



## **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

Mark Jehnke, Chair

### **Meeting Minutes December 5, 2022**

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#### **I. Roll Call**

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mark Solof, Central Staff, called the roll and 19 voting members were present.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2022 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by the City of Newark and carried with 18 affirmative votes. Somerset County abstained.

#### **III. Presentation: NJTPA Roadway Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2023 – Jeffrey Perlman and Keith Miller, Central Staff**

Mr. Perlman said that, beginning with the federal FAST Act, states and regions were required to set targets for various performance measures, a number of which involve safety. In the past, as allowed by federal law, the NJTPA chose to adopt targets prepared by NJDOT for the entire state. However, this year the NJTPA is recommending adopting its own targets, in part to advance the goals of its Long Range Transportation Plan to reduce fatalities and injuries eventually to zero. The NJTPA's target setting, he said, is consistent with and supports state safety policies including the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Mr. Miller said the state has already submitted safety-related targets to the Federal Highway Administration. The five roadway safety performance measures are the five-year rolling averages of the following:

- Number of Fatalities
- Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Number of Serious Injuries
- Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT
- Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries

A challenge to creating targets, he said, was the travel changes brought about by the pandemic, which included increased fatalities despite a decrease in VMT, suggesting more dangerous

driving behavior. Another challenge was the redefinition of serious injuries in 2019 to include a broader range of injuries. That resulted in skewed numbers when five-year rolling averages were compiled.

Mr. Miller said the proposed targets for the region are evidence-based and were set at levels to put the region on a path to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by crashes to zero by 2050. Various NJTPA plans and programs, he said, are oriented to helping achieve the targets. In response to a question from Trevor Howard, City of Newark, Mr. Miller indicated that the intent of the targets is to reverse the current trend of increasing fatalities and injuries to help get them to zero eventually.

Emmanuelle Morgan, of Bike Hudson County, asked how the targets can be applied to existing projects. Mr. Perlman said the targets were set to address current trends. He said there were no consequences in federal rules to not achieving the targets. David Behrend, Central Staff, added that these were overall targets for the entire region, not for individual projects. He said the proposed targets still must be considered and approved by the NJTPA Planning and Economic Development Committee and by the full Board.

#### IV. Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, reported that TMAs were halfway through this year's work program, and they have submitted budgets for next year's work program. She asked Dan Callas, Avenues in Motion, to discuss an upcoming transportation forum that his TMA is hosting. He said the event is being planned for January for local officials in Morris County, with a particular focus on complete streets safety improvements and pursuing funding for needed projects.

#### V. Information Items

1. FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development – Angel Young, Central Staff

Ms. Young said the draft work program would be posted on the NJTPA website later in the week and provided to NJDOT on December 7. Comments should be submitted by January 13 in preparation for consideration at the February Committee meetings and at the March Board meeting. She summarized information that was provided in a handout for to RTAC members ahead of the meeting, including highlights of new task activities, the budget, and new contractual and pass-through program activities.

2. NJTPA-Supported Local Safety Action Plans – Lois Goldman, Central Staff

Ms. Goldman said the NJTPA will be working with interested subregions to develop Local Safety Action Plans, which would incorporate safe systems approaches and other safety priorities. The plans would provide eligibility for applying for grants under the federal Safe Streets for All program, which is making available \$5 billion over five years nationwide. The plans would focus on safety strategies that make the most sense in each county and locality, providing direction for improvements and other funding efforts. The plans will consider

education and enforcement in addition to capital projects. The plans must include a Vision Zero goal, be endorsed by a local governing body and include a committee or task force to develop and implement the plan. Public engagement is also required. Subregions will receive further information about plan development in January. Central Staff's project manager will be Keith Hamas. A teleconference on January 17 will provide an opportunity to further discuss the plans.

### 3. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update – Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

Ms. Eaman said TNJ will conduct a webinar on food security on December 8. Two projects were selected for the Vibrant Places technical assistance program: the City of Lambertville, focusing on awareness of climate change impacts; and the Musconetcong Watershed Association, which will develop a strategic vision for the Village of Asbury. TNJ is also working with Downtown New Jersey on an update to the “Beyond the Curb” guide to parklets.

## VI. Written Information Items

Mr. Jehnke read the titles of three written information items and their authors and asked for any questions:

- PRIME 2.0 Update – Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff
- EV Resources Hub Site – Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff
- NJDOT Urban Boundary and Functional Classification Updates – Keith Miller, Central Staff

## VII. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff briefed the Committee on action items slated for consideration by the Project Prioritization Committee at the December 12 joint meeting.

1. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 80, Bridges over Howard Boulevard in Morris County and to the Pavement Preservation, NJTPA Regional Program as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Two Local Project as Requested by Morris County and Somerset County. This amendment includes adding the Route 24 Eastbound Ramp to Columbia Turnpike (CR 510) in Morris County and the Great Road (CR 601) Bridge over Bedens Brook in Somerset County – Eve Chamberlain
3. Modification to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Program Federal Funds for the Kapkowski Road – North Avenue East Improvement Project as Requested by the City of Elizabeth – Eve Chamberlain
4. Modification to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to Three Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. This

modification includes adding funds to the Route 280, Westbound Ramp over 1<sup>st</sup> and Orange streets, Newark Subway & NJ TRANSIT; Route 440, Route 95 to Kriel Street, in Middlesex County; and Drainage Rehabilitation & Improvements statewide – Eve Chamberlain Elias Guseman, Jersey City asked for further details about two projects. Ms. Chamberlain said she would research them and provide answers following the meeting.

5. Approval of the 2022 Financial Plan Update for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on Rumson Road (CR 520) over the Shrewsbury River – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff

#### VIII. Other Items for Discussion

Mr. Jehnke asked members if they had any other items to discuss. There were none.

- IX. RTAC Teleconference – Mr. Jehnke said the teleconference is scheduled for January 17, 2023

- X. Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday February 14, 2023

- XI Update on Election of RTAC Officers for 2023-2024

Mr. Jehnke provided an update to members on the RTAC Election, which was originally scheduled to take place at the meeting. He said Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, was slated to become RTAC Chairman but he has recently left the county for another job. Mr. Jehnke congratulated him on his new position. He noted that Ted Ritter, Central Staff, has been contacting members about their interest in the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. He said that these positions were not a heavy time commitment, given the extensive support provided by Central Staff in preparing the meetings and other responsibilities. He urged members to consider taking the positions. Mr. Ritter highlighted the support Central Staff provides and said the positions could be career opportunities for members. He thanked Mr. Jehnke for his service as Chair. Mr. Behrend also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Jehnke's service, noting his success in leading the committee through the trying times of the pandemic. Members were urged to let Mr. Ritter know if they were interested in the position so that election could be held in early 2023.

#### XII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Newark, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee  
Attendance  
December 5, 2022

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Christopher Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Hailey Anilines	NJDOT
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriquez	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Dan Callas	Avenues in Motion TMA
Emmanuelle Morgan	Bike Hudson County
Krishna Murthy	EZ Ride TMA
Lisa Lee	EZ Ride TMA
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Ryan Williams	Hudson County Complete Streets
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Mike Manzella	Jersey City
Dede Murray	Morris County
Various Members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Adam Bradford	Somerset County