



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

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

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner John P. Kelly – Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes October 18, 2021

I. Roll Call of Members

Commissioner John Bartlett, Passaic County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He noted that the date for the full reopening of the NJTPA office was rescheduled to November 29, 2021, pursuant to directions from the Governor's Authorities Unit. Board and standing committee meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice. The Commissioner welcomed former NJTPA Chair and Somerset County Freeholder Peter Palmer.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2021 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Somerset County, and carried with 14 affirmative votes. Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Sussex and Warren counties and the City of Newark abstained.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities at the October RTAC meeting. He said Bob Diogo, Central Staff, provided a presentation on preliminary Census 2020 results that show the NJTPA region's population increased by 6.8 percent to more than 7 million people, which is about 75 percent of the state's total population. Staff also provided updates on the development of the Fiscal Year 2023 Unified Planning Work Program, the enhanced New Jersey Regional Travel Model Validation project and the Together North Jersey (TNJ) initiative.

IV. Presentation: Highlights of the FY 2020-2021 Subregional Studies Program Study, “Hudson County Ferry Service Expansion Study”

Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, said the Hudson County Ferry Service Expansion Study assesses an alternative mode of transportation that would help relieve roadway congestion and provide passenger capacity to the county’s diverse and robust transit network. The study was funded through the NJTPA Subregional Studies Program.

Mr. Nicholas introduced the study project manager, Kevin Force, Hudson County, who provided an overview of the study methodology and key findings. Mr. Force said the recently completed study evaluated the feasibility and market demand for expanding ferry service, and four sites were selected for detailed modeling. Proposed concept routes in Newark Bay were developed for connecting the sites to nearby destinations. Mr. Force said the analysis included the potential for providing transportation options for Hudson County’s environmental justice populations. Although the study found that there was public and stakeholder interest in expanding ferry service, it determined there was not sufficient ridership demand at this time to make any of the routes financially feasible without subsidy. Mr. Force noted that, considering proposed land developments around the study area and the potential for increased ridership, the study recommends monitoring ridership demands and operations costs and revisiting the potential new services in the future. More details are available on the study website at [Hudcoferrystudy.com](https://www.hudcoferrystudy.com).

During the ensuing Q&A, Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff, suggested including the Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection on a Technical Advisory Committee to address the air quality impact of new and existing ferry engines. Mr. Force welcomed an opportunity to discuss this further, possibly including ferry engine specifications in an addendum to the study.

V. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Utilize Federal Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Program Funds as Requested by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said two projects that were anticipated to be authorized in Federal Fiscal Year 2021 could not be obligated by the deadline for year-end financial transactions. These projects, both in Hudson County, need to be amended into the new TIP with adjustments to funding and scheduling. These projects are the Concrete Sea Wall East of Harrison Car Maintenance Facility and the Harrison Car Maintenance Facility Automatic Flood Barrier. Both are ready to be authorized for construction. Each project is programmed for \$3.1 million in federal funds and \$352,000 in Port Authority matching funds.

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

Planning and Economic Development Committee

2. Support for Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2022 Set by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in Collaboration with the NJTPA and Other Metropolitan Planning Organizations in New Jersey

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said the NJTPA coordinated with NJDOT, the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety, and New Jersey's other MPOs to analyze trends and set targets for five performance measures established by the Federal Highway Administration. These safety performance measures include five-year averages for the number and rate of fatalities, the number and rate of serious injuries, and the number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

Mr. Miller said target-setting this year was particularly challenging, given both the change in reporting for serious injuries initiated in 2019, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group took guidance from the 2020 Strategic Highway Safety Plan and set targets for a 3 percent drop in annual values each year.

Mr. Miller said the Committee was also informed that NJDOT prepared a federally required Highway Safety Improvement Program Implementation Plan, to improve its ability to achieve its safety targets. The plan describes how funds will be allocated to safety projects, strategies, and other activities. Under federal regulations, with previous targets not being met, the state has limited flexibility in how it uses safety funds until the new targets are met. As a result, extra attention will be paid to the delivery of all safety projects statewide, including the NJTPA Local Safety Program, which uses federal funds for safety improvements.

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

VI. Information Items

1. FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Angel Young, Central Staff, Angel Young, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the development of the FY 2023 UPWP. Prior to the meeting Ms. Young distributed a package of the following materials to RTAC members: FY 2023 UPWP Development Schedule; NJDOT MPO Transportation Priorities; Federal Highway Administration Planning Emphasis Areas; NJTPA long range plan goals and federal planning factors; and a slide presentation overview of the various elements of the FY 2023 UPWP.

Ms. Young highlighted a variety of requirements and current and proposed activities in the program. She said input from the Trustees and RTAC members will be sought throughout the development process, and she asked that any suggestions for the program update be submitted by October 31, so they may be incorporated into the first draft, which will be distributed for review in December. Ms. Young said subsequent comments on the draft program are requested by

January 4. The final draft will be presented to the RTAC and standing committees in February 2022 and to the Board for approval in March.

Ms. Young encouraged all to review the slide presentation and visit the NJTPA's [UPWP website](#) for information on the current program, and she offered to meet separately with newcomers to the NJTPA about the UPWP development process.

2. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said the NJ TRANSIT Board approved a \$1.56 billion construction contract for the replacement of the Portal Bridge North, which has been identified in the region's long-range plan as one of the highest transit-related priorities for the region.

Mr. Behrend said a revised financial plan for the Hudson Tunnel project was submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation recently, and work toward securing a full funding grant agreement before the end of the calendar year continues.

3. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said Congress is working to pass a federal infrastructure bill and a broader reconciliation bill. He said the Administration and the House of Representatives are expecting to move both bills together.

Mr. Behrend said Congress extended the FAST Act bill by one month to keep transportation funds flowing until either a long-term authorization bill or another extension can be enacted.

VII. Next Meeting: December 13, 2021, 10:30 a.m. via Go to Meeting

VIII. Other Items

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, announced that the due date for applications to the TNJ Local Technical Assistance Program was extended by one week to October 22, 2021.

In answer to a question from Commissioner Kelly, NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen said the NJTPA has been advised by the Governor's Authorities Unit to hold all board and committee meetings virtually until further notice.

IX. Adjournment

At 11:58 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
October 18, 2021**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Bartlett (Chair)	Passaic County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
David Dech	Warren County
Jeffry Nielsen	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. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
David Antonio	Essex County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	City of Newark
Walt Lane	Somerset County
David Dech	Warren County
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also in Attendance	
Hon. Paul Drake	Somerset County
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County

Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay	Federal Highway Administration
Raymond Tomczak	Federal Transit Administration
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Nickitas Alexiades	HDR Inc.
Kevin Force	Hudson County
Thomas Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Ali Rezvani	Moffatt & Nichol
John Hayes	Morris County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Dan LiSanti	NJDOT
Sudhir Joshi	NJDOT
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Jeevanjot	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
John Ernst	Ocean County
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Peter Palmer	Palmer Enterprises
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Christopher Paige	