



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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Freeholder John Bartlett – Chair
Freeholder Jason Sarnoski – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Freeholder John Kelly – Chair
Freeholder Sara Sooy – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes August 17, 2020

I. Roll Call of Members

Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) Chair Freeholder John Bartlett, Passaic County, called the virtual meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Fourteen members of the PPC and 13 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee were participating.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

III. Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update – Mark Jehnke, Ocean County

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities of the August 10 RTAC meeting. He said among RTAC's information items presented by Central Staff were:

- A report on the FY 2020 Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads Programs
- An update on the Congestion Management Process Working Group
- Details on the NJTPA's Equity Assessment
- And a report on Together North Jersey's current initiatives.

Mr. Jehnke said the committee also reviewed the action items on the agenda for this Joint Committee meeting.

IV. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Approval of the Initial Financial Plan for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff (Attachment PPC-1)

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said federal regulations require that projects with a total cost between \$100 million and \$500 million have a financial plan in place that covers various elements, such as cost estimates, implementation plans, financing, revenue, cash flow, and public private partnerships. She said the Project Prioritization Committee will be asked to approve annual updates to this financial plan over the course of the locally led \$116 million project, which will replace the bridge with a new adjacent parallel structure. The five-stage construction project began in February and is expected to conclude in October 2024. Ms. Ludwig recalled that, in May, the Board approved a minor amendment adding \$31 million in federal funds to the construction phase. Ms. Ludwig noted that NJTPA staff assisted the Monmouth County engineering department in preparing the financial plan.

A motion to approve the financial plan was made by Monmouth County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

2. Modifications to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Modify Five Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said NJDOT requested a set of funding revisions to five projects in the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She said Federal funds are available for these increases from previous project and program releases. The modifications are as follows:

- ADA Central, Contract 2 project in Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset Counties. This contract will bring projects into compliance with current Americans for Disabilities Act design requirements. The right of way phase of the project is ahead of schedule and needs increased funding in fiscal year 2020. This modification will advance \$1.3 million from Fiscal Year 2021 to 2020 and add an additional \$6.3 million for a total of \$7.6 million.
- Route 29, Alexauken Creek Road to Washington Street project in Hunterdon County. This modification will increase federal funds by \$1.2 million for Preliminary Engineering due to an updated cost estimate for the Fiscal Year 2020 authorization, bringing the total for 2020 to \$2.5 million.
- Route 71, Bridge over NJ Transit (North Jersey Coast Line) project in Monmouth County. This modification will increase funds needed for Preliminary Engineering by \$1.25 million for a total of \$2.25 million in Fiscal Year 2020, due to an updated cost estimate.

- Route 80, Route 15 Interchange project in Morris County. This modification will increase funds for Design in Fiscal Year 2020 by \$7.5 million due to an advance construction contract for the replacement of the Route 15 northbound bridge over the former Mount Hope Mineral Railroad. This increase brings the total to \$14 million.
- Route 206, Doctors Way to Valley Road project in Somerset County. This modification will increase funds for construction by \$12.25 million for a total of \$61 million due to an updated cost estimate. The increases are project refinements developed during Final Design. They deal with include duration of construction, additional utility work, storm water management, and landscaping.

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

3. Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add Federal Funds to the Restriping Program and Line Reflectivity Management System as requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Ms. Chamberlain said NJDOT also requested a modification to the current TIP to add \$23.2 million to the Restriping Program and Line Reflectivity Management System, bringing total funding for the program to \$43.2 million. She said the program funds the application of long-life pavement markings and raised pavement markers on the state highway system. The amount requested includes \$21.5 million in new long-life pavement work to be authorized in August of this year and \$1.7 million for the balance outstanding for previous work.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Middlesex County, Seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

4. Approval of the Henry Hudson Trail Extension to the Matawan/Aberdeen Train Station

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said NJ TRANSIT requested a reallocation of approximately \$940,000 of Fiscal Year 2010 unobligated Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to support a paved, mixed-use trail extension that would connect the Henry Hudson Trail to the train station. He said it is anticipated that the nearly half-mile trail connection will encourage improved bicycle and pedestrian access to the train station, which is one of the busiest on the North Jersey Coast Line. Also, it would facilitate transit access to the recreational trail.

Mr. Perlman said these CMAQ funds were originally allocated through the NJTPA's Local Mobility Initiatives program, and the projects are selected in collaboration with NJ TRANSIT. In answer to a question from Freeholder Bartlett and Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County, concerning the possibility of more funding for other CMAQ bicycle/pedestrian programs, Mr. Perlman said the current program solicitation is closed and the applications are being evaluated.

He noted that Passaic County has submitted an application for a trail project through the Transportation Clean Air Measures (TCAM) program.

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

V. Information Items

1. FY 2020 Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Programs

Christine Mittman, Central Staff, reported that 12 applications were received in January for the Local Safety Program and two for the High Risk Rural Roads Program. The program Technical Review Committee (TRC) met in April to review the applications, and comments were provided to the applicants in June. The next TRC meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2020, where a final decision will be made on which projects to recommend for Board approval.

2. Equity Assessment Guidance

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said that, pursuant to its Public Engagement and Title VI plans, NJTPA studies integrate Title VI, Environmental Justice (EJ) and additional civil rights requirements into the planning process. To that end, NJTPA staff has assembled an Equity Assessment Guide for subregional planners and engineers looking to identify EJ and Title VI populations in planning studies. Ms. Eaman said the guide provides direction for collecting assessment-related data consistent with the NJTPA Title VI Implementation Plan. The Equity Guidance is posted on the NJTPA website at <http://njtpa.org/NJTPA/media/Documents/About-NJTPA/Federal-Regulations/Title-VI/Equity-Assessment-Guide-2020-07.pdf>.

3. Plan 2050: Transportation, People, Opportunity Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, reported that as part of the outreach for the long range plan, the project consultant team is working with Central Staff on a website survey and other virtual methods for gathering public input. She said a stakeholder advisory group will meet shortly to help inform the outreach efforts.

Ms. Goldman said the first in a series of symposia is planned for October 6 and will focus on adapting to change. Also, the development of the financial element of the plan began with a kickoff meeting with the consultants in July. She said the first in a series of background papers will focus on active transportation and key strategies for infrastructure, safety and policy. Other papers planned for this fall will look at resilience, technology and asset management. The purpose of the papers is to highlight key data issues and recommendations for discussion ahead of plan publication.

4. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff announced that new solicitation for up to two projects under the Technical Assistance program is now underway. The application deadline is October 15. The assistance is provided by the Voorhees Transportation Center and is available to municipalities, non-profits, and community-based organizations for small-scale projects that can be completed in three to five months and help advance the goals of the TNJ plan. Further information is available on the TNJ website.

Mr. Perlman said two projects under the program have been completed recently: Hackensack's Demarest Place Community Vision Plan and the Bound Brook Visual Identity and Wayfinding project. The final reports for these projects are available on the TNJ website.

<https://togethernorthjersey.com/technical-assistance/>

Mr. Perlman said TNJ virtual task force meetings have seen an increase in participation with the virtual format, which allows access to multiple sessions. The next round of task force meetings will focus on a reexamination of the TNJ plan to refresh its strategies and actions.

5. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said the Portal Bridge project continues to advance with an infusion of funding by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), but no full funding agreement in place.

Mr. Behrend said there was no news from the FTA about the Hudson River Tunnel project. He noted that trans-Hudson travel by all modes has increased since April. Also, NJ TRANSIT resumed full service to New York City. He noted that NJ TRANSIT and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey are facing serious pandemic-related fiscal challenges.

6. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said transit providers nationwide have received a significant infusion of funding from the CARES act, but this assistance is limited to the current fiscal year. He noted that there has been a big reduction in revenue from the motor fuel tax.

Mr. Behrend said a House infrastructure bill has been proposed addressing many infrastructure systems including transportation, but the bill is not clear on funding.

Mr. Behrend noted that appropriation bills expire on September 30, and it is likely that Congress will focus on issuing a continuing resolution to keep the federal government running. He noted that NJ TRANSIT was awarded an FTA grant for about \$14.7 million for the rehabilitation of the Wayne Bus Maintenance Facility in Passaic County under the Bus and Bus Facilities Program.

VI. Other Items

NJTPA Executive Director Mary Ameen announced that the next joint meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 21 due to conflict with the schedule of the virtual TransAction conference.

Ms. Ameen announced that former NJTPA Chair, Freeholder Angel Estrada, Union County, will retire effective September 1, 2020. He was asked to be a guest at the September 14 Board meeting, where he will be honored for all his contributions on behalf of the NJTPA and the region.

VII. Next Meeting: October 21, 2020

VIII. Adjournment

At 11:30 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
August 17, 2020**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Bartlett (Chair)	Passaic County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Zack Rich	Hunterdon County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
David Dech	Warren County
Rudy Rodas	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Sara Sooy (Vice Chair)	Somerset County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
David Antonio	Essex County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	Newark
John Ernst	Ocean County
David Dech	Warren County
Rudy Rodas	Governor's Authorities Unit
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Steve Brown	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Neille Weissman	Complete George
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry

Nickitas Alexiades	Dewberry
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
John Hayes	Morris County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Liza Betz	Union County
Dede Murray	