



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 P. Kelly – Chair
Freeholder Sara Sooy – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes October 21, 2020

I. Roll Call of Members

Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) Vice Chair Freeholder Jason Sarnoski, Warren County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Fourteen members of the 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 17, 2020 meeting, with a correction noted by Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, was made by Morris County, seconded by Warren County and carried with 19 affirmative votes. Union County abstained.

III. Presentation: New Jersey 2020 Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Bill William Riviere, NJDOT, introduced Khalid Shaikh, NJDOT Bureau of Safety Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, Project Manager for the development and implementation of the federally required New Jersey 2020 Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Mr. Shaikh said this data-driven, performance-based, five-year plan is designed to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads in the state. Emphasis areas in the plan include equity, lane departure, intersections, driver behavior, pedestrians and bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users. Collaborating stakeholders on the plan include government agencies, health and education organizations, advocacy groups and the members of the public. Mr. Shaikh said implementation began in August, and there will be periodic high-level assessment of its progress and opportunities for improvement. The Plan website: www.saferoadsforallnj.com.

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said NJTPA staff will be involved in implementing the Strategic Plan in several ways, including through ongoing safety programs such as Local Safety, High Risk Rural Roads, Street Smart NJ and addressing safety needs in disadvantaged communities.

She noted that the state's Transportation Management Associations (TMAs), which are managed by the NJTPA, provide safe travel options for seniors and people with disabilities.

IV. RTAC Update – Mark Jehnke, Ocean County

RTAC Chair, Mark Jehnke, reported on the activities of the October 13 RTAC meeting. He said the Committee heard a presentation from NJTPA staff on the Active Transportation Background Paper for Plan 2050 and received updates on the development of the Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the solicitation for the FY 2022 Subregional Transportation Program, the NJTPA CMAQ Performance Plan, and NJDOT, and the TNJ Initiative.

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

V. Action Items

PPC

1. Endorsement of the Draft FY 2021 Transportation Capital Program

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the Transportation Capital Program (TCP) provides the foundation for the NJTPA's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She noted that the 2021 program includes nearly \$3.3 billion for investment in the NJTPA region and includes \$2 billion in NJDOT projects and programs and \$1.3 billion for NJ TRANSIT. She noted that the NJTPA met with the state's other MPOs, NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT to develop a draft schedule for the FY 2022 TIP.

PPC Vice Chair, Freeholder Jason Sarnoski, Warren County, expressed concern about the inclusion in the Capital Program of the Route 80 Rockfall Mitigation project in Hardwick Township. He called for an environmental study on the potential impacts of the project to the surrounding communities, and he questioned its high cost. The Freeholder also noted that the Route 57, County Route 519 Intersection Improvement project in Lopatcong Township is a critical need, yet it continues to be deferred.

Peter Botsolas, Bergen County said he would vote to endorse the Capital Program, but he expects the NJTPA to follow-up regarding changes to funding for improvements to the Northern Branch Rail Line.

Sal Presti, Passaic County, said the County was endorsing this program and wished for continued support with advancing the findings of the Paterson - Newark Transit Market Study.

A motion to endorse the TCP was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Hudson County and carried with 12 affirmative votes. Warren County cast a negative vote.

2. Approval of Projects for the 2020 Local Safety Program and High Risk Rural Roads Program

Patricia Newton, Central Staff, said the July solicitation yielded 12 applications for the Local Safety Program (LSP) and two for High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR). A Technical Review Committee recommended 11 LSP and two HRRR projects totaling \$96 million for implementation. Christine Mittman, Central Staff, outlined the 2021-2026 funding plan for the LSP/HRRR program and noted that the NJTPA is working with NJDOT to identify supplemental funding options for the successful programs.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Hudson County and carried with 13 affirmative votes. Union County abstained.

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Route 15, Route 94 to Route 206/CR 565 Project in Sussex County

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said NJDOT requested the addition to the TIP of this resurfacing project that is ready for construction authorization. She said it can move forward with \$7.2 million in National Highway Performance Program funds.

Ms. Chamberlain said the following minor amendments would add five locally sponsored projects that are ready to advance to the Preliminary Engineering phase of work and would be funded with Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds that are available from the NJTPA future projects line item:

4. County Route 510 (Columbia Turnpike) Bridge over Black Brook Project in Morris County – \$400,000 in FY 2021 for Preliminary Engineering and \$6.3 million for additional work in later years including construction in FY 2024.
5. East Anderson Street Bridge over the Hackensack River in Bergen County – \$1.9 million in FY 2021 for Preliminary Engineering and \$41.1 million for additional work in later years including construction in FY 2026.
6. Kingsland Avenue Bridge over Passaic River in Bergen County – \$1.5 million in FY 2021 for Preliminary Engineering and \$37.7 million for additional work in later years including construction in FY 2026.
7. County Route 567 (Picket Place) Bridge over South Branch of Raritan River Project in Somerset County – \$1.4 million in FY 2021 for Preliminary Engineering and \$11.6 million for additional work in later years including construction in FY 2025.
8. County Route 512 (Valley Road) Bridge over Passaic River Project in Somerset County – \$1 million in FY 2021 for Preliminary Engineering and \$8.1 million for additional work in later years including construction in FY 2025.

A motion to endorse Resolutions 3-8 was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Morris County and carried with 13 affirmative votes. Union County abstained.

Freeholder Sarnoski turned the meeting over to PEDC Chair Freeholder John Kelly, Ocean County.

PEDC

9. Support for 2021 Safety Performance Measure Targets Set by the NJDOT in Collaboration with the NJTPA and other MPOs in New Jersey

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

Mr. Miller said that a new, expanded federal definition of serious injuries was established in 2019, making it difficult to gauge the region's progress in reducing injuries, but overall, the NJTPA region has seen a reduction in the number and rate of traffic fatalities. He said, with this action, the NJTPA will agree to plan and program projects that support the attainment of the state safety performance measures targets for 2021. He noted that the NJTPA continues to accomplish this goal through its Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads programs, Street Smart New Jersey, and other safety programs.

In answer to a question from Freeholder Sarnoski, Mr. Miller said while there has been a reduction in the number of highway crashes because of the pandemic-related decrease in traffic, the severity of injuries has risen due to speeding.

In answer to a question from Jared Rodriguez, Citizens' Representative, Mr. Miller said the region is seeing more pedestrian and non-motorized fatalities as well.

A motion to endorse the resolution was made by Essex County, seconded by City of Newark and carried with 12 affirmative votes. Jersey City abstained.

10. Approval of FY 2021-2023 Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding for the Transportation Clean Air Measures Program (TCAM)

Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff, said the NJTPA, in coordination with NJDOT, recommended 11 TCAM projects, totaling \$20.6 million for implementation. The funds will go toward implementing zero emissions goods movement; reducing emergency vehicle idling; providing electric vehicle charging grants; making trail and path improvements; optimizing traffic signals; and purchasing electric buses. Recipients include Essex, Monmouth, Morris and Passaic counties; the municipalities of Paterson, Union City, and Weehawken; EZ Ride TMA; the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; and International Motor Freight.

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

11. Approval of FY 2021-2023 CMAQ Funding for the Local Mobility Initiatives Program

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said the NJTPA, in coordination with NJ TRANSIT, recommends four projects totaling \$1.8 million in CMAQ funding for implementation under the FY 2021 Local Mobility Initiatives program. He said this program supports local shuttle bus operations and vehicle replacement. Three of the recommended projects are for vehicle replacements for: the Sussex County Skylands Ride program; the Borough of Fort Lee's ferry access service; and shuttles operated by the City of Orange Commuter Transportation Project. The fourth provides operational support for the Jersey Blues Line sponsored by Brookdale Community College in Monmouth County.

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

VI. Information Items

1. Plan 2050: Transportation, People and Opportunity Update

Ms. Goldman said the Active Transportation Background paper had been published and would be followed shortly by papers on Technology and Climate Change. She said the New Jersey MPOs are scheduled to meet in October and November to discuss financial assumptions for the Long Range Transportation Plan financial element.

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, spoke about the Plan 2050 public engagement efforts. He said the [Plan 2050 website](#) includes a survey in multiple languages. He encouraged all take the survey and share it through county and municipal communication channels, social media, and email. Mr. Ritter reported that, with consultant support, NJTPA staff conducted five virtual public workshops, one entirely in Spanish. He said the public outreach team is exploring ways to attract a larger and more varied audience for upcoming virtual workshops.

Mr. Ritter said the first symposium in the TPA Tuesdays series was held October 6. It focused on Adapting to Change and featured keynote speaker Harriet Trigone, New Urban Mobility Alliance, and a panel discussion of challenges and opportunities. Two more symposiums are planned for this fall and winter.

2. FY 2022 UPWP Development

Karen Rosenberger, Central Staff, updated the committees on the development of the FY 2022 UPWP. Prior to the meeting Ms. Rosenberger sent a package of the following materials distributed to Board and RTAC members via email: FY 2022 UPWP Development Schedule for Chapters I, II, III and IV, a letter outlining NJDOT Planning Priorities for MPOs, a letter outlining FHWA priorities for MPOs, and a slide presentation outlining elements of the FY 2022 UPWP.

Ms. Rosenberger 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. Rosenberger said subsequent comments on the draft program are requested by January 7. The final draft will be presented to the standing committees for endorsement in February 2021 and to the Board for approval in March.

3. NJTPA CMAQ Performance Plan and NJDOT Mid Period Performance Measures Report

Rick Cippoletti, Central Staff, said NJDOT has submitted its Mid Performance Period Progress Report to FHWA along with the NJTPA CMAQ Performance Plan.

Keith Miller, Central Staff, explained that the NJTPA CMAQ Performance Plan addresses federal requirements for MPOs for establishing performance measures targets associated with the CMAQ program. The measures include two dealing with congestion and one concerning the reduction in on-road mobile source emissions. The key component of the plan includes urbanized area targets for peak hour excessive delay and non-SOV travel, and a regional target for emissions reduction in pollutants and precursors from anticipated projects within NJTPA air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas.

Mr. Miller said the NJTPA CMAQ Plan discusses each performance measure, an assessment of progress toward achieving the established targets, and a list of upcoming CMAQ projects and their part in improving air quality. He reported that the region has met these targets. In 2022, two NJTPA CMAQ performance plans will be due: the final performance report for the 2018-2021 period and a new baseline report for the next four-year performance period.

4. Title VI Plan Update

Angel Young, Central Staff, said the NJTPA received comments from FHWA and the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) on the NJTPA Title VI Plan that was adopted by the Board in September. She explained that the plan was developed in response to a civil rights corrective action issued during the NJTPA 2019 federal certification review. The FHWA New Jersey Division civil rights specialist advised the NJTPA to include additional information in the plan to meet federal requirements. The comments were on three areas: organization and staffing, a subrecipient review procedure, and compliance and enforcement procedures. Ms. Young said Central Staff updated the NJTPA Title VI Plan to address the comments and are awaiting further input from the FHWA. The updated plan is slated for Board adoption in January.

5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Jeff Perlman, Central Staff, said the TNJ Initiative is collaborating with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) to update the TNJ plan. As part of the process, the four TNJ task forces (Efficient, Competitive, Resilient, and Livable) are holding meetings in October and updating strategies through early 2021.

Mr. Perlman reported that the solicitation for the Local Technical Assistance program yielded 12 proposals for the competitive program. He said the VTC and NJTPA will review the proposals

and notify successful applicants in November. Through the program, the VTC provides technical assistance to municipalities, non-profits, and community groups for projects that serve to implement the strategies of the TNJ plan.

Mr. Perlman said the TNJ Initiative will collaborate with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to conduct three one-hour webinars on brownfields redevelopment on October 26, November 5 and November 12.

6. Trans-Hudson Update

Dave Behrend, Central Staff, said trans-Hudson travel in some areas has rebounded significantly, since the pandemic's beginning. He said July truck traffic at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey crossings was only 15 percent lower than July 2019 and has rebounded enough so that the agency reopened the exclusive bus lane at the Lincoln Tunnel. Concerning transit, Mr. Behrend said bus ridership between New Jersey and New York is still significantly lower than it was before the pandemic, and rail is only 20-25 percent of pre pandemic levels. He said NJ TRANSIT bus routes are running at about 70 percent of pre pandemic levels to address the needs of many transit dependent residents. Mr. Behrend also reported that the Portal Bridge project continues to advance through the FTA process, while the Hudson River Tunnel project sees no movement.

7. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend reported that Congress passed a continuing resolution that funds the government through December 11 and authorized the FAST Act for one more year through September 30, 2021. He said the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed a bill on infrastructure last summer that never advanced to the full Senate, and the House passed a broader infrastructure package that included transportation, but the Senate has given no indication they will consider it. Mr. Behrend said neither of these bills came with a full accounting of how they will be funded.

VII. Other Items

In answer to a question from Freeholder Kelly, NJTPA Chair Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, said the NJTPA is in touch with leadership at the Governor's office and NJIT regularly, and NJTPA staff will continue to work remotely and conduct virtual meetings until further notice.

Freeholder Sara Sooy, Somerset County announced that New Jersey Economic Development Authority is working with the NJIT Business Action Center to promote a brownfields loan program.

VIII. Next Meeting: December 14, 2020.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
October 21, 2020**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Vice Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Zach Rich	Hunterdon County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Joshua Hertzberg	Sussex County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Liza Betz	Union County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Lewis	NJDOT
Megan Massey	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. Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
David Antonio	Essex County
Barkha Patel	Jersey City
Phillip Scott	City of Newark
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Lauren LaRusso	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Lewis	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County

David Schmetterer	Monmouth County
James Bonanno	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Kalid Shaikh	NJDOT
William Riviere III	NJDOT
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Eric Powers	NJDOT
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Jeevanjot Singh	NJDOT
Daniel LiSanti	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
John Ernst	Ocean County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Andras Holzman	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Dave Kuhn	GPI
Raymond Fusco	
Janet Keiser	