Five Projects/Programs as Requested by NJ TRANSIT
 - Hudson-Bergen and Newark LRT System Project in Hudson County
 - New Brunswick Station Platform Ext and Elevator Improvements in Middlesex County
 - Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project
 - Light Rail Vehicle Rolling Stock Program
 - Perth Amboy Intermodal ADA Improvements Project in Middlesex County

VII. RTAC Teleconference – Tentatively scheduled for May 16, 2022.

VIII. Next Meeting: June 13, 2022, 10:30 a.m. Mr. Nicholas noted that there will be a Subregional Pass Through Programs Workshop following the June meeting, to begin at 1:00 p.m., and all RTAC members are invited to participate.

IX. Adjournment

At 11:40 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County, seconded by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Attendance
April 11, 2022

Voting Members	
Byron Nicholas (Vice Chair)	Hudson County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Terence Howard	City of Newark
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Weedeem	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Dave Dech	Warren County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Jeffrey Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jared Rodriguez	Citizen's Representative
Other Attendees	
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Neile Weissman	Complete George
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Robert Werkmeister	GPI
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Charles Burton	LeFrak
Michael Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Linda Weber	Middlesex County
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
David Schmetterer	Monmouth County
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Villinger	Ocean County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Michael Blau	Toole Design Group
Dan Callas	TransOptions
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Amal Muse	