



# Advisory Meeting Summary

## “Addressing Climate Change at the NJTPA”

Location: Virtual

Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 5:00 to 6:00 pm

### About UpNext North Jersey

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 (POET), part of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, worked with the NJTPA to plan and conduct this virtual meeting Nov. 29, 2023 on Addressing Climate Change at the NJTPA. Climate change issues and potential impacts on transportation infrastructure and planning will be a key focus of the NJTPA's next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), scheduled for adoption in 2025.

### Overview of the Addressing Climate Change at the NJTPA Virtual Meeting:

This virtual advisory meeting included a short welcome by NJTPA and POET staff. UpNext members were then joined by Zenon Tech-Czarny, the NJTPA's Principal Planner of Environmental Planning. He presented an overview of NJTPA programs and other efforts to address climate change, especially in the context of the NJTPA's long-range transportation planning work. Topics and issues included rising greenhouse gas emissions projections out to 2050, emissions allocations by land use, and the increasing trend extreme weather and impacts in the region.

### Agenda:

**5:00 to 5:05pm** - Welcome and Introduction, NJTPA and POET staff.

**5:05 to 5:30pm** - Presentation on Addressing Climate Change at the NJTPA. Zenon Tech-Czarny, NJTPA staff, presented on climate change and transportation topics, including

- tracking electric vehicles,
- the implications of EV infrastructure,
- exploring weather-related impacts on the region's roads
- efforts to decarbonize the NJTPA region using tools like the CMAC system for calculating emissions reductions from alternative transportation.

**5:30 to 6:00pm** - Q&A Session

### Feedback:

UpNext members emphasized the need to explore decarbonization options beyond EVs, acknowledging the significant percentage (92%) of motorized trips in New Jersey. They recognized the absence of “quick and easy” mitigation solutions and raised concerns about equity issues associated with EV access and charging, especially

in highly urbanized locations. The NJ Zip Program's collaboration with businesses to electrify their fleets was highlighted as a positive effort.

### Notable Comments by UpNext Members:


- Emphasized the importance of exploring decarbonization beyond EVs.
- Highlighted that 8% of NJ trips are nonmotorized, in contrast to approximately 40% in Denmark.
- Acknowledged the absence of a magic solution in transportation.
- Raised concerns about equity issues related to EV access and charging centers in urban areas.
- Recognized the positive impact of the NJ Zip Program's collaboration with businesses.

### Q&A Summary:

During the Q&A session following Tech-Czarny's presentation, discussions focused on various aspects of decarbonization, including the potential impact of congestion pricing on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and carbon reduction in the NJTPA region. The session also explored the role of work-from-home (WFH) and hybrid work models in reducing emissions, with an acknowledgment that commuting represents less than 20% of overall driving, and post-pandemic driving levels have rebounded.

Participants inquired about NJTPA's initiatives for electric vehicle (EV) assistance, and the response highlighted the organization's active support for EV adoption. This includes comprehensive EV readiness plans, funding for charging infrastructure projects, relevant studies, and accessible resources on their website to promote the growth and accessibility of EVs in the region.

In summary, this virtual meeting provided a comprehensive look at climate change, transportation, and decarbonization strategies within the NJTPA region.



**UPNEXT NORTH Jersey** **ADVISORY MEETING**

## Addressing Climate Change at the NJTPA

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

Transportation activity in the NJTPA region produces substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, contributing to climate change. And climate change's expected impacts are more extreme storms, increased precipitation, hotter summertime temperatures, and sea level rise, which threaten the region's mobility and transportation infrastructure. Attend this session to learn more about what the NJTPA has done and is doing to address climate change and its impacts.

**Featuring**  
**Zenon Tech-Czarny,**  
**Principal Planner, Environmental Planning**

