



PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner John P. Kelly – Chair
Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair
Commissioner Susan Soloway – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes October 17, 2022

I. Roll Call of Members

Commissioner John Kelly, Ocean County called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mark Solof, Central Staff, called the roll. Thirteen 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 15 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Morris County, and carried unanimously.

III. Presentation: DataCity Smart Mobility Testing Ground: Building a Living Laboratory for R&D in Connected and Automated Vehicles

Peter Jin, Associate Professor, Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) said Rutgers's Smart Mobility Testing Ground project is establishing a living laboratory for smart mobility and smart city technology research and development in downtown New Brunswick. The Professor said the Testing Ground team, which includes Middlesex County and other public and private partners, aims to make transportation systems safer and more efficient by making roadside infrastructure smarter using technology developed for connected and automated vehicles. He said this involves roadside sensing and computing infrastructure that would allow anyone connected to the system with an app to get a full image of traffic and pedestrian activity at a testing site, whether they are in a vehicle or not.

Professor Jin said there are six live testing sites, and the study team is looking to deploy eight more. He said Middlesex County worked with Rutgers to establish DataCity, a Smart Mobility Management Center in New Brunswick. DataCity will monitor roadside data from live testing sites and serve as a "technology breeding ground" for the state and the County.

IV. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported on the activities at the October RTAC meeting. He said the featured presentation was from goHunterdon about its program that allows towns to request free speed studies of local roads. For more info on this resource, contact Tara Shepherd or Ryan Fisher at [goHunterdon](http://goHunterdon.com).

Mr. Jehnke said also at the meeting NJTPA Staff presented five information items:

- The Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (or UPWP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (or TIP) Project Prioritization and the related Environment Goal Category Update
- The Fiscal Year 2024 TIP Development Process
- Competitive Grant Opportunities resulting from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Update on the Together North Jersey Initiative.

Mr. Jehnke said the RTAC was also briefed on PPC action items that are on today's agenda. He noted that RTAC leadership is slated to change early next year, and elections will be conducted at the December RTAC meeting.

IV. Project Prioritization Committee Action Items

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funding to the Portal North Bridge as Requested by NJ TRANSIT

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, said this action will add \$418.5 million in federal funding from the federal Capital Investment Grants program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by NJ TRANSIT, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Two Local Projects. Ms. Chamberlain said two counties are requesting the addition of two projects to the current TIP:
 - East Main Street Bridge over Rockaway River project in Morris County to be funded with \$10.25 million for Preliminary Engineering, Design, Right-of-Way and Construction phases of work from FYs 2023 to 2028.
 - Meadowlands Parkway Bridge project Hudson County to be with \$40.2 million for Preliminary Engineering, Design, Right-of-Way, and Construction phases of work from FYs 2023 to 2029.

Both projects recently completed Local Concept Development studies as part of the NJTPA's Local Capital Project Delivery Program.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Hudson County, seconded by the Citizens' Representative and carried unanimously.

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022- 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Ferry Slip Reconstruction at the CRRNJ Terminal State Historic Site - Phase 1 as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Office of Maritime Resources

Ms. Chamberlain said this minor amendment adds the project to the current TIP with \$5.9 million from a federal grant award. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will provide additional funding, and the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources will serve as project sponsor.

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

4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 29, Bridge over Copper Creek in Hunterdon County as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Ms. Chamberlain said this minor amendment to the current TIP will add \$400,000 in federal funds to the project to cover the Preliminary Engineering phase of work in FY 2023.

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

5. Modifications to the FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to Three Statewide Programs as Requested by NJ TRANSIT

Ms. Chamberlain said these modifications to the current TIP will add \$137.92 million to three statewide programs, as requested by NJ TRANSIT. The three projects are as follows: Rail Rolling Stock Procurement; Preventive Maintenance – Rail; and Preventive Maintenance – Bus. The Committee approved the modifications, and no further action is required.

A motion to approve the modifications was made by NJ TRANSIT seconded by Bergen County and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kelly turned the meeting over to Commissioner Charlie Kenny, Middlesex County.

V. Information Items

1. FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program

Angel Young, Central Staff, briefed the committees on the development of the FY 2024 UPWP. She encouraged all to review the package of materials provided to the committees prior to the meeting. The materials include the UPWP development schedule, a summary of milestone dates

that directly impact the subregional pass-through programs, a PowerPoint slide presentation consisting of a general overview of the UPWP development process, and a reminder of NJTPA planning goals.

Ms. Young encouraged all to visit the NJTPA's [UPWP website](#) for information on the current program. She offered to meet separately with newcomers to the NJTPA to talk about the UPWP development process.

Ms. Young said input from the NJTPA Trustees and RTAC members will be sought throughout the UPWP development process, and she asked that any suggestions be submitted to the NJTPA 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 13. The final draft will be presented to the RTAC and standing committees in February 2023 and to the Board for adoption in March.

Ms. Young said committee members can reach out to program managers for more information on pass-through programs:

- Justine Recio-Patel, Subregional Transportation Program;
- William Long, Subregional Studies Program; and
- Peter Bilton, TMA program.

Andy Swords, NJDOT, noted that federal and state planning priorities for the FY 2024 UPWP will be arriving very soon.

2. TIP Project Prioritization, Environment Goal Category Update

John Witsch, Central Staff, said the NJTPA project prioritization criteria was updated in September to include refinements to environmental justice (EJ) and Title VI criteria. He said the EJ-Title VI criterion is one of 26 criteria used to score new candidate projects for the TIP. NJTPA capital programming staff involved RTAC members in a virtual voting exercise to reevaluate all the criteria in the Environment Goal category. Mr. Witsch said that, as a result, the EJ-Title VI criterion increased in value by eight points, now worth 24 of 1000 total points. He said staff revised the EJ and equity population factors to add the foreign-born population to the low-income and minority population data. Additionally, Mr. Witsch said the scoring methodology for this criterion is now on a continuous scale rather than the former method of ranking projects on a high medium low scale.

Mr. Witsch said the data source was changed to match the information used in the NJTPA Equity Analysis Tool. He said the new criteria point values will be used when Central Staff scores projects from the NJDOT FY 2024 Project Pool from which projects will be selected for inclusion in the NJTPA FY 2024 TIP.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, inquired about the extent to which the additional eight points for equity would affect a project in terms of prioritization. Mr. Witsch said it increases points for the project in areas of high concentration of disadvantaged or underserved communities.

3. FY 2024 TIP Development

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the TIP reflects the four-year constrained list of transportation projects and programs that is developed every two years. The TIP approval process typically takes one year to complete, starting with the development of the unconstrained Project Pool, scoring and prioritizing new projects, completing a challenge round for the subregions, participating in a revenue assumptions meeting where fiscal constraint is imposed by NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT, negotiating the projects with the subregions to identify a constrained program, and applying air quality conformity.

4. Trans-Hudson Update

David Behrend, Central Staff, said Gateway Development Commission CEO Kris Kolluri provided an update on the latest schedule changes on Portal North Bridge and Hudson River Tunnel project at the September NJTPA Board meeting.

Mr. Behrend said Governor Murphy reached out to President Biden to request that New York's proposed Central Business District Tolling (Congestion Pricing) program undergo a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process as opposed to the Environmental Assessment process currently underway, because an EIS is a more detailed, rigorous, and comprehensive review process. At the time of the meeting there had been no response to the Governor's request.

5. Federal Policy Update

Mr. Behrend said many subregions and local governments have applied for funding under competitive IJJA programs, and staff has worked with most of them to provide letters of support and other coordination. He reminded all that they can reach out to NJTPA for support with their applications.

Mr. Behrend said the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Inspector General released a report about the challenges facing federal, state, and local governments in implementing IJJA. The report cautioned that rising prices, supply chain issues, and skilled labor shortages threaten to make project delivery difficult. Mr. Behrend said the report recommends that USDOT recruit develop and retain an expanded staff. He said the report notes that in the current federal fiscal year, which began October 1, states, territories, tribes and local governments nationally will begin work to improve about 65,000 miles of roads, 1500 bridges, and 600 airport infrastructure projects.

Mr. Behrend said USDOT is coordinating with the American Society of Civil Engineers to provide guidance and training in accelerated project delivery and streamlined procurement methods for engineers and project managers. He said the federal government is working with associations and universities to provide recommendations on increasing and enhancing the use of design build approaches, looking at various best practices, and launching services aimed at helping state and local governments. Mr. Behrend noted that the Environmental Protection Agency had launched the EJ-related Thriving Communities Technical Assistance program.

Commissioner Kenny acknowledged the work of Solomon Caviness who heads the Middlesex County Transportation Department. He said Mr. Caviness was vital to creating the Data City center in New Brunswick.

VI. Next Virtual Meeting: December 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

At 11:30 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Union County, seconded by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
October 17, 2022**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Kelly (Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski (Vice Chair)	Union County
Hon. Susan Soloway	Hunterdon County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
David Dech	Warren County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Susan Soloway (Vice Chair)	Hunterdon County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Hon. Sara Sooy	Somerset County
David Antonio	Essex County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Dolores Wooden	City of Newark
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Andy Swords	NJDOT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also in Attendance	
Hon. Jeff Kuhl	Hunterdon County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Jing Jin	CAIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Michael Popovech	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Various Members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Adam Bradford	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Nicole Seymour	
Jason Kelly	