



“Jersey City Active Transportation Walking Tour” Event Summary

Location: Jersey City, NJ

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2022, 6:00 to 8:00 pm



About UpNext North Jersey

UpNext North Jersey (UpNext) is an emerging leaders group that engages young North Jersey residents in a dialogue with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The NJTPA seeks to better understand the values and needs of this demographic group regarding key transportation issues. The NJTPA provides UpNext members with unique opportunities to learn about and discuss timely topics related to regional planning and public policy, develop a network of peers who share similar interests, and engage with regional thought leaders and decision-makers.

The Public Outreach and Engagement Team, part of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (POET) worked with the NJTPA to plan and conduct this event in Jersey City focused on supporting the NJTPA's regional Active Transportation Plan. This was the first UpNext event of Fiscal Year 2023.

Overview of the Jersey City Active Transportation Walking Tour Event

UpNext members participated in a guided walking tour led by Jersey City's Director of Transportation Planning, Mike Manzella. In addition to Manzella, UpNext members also met Elias Guseman and Lyndsey Scofield, Senior Transportation Planners for Jersey City.

As Manzella guided UpNext members around the city, he led a discussion of infrastructure improvements to enhance active transportation experiences in the city. UpNext members, NJTPA staff, Rutgers-POET staff, and Jersey City staff met at the Grove Street Plaza for a welcome and introductions and a quick talk about the NJTPA's Active Transportation Plan. After this discussion, the tour moved from the Grove Street Plaza to Hamilton Park, then down Newark Avenue, and back to the Newark Avenue pedestrian plaza. Along the way, members learned about Jersey City's active transportation infrastructure, including bike lanes and multi-modal transit areas, parklets, bump outs, secure bike parking and bike share, the planned 6th Street Embankment Greenway, and the Newark Avenue Pedestrian Plaza.



Planning and Promotion

Leading up to the event, POET and NJTPA staff met with the Jersey City's transportation planning staff to discuss and plan the tour, the meeting place, and the activities of the event. POET then distributed a save-the-date graphic, an email, and a Facebook post, and created a Facebook event for people to RSVP.

Agenda

6:00 to 6:15 pm – Introductions: NJTPA staff welcomed new and returning UpNext members. The group introduced themselves and heard about the NJTPA's Active Transportation Plan.

6:15 to 7:20 pm – Walking Tour: UpNext members participated in the walking tour, learning about Jersey City's infrastructure improvements, and asking questions.

7:20 to 7:30 pm – Closing Remarks: NJTPA staff encouraged UpNext members to participate in the Active Transportation Survey and Map on the NJTPA website. Members had the option to grab dinner on their own and/or hang out together in Jersey City after the event.

Attendance

Ten UpNext members attended this event.

Feedback

Members asked questions during the walking tour about implementing the infrastructure improvements in other places in New Jersey outside of Jersey City. Main topics of questions and discussion included implementing changes to the built environment, impacts of the changes, and questions about future infrastructure improvements.

