



CENTRAL STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

as of January 8, 2024

Local Safety Action Plans

On December 1, Central Staff kicked off the consultant-supported effort to assist eight subregions in developing plans: Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties. In accordance with the guidance for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program, these Local Safety Action Plans will establish a framework for subregions to focus on addressing their most pressing safety problems with effective solutions. The plans are a prerequisite for applying for SS4A implementation grants. In January and February, subregions will form Local Implementation Committees to guide the development of their plans. The NJTPA also hosted a workshop in partnership with FHWA on November 30 for subregional staff working on these safety plans with the NJTPA, as well as their own federally funded efforts. About 60 people participated in the session.

Demographic and Employment Forecasts

The subregions are providing information on local development, preserved land, and zoning data to assist with NJTPA's development of regional population and employment forecasts for the agency's next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). As a foundation for more detailed forecasts, Central Staff is working closely with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and regional and state partners on forecasts for the entire NY/NJ/CT metropolitan area. Central Staff will share draft results with the subregions and seek their comment.

2050 Freight Industry Forecasts Update

Central Staff is developing updated information on freight demand, both current as well as projected out to 2050 and 2055. A kick-off meeting with the consultant team was held December 20. The effort will conclude in June 2025, with results incorporated into the LRTP. Further information is available [here](#).



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Greenhouse Gas Performance Targets

In early December, FHWA finalized new requirements for a greenhouse gas (GHG) performance measure. Central Staff is assessing these requirements, which involve coordination with neighboring metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to set GHG targets for urbanized areas that cross MPO boundaries. To start that coordination, staff met with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), NYMTC, New York State Department of Transportation and other agencies in December. The requirements include setting joint targets for the seven urbanized areas included in the NJTPA region. The targets will need to be established by July 30. Strategies to achieve future targets can be drawn from the Preliminary Climate Action Plan being developed (see below).

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Planning

Central Staff is collaborating with New York City and NYMTC through weekly meetings to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the New York-Newark-Jersey City NY-NJ-PA Metropolitan Statistical Area. The plan is due to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on March 1, 2024. The draft will be shared with RTAC for review and input this month. Central Staff has created a [website](#) for this project. Staff is also attending monthly coordination meetings organized by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the development of the New Jersey State PCAP. Central Staff also presented at a NJDEP-organized Transportation Sector Stakeholder Workshop held on November 28.

Subregional Studies

Status of FY 2022-2023 studies:

- ▶ *Somerset County Master Plan Circulation Element*—a final report will be available in coming weeks.

Four FY 2023-2024 studies are underway:

- ▶ *City of Jersey City Traffic Calming Toolkit*—The second Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting was held January 4. The stakeholder interviews report, technical memorandum, and the equity memo were completed.
- ▶ *Identification of Barriers to Mobility in Monmouth County*—The first public meeting was held in Asbury Park on November 16.
- ▶ *Newark Bike Plan*—The first TAC meeting was December 20.
- ▶ *Passaic County Strategic Infrastructure Investment Study*—The first of three stakeholder meetings was held December 14 with representatives from non-profit organizations, health care, and educational providers. The equity memo was completed.



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Three subregions are in the consultant selection process for FY 2024-2025 studies: *Hudson County Circulation, Middlesex County Road Safety Audits and Warren County Complete Streets.*

In addition, three studies are recommended for inclusion in the FY 2025-FY 2026 program cycle and can be found in Chapter 2 of the draft FY 2025 UPWP.

They are:

- ▶ *Hunterdon County Bicycle Plan*—The study will create a county-wide bicycle master plan to improve and encourage bicycling throughout the county while connecting major destinations with recreational and open space facilities.
- ▶ *Jersey City Transportation Plan*—The study will update the city’s comprehensive transportation plan by examining mobility, transportation infrastructure, and the transportation network for all users.
- ▶ *Somerset County Electric Vehicle Charging and Suitability Analysis*—The study will identify optimal locations for electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the county.

Local Concept Development Studies

Four studies are underway:

- ▶ *Easton Avenue (CR 527) Safety Improvement (Franklin Township, Somerset County)*: A meeting with local officials was held November 18. A field visit was conducted with NJDOT, county, and municipal officials December 7. The project website is eastonave.com.
- ▶ *Lenape Island Road Bridge over Indian Lake (Denville Township, Morris County)*: A meeting with local officials was held November 16. The project website is lenapeislandbridge.com
- ▶ *County Route 3 Corridor Improvements from Devon Drive to Kensington Drive (Manalapan Township, Monmouth County)*: A meeting with local officials was held on December 13. The website will be launched this month at tenmentroad.com
- ▶ *Kennedy Boulevard (CR 6) and County Line Road (CR 526) Congestion Mitigation (Lakewood Township, Ocean County)*: A meeting with local officials was held on December 12. The website will be launched this month at countylineandkennedy.com

Annual Listing of TIP Obligated Projects

NJDOT has issued its Annual Obligation Report for FY 2023, available [here](#).

The report, which Central Staff reviewed, describes the amount of funds obligated during the fiscal year by NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT for projects and statewide program line items. An obligation is a legal commitment by the federal government to pay a share of a project’s eligible cost.



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PRIME

The PRIME application upgrade was completed last month. A final Technical Advisory Committee meeting and training session was held on December 7. PRIME serves as an online library, providing a repository of findings from planning studies in the NJTPA region, for use by regional, subregional and partner agency staff. Completed with consultant assistance, the upgrade modernized the PRIME interface, enhanced its mapping features, and streamlined searching, reporting, and data entry. User documentation is being distributed. Central Staff will work with partners to add to the dozens of studies and hundreds of needs and recommendations already in the system and to support use of the system in project and program development.

Street Smart NJ

Union County Commissioner and NJTPA Secretary Bette Jane Kowalski helped kick-off a year-long Street Smart NJ campaign along Magie Avenue in the City of Elizabeth and Union Township on November 28. The campaign is being conducted by the municipalities, Union County and EZ Ride Transportation Management Association. Central Staff also provided materials to police departments in Nutley and Carneys Point and is coordinating with EZ Ride on a campaign being planned for Roselle later this year. Central Staff participated in several meetings throughout November and December to continue promoting Street Smart, including Strategic Highway Safety Plan working group meetings, the New Jersey Traffic Officers meeting and a Regional Safety Task Force meeting with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Complete Streets Technical Assistance

The deadline for municipalities to apply for the next round of technical assistance is February 2. Sustainable Jersey and the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University provide the technical assistance with funding from the NJTPA. Information on how to apply and a recording of a December 5 webinar on the program is available on the Sustainable Jersey [website](#). Information about complete streets is also available at njtpa.org/completestreets.

Planning for Emerging Centers

Work is underway to assist Harrison, Hudson County, with developing a Complete Streets policy and ordinance, updating its subdivision and site plan review processes, and creating a street design and implementation guide for safe, multi-modal streets. The findings of an existing conditions analysis, community survey, and community outreach events were presented at a Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting on December 5. Additional information is [here](#).



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Transit Hub Planning Program

Central Staff and volunteers from the American Planning Association’s New Jersey Chapter continued work on projects in the cities of Passaic and Perth Amboy. The Perth Amboy study team analyzed results of a community survey to develop recommendations for management and redevelopment of the area around the train station and Smith Street. The Passaic study team continues to assess needs for the target area.

Together North Jersey (TNJ) Initiative

On December 14, the TNJ Institute hosted a webinar discussing e-bikes. The speakers shared information on the importance of e-bikes as a viable transportation mode as well as measures for better integrating this micromobility option into communities including incentive programs and resources for riding safely. A summary of the webinar and a link to the recording is available on the [NJTPA Update Blog](#).

In addition, two communities were selected to receive technical assistance through the TNJ Vibrant Places Program this year:

- The Borough of Prospect Park, Passaic County, requested assistance in drafting a vision plan to transform North 8th Street into a pedestrian-friendly and economically vibrant neighborhood. The project team held a virtual kick-off meeting with the Borough on November 28 and conducted a site visit on January 5.
- The City of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, will create a cultural heritage walk along Springwood Avenue in the West Side of the City to enhance and showcase the area’s identity and cultural history—especially the local, vibrant Black history of the area. The project team met with community members and city representatives on December 15.

Collaboration and Outreach

- The NJTPA staffed a booth at the annual New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City November 14-16 to promote various programs open to municipalities. Chair John Bartlett and Second Vice Chair Charles Kenny attended the conference and stopped by the booth. Central Staff also participated in a panel presentation entitled “Investing in Active Transportation: Test Ideas, Find Funding” on November 15.
- Central staff attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Port Street Corridor Improvement Project on November 29. This \$220 million multi-year project includes \$44 million in INFRA grant funding and will revamp the entire northern entrance to Port Newark/Elizabeth as described [here](#).
- The NJTPA’s UpNext North Jersey young adult advisory group met twice virtually to discuss topics that will be incorporated into the LRTP. On



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November 29, Central Staff presented on the NJTPA's efforts to address climate change; and on December 6 Central Staff presented on traffic signal operation and integration.

- ▶ The NJTPA hosted the virtual annual meeting of the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum on December 1. The MAP Forum is a consortium of 10 Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Councils of Government from Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania that collaborate and coordinate planning activities in the multi-state region. The meeting focused on Trans-Hudson mobility, the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, and the efforts of the Multi-State Freight Working Group and Multi-State Resiliency Working Group.
- ▶ Central Staff participated in a December 7 NJDOT Complete Team meeting with representatives from NJDOT planning and operations groups, FHWA, PANYNJ, TRANSCOM, and the other two New Jersey MPOs. Topics included congestion and air quality performance measures targets, new greenhouse gas performance measures, and NJDOT operations projects.
- ▶ Central Staff participated in the stakeholder committee for the Bergen Arches Feasibility Study on January 5.
- ▶ Staff will participate in the first Technical Advisory Committee meeting for the Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study (sponsored by NYMTC) on January 22.

Upcoming events

- ▶ The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC January 7–11, 2024.
- ▶ Passaic County will hold a virtual public meeting for its Strategic Infrastructure Investment Plan Subregional Study on February 7.
- ▶ Registration is open for the annual NJ TransAction Conference, which is being held at Harrah's Resort & Casino in Atlantic City from April 30 through May 2.