



## **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair  
Commissioner Susan Soloway – Vice Chair

## **PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski – Chair  
Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski – Vice Chair

### **Joint Meeting Minutes August 19, 2024**

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#### **I. Roll Call of Members**

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Warren County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, called the roll. Twelve members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and thirteen members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024, meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Union County, and carried with a voice vote.

#### **III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update**

RTAC Chair David Antonio reported on the August 12 virtual RTAC meeting. He said the meeting featured a presentation by Adam Bradford, Supervising Planner with Passaic County, as part of the ongoing RTAC “Get to Know a Subregion” series. He said Mr. Bradford provided an overview of the Passaic County Strategic Infrastructure Plan, which identified five priority investment areas. The plan was among the NJTPA’s subregional studies completed last fiscal year. The final report is available on the NJTPA’s website. In addition, Krishna Murthy of EZ Ride provided a TMA update focused on electrical vehicle, or EV, adoption and the role the TMAs are playing in helping the state meet its goals. Next, he said, Central Staff presented four information items. These include Subregional Pass-Through Programs; Resiliency Improvement

Plan; Subregional Electric Vehicle Service Equipment Program; and Project Prioritization and Scoring Process.

Central Staff also briefed the Committee on two action items and three written information items that are on your agenda today. The next RTAC meeting is scheduled for October 15, which he noted will be on a Tuesday because of the holiday on Monday.

#### IV. Presentation: BIKENewark: The City of Newark's Bicycle Plan

Commissioner Sarnoski called upon William Long, Central Staff, to introduce Delores Martinez Wooden, Director of Engineering, City of Newark, who was presenting on the city's bicycle plan. Mr. Long said the BIKENewark study was among five efforts completed in June through the Subregional Studies Program. He thanked Director Martinez Wooden and numerous City of Newark employees for their diligent work to bring the plan to conclusion. He said Michael Baker International was the consultant.

Ms. Martinez Wooden, gave an overview of the study. She said Newark's existing bicycle network is about 13 miles, including some 10 miles of bike lanes and sharrows and another three miles of shared use paths. BIKENewark proposes 74 miles of bicycle facilities, including: protected one-way bike lanes; bicycle boulevards; protected two-way bike lanes; and sharrows. She said another 15 miles were identified as future potential facilities that provide some measurable benefit to biking in Newark but require more study to determine feasibility. The study incorporated the city's master plan, Newark360, and previous studies, such as BIKEIronbound. She said the goal of the study was to build on what Newark already had and to address the lack of connectivity.

Along with bike paths, she said there are supportive aspects that will be required to sustain the infrastructure in the long run, such as bike parking that lets the public enjoy traveling by bike to work, parks, or shopping. The plan reviewed existing infrastructure, assessed demand, and what will be necessary to sustain it in the long term. There were almost 900 responses to the online survey and interactive map. Consistent feedback was that there are not sufficient facilities and there is a lack of supporting infrastructure. Among the most popular destinations were transportation hubs like Newark Penn and Broad Street stations, parks, and the Arts and Education District in University Heights. This feedback was incorporated into the plan's recommendations.

She said some strategies are aimed at increasing awareness and the promotion and education of safe ridership. At the same time, infrastructure could be implemented to create zones where speed limits are minimized, she said, along with signage and overall messaging to advance

Vision Zero priorities. She said the city is linking road surfacing projects and pedestrian projects with the bike plan, trying to make it cohesive to keep different road users in their appropriate areas and enhance safety. She said one of the goals of the plan is to address connectivity issues, by creating a network that not only connects different communities within the city, but also ties into surrounding municipalities.

## V. Action Items

### Planning and Economic Development Committee

#### 1. **FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Modification** – Angellita Young, Central Staff

Angellita Young, Central Staff, reviewed the approval to modify the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) adopted by the Board of Trustees on March 11, 2024.

The proposed modification includes a budget increase of \$760,000 using Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Metropolitan Planning Program and Block Grant Program Funds and Federal Transit Administration, Metropolitan Planning Program funds that have become available since the adoption of our FY 2025 budget. The proposed modifications include:

- *Task WP101 - UPWP Administration – Strategic Planning:* The addition of \$25,000 is added under the professional service agreements budget line item to hire a consultant to facilitate and assist the agency in updating its visions, goals, and strategic planning efforts. The updated directors will serve as internal guidance for the NJTPA over the next several years.
- *Task RP307 - Sustainable Communities – Newark Train Station Coordination:* The addition of \$100,000 for a subrecipient contract to support coordination of the ongoing planning and development surrounding the North Liberty International Train Station in the Dayton neighborhood in the City of Newark. The work will be conducted by NJIT Staff at the Hillier School of Architecture, who will be responsible for ongoing collaboration between the Port Authority, NJ TRANSIT, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the City of Newark to implement current planning initiatives at the new train station.
- *Task PA701 - Public Involvement/Outreach – FY 2025 Website Platform Upgrade:* \$300,000 is being added for a consultant effort to upgrade the website platform. This project was originally planned for FY 2026 but needs to be expedited due to recent

issues with the existing content management system, including vulnerabilities to hacking which a more permanent solution.

- *Task PA 701 - Public Involvement/Outreach – FY 2025 Innovative Public Engagement:* \$10,000 to provide additional funding to the subrecipient (Rutgers Voorhees Transportation Center) to update NJTPA’s database of community organizations in its region, which will be used for outreach for the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update.
- *Task IS801 - Information Systems Support and Maintenance – Equipment Upgrades:* \$45,000 for the Central Staff Activities, Non-Personnel Expenditures budget line item for computer equipment upgrades: meeting room controllers, displays, and licensing to enhance NJTPA meeting room capabilities by streamlining in-person and hybrid meetings; and Additional server memory necessary for the SAP HANA database software upgrade planned for FY 2025. The conference room equipment follows the installation of cameras and will enhance collaboration and engagement, and overall meeting effectiveness.
- *Task RP305 - Mobility Programs – TMA Work Program:* \$280,000 is being added to be allocated to the pass-through grants to be authorized for Cross County Connection and Greater Mercer TMAs. The additional funds were allocated to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission region and will complement the funding increases previously made for the other six TMAs in the NJTPA region. The increase in funds will permit the two TMAs to recruit and retain staff and increase the activities in their respective programs.

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

## **2. Adjusted Percent Non-Single Occupant Vehicle Travel Target for the Philadelphia Urbanized Area**

Keith Miller, Central Staff said the resolution is to adopt an adjusted target for percent non-single occupant vehicle, or non-SOV, travel, for the Philadelphia urbanized area. Among other national performance measures, FHWA regulations establish standard Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program traffic congestion performance measures. States departments of transportation (DOTs) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are required to collaborate on collecting data, reporting performance, and setting short term (generally 2- and 4-

year) targets for urbanized areas (UZAs). Mr. Miller explained the midway point of the 4-year performance periods, the targets can be revised. Most of the NJTPA region is within the New York-Newark UZA, while a small portion of Warren County around Phillipsburg is in the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton UZA, and a very small portion Hunterdon County around Lambertville is in the Philadelphia UZA. The two CMAQ traffic congestion performance measures are the percent of non-single occupant vehicle, or non-SOV, travel; and the annual hours of peak hour excessive delay per capita, or PHED. The NJTPA has to agree with the other MPOs and state DOTs that overlap each UZA on targets.

To date, all three UZAs have met the 2-year targets for both CMAQ traffic congestion performance measures and are on target to meet or surpass all the 4-year targets as well.

For the New York-Newark and Allentown UZAs, the MPOs and state DOTs agreed to maintain the 4-year targets for both measures. The Philadelphia UZA agreed to adjust the 4-year non-SOV target, strengthening it from 30 to 33 percent, given the increase in non-SOV travel that has resulted from travel changes during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting materials for this resolution include charts of the trends for the CMAQ traffic congestion performance measures for all three UZAs. All the performance measures and targets are on the NJTPA performance measures web page. The updated NJTPA CMAQ Performance Plan will be sent to NJDOT before the October 1 due date and updated information on the performance measures will be included in the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and LRTP.

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

Commissioner Sarnoski said Project Prioritization Committee Chair Charles Kenny was unable to attend the meeting and called upon Vice Chair Susan Soloway to conduct the Project Prioritization portion of the meeting

### **Project Prioritization Committee**

Commissioner Soloway said the Committee has one action item on the agenda, a modification to the TIP. She noted that the action item only requires approval by this Committee, not the full Board.

- 1. Modification to the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Monmouth County Bridge S-31 (Also known as Bingham Avenue Bridge) over Navesink River, CR 8A as Requested by the NJTPA**

John Witsch, Central Staff, said this request is to add \$3 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-New York/Newark funds for Preliminary Engineering in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$7.5 million. The cost increase is based on a revised estimate Monmouth County received for the project. The NJTPA Future Projects Program line item has funds available.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Sussex County, seconded by Hunterdon County, and carried unanimously.

## VI. Information Items

### 1. Update on Congestion Management Process, Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, provides an update on the Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment, which will update the NJTPA'S Congestion Management Process (CMP). He said Central Staff held its first working group for the project on June 13, which also included the consultant team, subregions, partner agencies and other stakeholders. The group reviewed the project goals and schedules along with some findings from the latest iteration of the CMP. Stakeholders discussed how conditions have changed since the pandemic, and which aspects of regional transportation should be analyzed now. As an addendum to this meeting, Central Staff convened tech stakeholders on July 15 to discuss existing conditions and additional research needed. He thanked stakeholders from both groups for their participation and for the feedback received. Data analysis is underway and will be incorporated into the LRTP update.

## VII. Executive Director's Update

David Behrend, Executive Director, said Central Staff is planning an LRTP visioning session with the Board for early this fall. He noted that the LRTP is one of the agency's most important efforts and is federally required. Having an approved plan in place allows the region to retain eligibility for the federal surface transportation funds that are vital to the region's mobility and economy. The new plan will be called "Connecting Communities." Staff have been compiling relevant data, looking at how to incorporate other ongoing work into the plan, and developing an overall approach to this update. He said consultants are assisting with the plan's financial element and public outreach and engagement. As part of their contract, the outreach consultant will be helping conduct the Board visioning workshop, which would be held at the NJTPA's office and give members an opportunity to weigh-in on the plan's goals and priorities. He strongly encouraged all Trustees to attend the visioning workshop, as well as alternates and RTAC representatives. More information will be available soon.

## VIII. Written Information Items

Commissioner Soloway read the written items. Committee members did not have any questions.

1. Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) Refinement and Strategy Effectiveness Project Update – Keith Miller, Central Staff
2. Resiliency Improvement Plan — Blythe Eaman, Central Staff
3. Project Prioritization and Scoring Process Update – John Witsch, Central Staff
4. Local Safety and High-Risk Rural Roads Programs – Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff

## IX. Other Items

There were no other items to discuss.

X. Next Meeting: October 21, 2024, 10:30 a.m. at the NJTPA in Newark.

## XI. Adjournment

At 11:38 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Ocean County, seconded by Morris County, and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ATTENDANCE  
August 19, 2024**

**Project Prioritization Committee**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Susan Soloway (Vice Chair)	Hunterdon County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Sudir Joshi	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative

**Planning and Economic Development Committee**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski (Vice Chair)	Union County
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
David Antonio	Essex County
Delores Martinez Wooden	City of Newark
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Sudhir Joshi	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative

Also, in Attendance	
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County



Frank Bell	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
John Ernst	Morris County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Mike Manzella	City of Jersey City
Megan Fackler	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
David Dech Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Krishna Murthy	EZ Ride TMA
Shawn Savage	
Neel Badlani	
Bob Werkmeister	
Neile Weissman	
Lou Luglio	