



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

David Antonio, Chair
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes February 14, 2023

I. Roll call

RTAC Chair David Antonio called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. There were eighteen voting members present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Somerset County and carried with 15 affirmative votes. Bergen and Middlesex counties and the City of Newark abstained.

III. Presentation

Doug Greenfeld, Middlesex County, said in July the county became the first in New Jersey to formally adopt a Vision Zero goal, seeking to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on its roads. He said that between 2010 and 2019, there were 291,440 recorded crashes in Middlesex County, with 1,434 resulting in fatalities or serious injuries. He noted that bicycle and pedestrian roadway users were the most vulnerable, comprising 24 percent of fatal and serious injury crashes.

Mr. Greenfeld said, with its Vision Zero Action Plan, the county takes the approach that traffic deaths are preventable and humans make mistakes, so streets should be designed to minimize the impacts of mistakes, with a focus on systems rather than relying on the individual. He said the objective was to develop a plan to change culture through a partnership of elected officials to build buy-in across jurisdictions. The action plan was developed with consultant assistance as part of the county's strategic plan planning process, and it is organized around elements of the Safe System Approach recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration.

IV. Transportation Management Association (TMA) Report

Donna Allison, RideWise, said one goal area of the TMAs is to participate in activities that encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and the installation of charging facilities to help meet the ambitious EV goals laid out in New Jersey's Energy Master Plan. She said most of the work the TMAs are doing in this area is centered around information and education. She noted the following efforts:

- Somerset County's RideWise TMA has been coordinating virtual and in-person events to educate municipal governments, the public and the business community about planning for EVs.
- Avenues in Motion is promoting EV adoption through newsletters and social media and posts a map of local charging stations on its website.
- goHunterdon and Cross County Connection also feature local charging infrastructure information on their websites. Cross County Connection is promoting EV adoption to municipal green teams for Sustainable Jersey certification and updating its EV Resource Guide for municipalities, businesses, developers and the public.
- Keep Middlesex Moving hosted two EV-related podcasts and will host a conference on Mobility for All on March 7. The conference will include two panel discussions about EVs.

Ms. Allison noted that education efforts are not limited to EVs. She said Greater Mercer TMA blogged about Things to Know Before Buying an E-bike in 2023.

V. Information Items

1. Development of Project Pool and TIP

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the State's Metropolitan Planning Associations have been meeting with NJDOT Capital Programming project managers to gain more information about the status of projects. She explained that the Project Pool, an unconstrained project database, does not include years of implementation or funding but compares the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to a proposed listing of projects that can move forward. Ms. Ludwig said individual reports showing which projects are near ready for authorization and completion and continuing projects were sent to the subregions, and NJTPA staff will send a list of 25 new projects that have been scored using updated project prioritization criteria.

2. ESRI GIS Training Update

Gabrielle Fausel, Central Staff, thanked those who participated in a survey that was sent to certain members of the subregions, TMAs, other partner agencies and NJTPA staff in December. She said the survey provided valuable insight into what courses to pursue for this year's training. The following virtual courses are being scheduled:

- Creating Python scripts with ARC GIS
- Migrating from ARC Map to ARC GIS Pro

- ARC GIS Pro Essential Workflows

Course registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis, and attendees will be limited to 15 per course.

3. Planning Tools Expo Notification

Andy Kaplan, Central Staff, said the ninth annual Planning Tools Expo is being planned. He said staff is looking for tools to highlight and asking anyone who has a tool they think is worth showcasing or are interested in learning more about to reach out to him. The Expo date and agenda are being determined.

4. Streamlined Subregional Pass-Through Program Reporting

Justine Recio-Patel, Central Staff, said requirements are changing with the March 30 Subregional Transportation Program (STP) reporting for the third quarter. She asked the subregions to provide staff with more focused highlights in their reports. Ms. Recio-Patel advised them to be as concise as possible and to write about specific project accomplishments and milestones rather than describing process and background. She said activities should be presented in bullet points rather than paragraphs. More details on reporting requirements for the STP and Subregional Studies Program will be part of the yearly workshop for subregions in June or July. In answer to a question from Liza Betz, Union County, Ms. Recio-Patel said the goal is to make things more specific by focusing on highlights rather than background and process.

5. Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative Update

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said a TNJ team is working with Downtown New Jersey to develop an update to the Beyond the Curb Parklet Handbook. She said the TNJ Institute will hold a webinar in March to highlight the guide (date to be announced).

Ms. Eaman said work continues on the two Vibrant Places program projects. A project team is working with the Musconetcong Watershed Association in Asbury. The first advisory committee meeting will be held later in February to discuss outreach and provide input into a Community Vision Plan. In Lambertville, a team has identified six sites for a walking tour and has begun to develop visualizations depicting the impacts of climate change and flooding events on the city.

Ms. Eaman said NJTPA staff participated in the selection of this year's two projects for the Transit Hub Planning program which are in Perth Amboy and the City of Passaic. The program is conducted with the Center of Community Planning and the American Planning Association New Jersey Chapter and develops strategic plans to reuse, redevelop or improve areas surrounding transit stations or stops. Volunteer planners will conduct the work.

VI. Written Information Items Provided with Agenda Prior to Meeting

1. North Jersey Regional Transportation Model Validation Update, by Bob Diogo, Central Staff
2. Autonomous Vehicle Symposium, by Mr. Kaplan

There were no questions or comments on these items.

VII. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff briefed the committees on action items slated for consideration at the February 21, joint meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee and Planning and Economic Development Committee.

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Boylan Terrace Neighborhood Pedestrian Connection Project as Requested by the Borough of Bernardsville – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the NJTPA Carbon Reduction Program as Requested by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority – Eve Chamberlain
3. Minor Amendments to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Three Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain
4. Modifications to the FY 2022 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to Two Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation – Eve Chamberlain
5. Approval of Projects for the FY 2022 Local Safety Program and High Risk Rural Roads Program – Christine Mittman and Patricia Newton, Central Staff
6. Approval of the Initial financial Plan for the Route 7, Kearny Drainage Improvements Project – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff
7. Approval of the 2022 Financial Plan Update for the Route 72, Manahawkin Bay Bridges Project – Ann Ludwig
8. Approval of the 2022 Financial Plan Update for the Route 206 Project in Somerset County – Ann Ludwig
9. Approval of the 2022 Financial Plan Update for the Route 3/Route 46, Valley Road and Notch/Rifle Camp Interchange Project – Ann Ludwig

Planning and Economic Development Committee

10. Approval of FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program – Angel Young, Central Staff

VIII. Other Items for Discussion

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, congratulated the subregions and municipalities that received Safe Routes and Streets for All grants. They include Hudson, Essex, and Monmouth counties, the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority, Borough of Dunellen, and City of Patterson. She said they will be using their grants for Local Safety Action Plans. The NJTPA is providing consultant assistance with developing the plans for interested subregions. Ms. Goldman noted that an email outlining the Local Safety Action Plans and consultant assistance will be sent to county administrators shortly.

IX. RTAC Teleconference – March 20, 2023 (Tentative)

X. Next Virtual Meeting: April 10, 2023

XI. Adjournment

At 11:25 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
February 21, 2023

Voting Members	
David Antonio (Chair)	Essex County
Andras Holzmann (Vice Chair)	Passaic County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson 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
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Dave Dech	Warren County
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Dan Callas	Avenues in Motion
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Lou Luglio	Dynamic Traffic
Lisa Lee	EZ Ride
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Luis Delgado	Hudson TMA
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Michael Popovech	Monmouth County
David Schmetterer	Monmouth County
RJ Palladino	NJ TRANSIT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Andy Clark	NJDOT
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Donna Allison	RideWise
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Marc Albrecht	
Chris Mrocza	

Daniel Hutton	
R. Karpinecz	
Arlene Holt	
Jason Pene	
Cristina Fowler	
Dede Murray	
Gitkins	
Jay Robaina	

