



Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Mark Jehnke, Chair
Barkha Patel, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes **April 8, 2019**

I. Roll call

Beverly Morris called the roll. Fourteen voting members were present. Three more arrived after approval of the minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Somerset County and carried with 13 affirmative votes. Morris County abstained.

III. Presentation: Development of a Roadway Bicycle Stress Index

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, said the NJTPA is developing a map of the NJTPA region's bicycle network. The analysis will identify the level of traffic stress experienced by cyclists along various sections of the region's road network, including bicycle trails. Mr. Diogo briefed the Committee on the methodology used to map the bicycle network, and he asked for subregional review and comment on the map, which is available through ArcGIS Viewer or PDF and shapefiles.

IV. Information Items

1. Transportation Management Association (TMA) Report

Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon, reported that the TMA FY 2020 work programs were approved, and pre-award documentation will be submitted to the NJTPA by May 3. She said the TMAs continue to participate in the Street Smart NJ effort, and 11 campaigns in six counties have already been scheduled for spring and summer. Ms. Shepherd said the TMAs will be involved in the April 22 Earth Day activities promoting sustainable transportation alternative commute modes and active transportation. May is Bicycling Month, during which the TMAs will conduct

bike-to-work events and challenges and bicycle education and safety programming in communities, schools, and employer locations.

Ms. Shepherd announced that Bill Ragozine, Executive Director, Cross County Connection, will retire on April 25 and will be succeeded by Ronda Urkowitz.

2. TIP Development: FY 2020 Transportation Capital Program

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said Central Staff anticipated receiving the FY 2020 Transportation Capital Program from NJDOT in April. After staff review, the subregions will get to review the program, comment and ask questions.

Ms. Ludwig said Governor Murphy announced \$161 million in local aid for infrastructure improvements in 837 municipalities. She said the grants came from the state Transportation Trust Fund, which was bolstered by the increase of the state motor fuels tax rate. The NJTPA region will receive \$115 million of the grants, and the list of recipient projects is available on the NJDOT website. Ms. Ludwig offered to provide project information, by county, on request.

3. Regional Performance Measures Update

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said the consultant-supported performance measures project will focus on measures that go above and beyond federal requirements. He said a Technical Advisory Committee has discussed ways to communicate performance measures to decision makers, stakeholders and the public. Ideas include a fact sheet and an interactive web site. The project will be completed by the end of June.

4. FRIO Project Update

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, reported that the Freight Rail Industrial Opportunity (FRIO) project, which identified rail service locations with physical obstacles to accommodating national standard rail cars, is near completion. He said the deliverables were in review, and the findings will be presented at the next meeting of the Freight Initiatives Committee. He thanked NJ TRANSIT, Conrail, and the short lines for their contributions to the study database, and the subregions for their feedback and logistical support for consultant field visits.

5. Freight Concept Development Update

Mr. Rowinski updated the committee on the Freight Concept Development Program, which creates a path for implementing many potential freight-related projects. Two pilot study projects were commenced under the program, the Rockaways Rail Realignment Project in Morris County and the Phillipsburg South Main Street Bridge Rail Clearance Project in Warren County. However, the second project, Mr. Rowinski said, will now be completed by the Dover and Delaware River Railroad, which assumed operations of the Washington Secondary Line from

Norfolk Southern railroad. As part of the lease agreement, the company will be able to repair and rehabilitate the line as needed, including the Phillipsburg Bridge. Therefore, funds that were allocated to the Phillipsburg study will be reallocated to a train bridge in Hackettstown. Mr. Rowinski said that the two pilot studies are still on pace for completion in June 2020 at the original budgeted cost.

6. Barriers to Access to Destinations through an Equity Lens

Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, Central Staff, reported on an in-house initiative to assess whether certain sections of the region's population have adequate access to important regional and local destinations to support and improve their quality of life. The study focuses on minorities, low income residents, older residents, and some underrepresented sections of population. Study findings will be included in planning efforts, such as the NJTPA's long range transportation plan. Ms. Bandyopadhyay called the committee members' attention to a package distributed prior to the meeting that contains a descriptive summary of the project objectives and methodology and 12 maps that show areas of concentration identified in the first phase of the study. Ms. Bandyopadhyay requested that RTAC members review the maps and provide feedback on their accuracy.

7. Subregional Transportation Program (STP) and Subregional Studies Program (SSP) Update

Peter Zambito, Central Staff, discussed upcoming submissions deadlines for the STP:

- Third quarter progress reports, invoices and supporting information – April 12
- Completed 2020 STP supplemental support requests – April 12
- Completed FY 2020 pre-award checklist and supporting documentation – May 3

Mr. Zambito noted changes to the STP supplemental support program. Each subregion will receive \$15,000 for supplemental support, and technical support software and equipment must be procured by the subregions after written approval by the NJTPA. He said this will streamline the process and enable the subregions to receive delivery sooner. Angel Young, Central Staff, noted that changes in the procurement platform of some software companies have created issues with ownership and licensing requirements that can be avoided if the subregions procure their software themselves. Lois Goldman, Central Staff, noted that the funding can still be used for intern support, translation, and document reprinting.

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said the FY 2020 SSP solicitation will be issued in June and will take into account subregional feedback on the previous year's solicitation. She requested any suggestions for the solicitation by April 12. Ms. Eaman encouraged members to contact NJTPA staff during June with their ideas for studies, and she said thumbnail sketches will be due July 2.

V. Review of Standing Committee Action Items

Members of Central Staff briefed the Committee on the following Action Items:

Project Prioritization Committee

1. Modification to the FY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Federal Funds to the Bridge Deck/Superstructure Replacement Program as Requested by NJDOT – Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff
2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2018-2021 TIP as Requested by NJDOT to Add Federal Funds to Three Projects in the NJTPA Region – Eve Chamberlain
3. Minor Amendments to the FY 2018-2021 TIP as Requested by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority to Add Federal Funds to Three Local Projects – Eve Chamberlain
4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2018-2021 TIP to Add the Bayonne Commuter Ferry Pier and Dock Improvements Project as Requested by the City of Bayonne – Eve Chamberlain
5. Air Quality Conformity Determination on the FY 2018-2021 TIP and Plan 2045 for the New 2008 Ozone NAAQS – Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff

Planning and Economic Development Committee

6. Support for Transit Asset Management Performance Targets Set by the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT) and the Port Authority Trans-Hudson Corporation (PATH) – Brian Fineman, Central Staff

VI. RTAC Teleconference – May 21, 2018 (tentative)

Mr. Jehnke asked members to contact him or RTAC Vice Chair Barkha Patel with any topic suggestions for a teleconference discussion.

VII. Next Meeting: June 10, 2019.

VIII. Adjournment

At 11:45 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
April 8, 2019

Voting Members	
Mark Jehnke (Chair)	Ocean County
Barkha Patel (Vice Chair) (via phone)	Jersey City
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Adam Bradford (via phone)	Hunterdon County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Elizabeth Ward	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Brian Leckie	NJDOT
Vivian Baker	NJ TRANSIT
Matthew Lazo	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Other Attendees	
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Frank Scarantino	Mott MacDonald
Andras Holzmann	Somerset County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Steve McDonagh	Amey Consulting
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Dan Callas	TransOptions
Tara Shepherd	Transportation Management Association Council
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Wai Cheung	Michael Baker
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA