



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Freeholder John W. Bartlett – Chair
Freeholder Jason Sarnoski – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Freeholder John Kelly – Chair
Freeholder Sara Sooy – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes April 20, 2020

I. Roll Call of Members

The meeting was held online via GoToMeeting. Freeholder John Bartlett, Passaic County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll. There were 14 voting members of the Project Prioritization Committee and 13 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee present.

NJTPA Chair Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, said she appreciated the support of all the Trustees who were able to participate in the meeting even while dealing with the ramifications of COVID19 and other issues in their subregions.

I. Approval of Minutes

Morris County moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting, and Union County seconded the motion, which was approved by voice vote. Essex County abstained.

II. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update – Mark Jehnke, Ocean County

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities of the April 13 RTAC meeting. He said Central Staff led a discussion on how COVID19 was affecting planning in the region and development of the 2050 long range transportation plan. Mr. Jehnke said staff also provided information items, including the upcoming Tech Tools for Planning Expo, the Subregional Studies Program, the CMAQ solicitation and the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program. The committee also had a chance to review the action items on the agenda for this Joint Committee meeting.

Freeholder Bartlett thanked Mr. Jehnke and the RTAC members for seeing that work continues in spite of the difficult circumstances.

III. PPC Action Items

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add the Downtown Toms River Loop Road Project in Ocean County,

Eve Chamberlain said this project received a federal Better Utilizing Investments in Leverage Development (BUILD) grant of \$5.66 million for Fiscal Year 2020 and must be added to the TIP. The project will undergo a Concept Development study.

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

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Laurel Avenue, NJ TRANSIT North Jersey Coast Line Bridge Project in Monmouth County

Ms. Chamberlain said this project will be ready for Concept Development in Spring 2020 and needs to be amended into the TIP. She said that, according to NJDOT, \$800,000 in FY 2020 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program–FLEX funds are available for this purpose.

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

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Rumson Road Over the Shrewsbury River (CR 520) Project in Monmouth County

Ms. Chamberlain said a revised cost estimate shows the need for increased construction funding. This amendment would add \$10.9 million in FY 2020 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funding and an additional \$20.1 million in FY 2021. Ms. Chamberlain said the STBGP funds are available in the NJTPA Future Projects line item (DB# N063).

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

4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Riverbank Park Bike Trail Project as Requested by the Town of Kearny

Ms. Chamberlain said this project has completed the Design phase and needs to be added to the TIP to be advanced for construction. She said \$1.82 million in FY 2020 funds has been made available by the NJTPA through a funding agreement with the State of New Jersey.

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

V. Information Items

1. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said stay-at-home orders have caused a drastic reduction in travel throughout the region, and trans-Hudson vehicular traffic had dropped by one third but is growing. He said the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey had gone completely cashless, collecting all tolls through EZ Pass or by mail. Transit ridership fell by more than 80 percent. Mr. Behrend said there has been no significant development in funding activity for the Portal Bridge and Hudson River Tunnel projects. He noted that, prior to the pandemic, the Secretary of Transportation spoke of increased focus on repairs to the existing tunnel and less emphasis on the replacement project.

2. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said the CARES act, the third COVID19-related bill, included approximately \$1.75 billion for NJ TRANSIT to help offset loss of revenue and other costs. He said the states are asking for federal aid for other transportation projects, largely due to the lost motor fuel tax revenue; the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has requested \$50 billion for states, and the National Conference of State Legislators echoed that request.

Mr. Behrend said there has been discussion about the need for greater investment in nationwide broadband coverage, especially if the level of telecommuting remains high. He said the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee had passed a highway infrastructure bill, and incorporating it, as-is, into a recovery bill has been suggested.

There is also discussion of Congress reauthorizing the FAST Act now to secure a federal funding commitment for transportation. The law will expire September 30, 2020.

VI. Next Meeting: June 15, 2020

VII. Adjournment

At 11:10 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Union County, seconded by Essex County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
April 20, 2020**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Bartlett (Chair)	Passaic County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Vice Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Joshua Hertzberg	Sussex County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Pete Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Rudy Rodas	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Kelly (Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Sara Sooy (Vice Chair)	Somerset County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
David Antonio	Essex County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	Newark
Rudy Rodas	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Elias Guzman	Jersey City
Terrence Howard	Newark
John Ernst	Ocean County
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County

Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Andras Holzmann	Somerset County
David Dech	Warren County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Jim Vari	NJDOT
RJ Palladino	NJ TRANSIT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County