



Angel G. Estrada, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo – Chair
County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Freeholder John Bartlett – Chair
Freeholder Matthew Holt – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes October 21, 2019

I. Roll Call of Members

Beverly Morris, Central Staff, called the roll. Fourteen members of the Project Prioritization Committee and 13 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

III. Presentation: I-80 Rockfall Mitigation Project

Jessica Franzini and Scott Deeck, NJDOT, provided a detailed presentation regarding the Route I-80 Westbound Rockfall Mitigation project in Warren County. The presentation included discussion of the methodology used to determine the need for the project, development of project alternatives, the public review process and other related information. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session during which several local residents and officials expressed concerns about the project development process and the potential impacts of the project. They also expressed their desire to have the project removed from the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Several committee members asked questions about the project and its impacts as well. The NJDOT representatives answered questions and clarified information, while also encouraging those in attendance to participate as the project continues to undergo the environmental review process.

Freeholder John Bartlett, Passaic County took over the meeting.

III. RTAC Update – Mark Jehnke, Ocean County

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported that the October Committee meeting featured an NJTPA staff presentation on the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program. The RTAC also was briefed on the development of the FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), a solicitation for the Transportation Clean Air Measures Program, and 2020 safety performance measure targets. Also, the Committee learned that, as part of preparation for the Long-Range Plan update, the subregions will be asked to verify NJDOT pavement and bridge data. Mr. Jehnke said, in place of the next RTAC teleconference, the NJTPA will host a Congestion Management Process workshop on November 19.

IV. Action Items

Planning and Economic Development Committee:

Support for 2020 Safety Performance Measure Targets Set by the New Jersey Department of Transportation in Collaboration with the NJTPA and Other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in New Jersey

Keith Miller, Central Staff, explained that, with this action, as in 2017 and 2018, the NJTPA agrees to plan and program projects that support the attainment of the statewide safety performance measures targets for 2020. He noted that preliminary data for 2018 indicate the State has achieved three of its 2018 targets, which are number of fatalities, fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and serious injury rate per 100 million VMT. The target was not met for the number of serious injuries, although there was improvement. The number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries, however, did not improve. Mr. Miller said that, if the final 2018 data show similar results, the state will have demonstrated that, overall, it met or made significant progress toward the 2018 safety targets.

Barkha Patel, Jersey City, suggested that the state adopt a more aggressive strategy for reducing fatalities and injuries and said she hoped to see significant changes in the next round of performance measures target setting. Otherwise, she said the NJTPA should consider exercising the option to create its own, more aggressive targets to better address this public safety issue. Freeholder Bartlett agreed that something better than a five-year rolling average should be what is aimed for, particularly because of investments made in public education and many roadway safety improvements.

In answer to a question from Citizens Representative Alternate Jared Rodriguez, NJTPA Executive Director Mary D. Ameen said while there is a provision allowing MPOs to set their own targets and that potential funding impacts of not making progress toward targets would need to be determined going forward. Mr. Miller noted that the Federal Highway Administration encourages setting reachable targets and there are no penalties for not targets set by MPOs.

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

Project Prioritization Committee:

Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program as Requested by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) to Utilize Disaster Recovery and Resilience Program Funding

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said the project was previously included in the TIP, but it was not ready for authorization as scheduled by the end of Fiscal Year 2019. It will be ready by the end of this calendar year and therefore needs to be added to the 2020 element of the new TIP. The project includes matching funds from the Port Authority.

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

V. Information Items

1. FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Angel Young, Central Staff, provided the development schedule for the FY 2021 UPWP, along with state, federal and NJTPA planning priorities, and updated goals for the plan. She gave an overview of the development process and outlined continuing and new activities for Central Staff and the subregions. The first draft will be presented to the Board and RTAC in December for review, and comments are requested by January 10. The final draft will be presented at the joint committee meeting in February and submitted to the Board for adoption in March.

2. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said the PANYNJ, on behalf of the Gateway Program partners, submitted a revised financial plan for the construction of a new trans-Hudson tunnel and a comprehensive rehabilitation of the existing tunnel. He said the financial plan reflects \$9.5 billion for the new tunnel and \$1.8 billion for the rehabilitation. About \$5.5 billion would be from sources other than the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant being sought, and \$2.7 billion would come from the PANYNJ. Amtrak has increased its commitment to the project as well. Mr. Behrend said it is hoped that the revised financial plan will increase the FTA rating for the project so it can be included in the federal budget.

Mr. Behrend reported also that New York and New Jersey made appointments to the Board of Trustees of the bi-state Gateway Development Commission – Jerry Zaro, Chairman of the Gateway Program Development Corporation (NJ), and Janine Bauer, former director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (NY).

3. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said that, aware of potential difficulties for state departments of transportation, Congress likely will try to repeal a July 1, 2020 rescission of transportation funds. The rescission is included in the original FAST Act. He reported also that several members of Congress are forming a new caucus to focus on federal mass transit issues, to be led by California, Illinois and

Massachusetts representatives. Mr. Behrend noted that the White House Office of Management and Budget is reviewing a plan to streamline NEPA reviews for road, bridge, port and other infrastructure projects.

VI. Other Items

NJTPA Executive Director Mary D. Ameen announced that Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, has been promoted to the position of Senior Director of Planning.

VII. Next Meeting: December 9, 2019

IX. Adjournment

At 12:05 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Ocean County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
October 21, 2019**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo (Chair)	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Joshua Hertzberg	Sussex County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Eric Powers	NJDOT
Vivian Baker	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Bartlett (Chair)	Passaic County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	Newark
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Eric Powers	NJDOT
Vivian Baker	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
William Masol	French & Parello
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Mayor Kevin Duffy	Hardwick Township

Jack Duffy	Hardwick Township
Tara Mezzanotte	I-80 Delaware Water Gap Rockfall & Safety Coalition
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Mayor Adele Starrs	Knowlton Township
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Frank Scarantino	Mott MacDonald
Jesse Minsky	NJDOT
Scott Deeck	NJDOT
Jessica Franzini	NJDOT
Jim Lewis	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Eddie Morales	PANYNJ
Elizabeth Ward	Passaic County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County