



Angel G. Estrada, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE
Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo – Chair
County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Freeholder John Bartlett – Chair
Freeholder Matthew Holt – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2019

I. Roll Call of Members

Beverly Morris called the roll and 12 members of the Project Prioritization Committee were present. Two more arrived after approval of the minutes. Thirteen members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 meeting was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Somerset County and carried with 13 affirmative votes. Hudson, Hunterdon, Ocean, Sussex, and Somerset counties abstained.

III. RTAC Update – Mark Jehnke, Ocean County

RTAC Chair Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, reported that, at their April 8 meeting, the Committee heard a presentation on the NJTPA's Development of a Roadway Bicycle Stress Index. Also at the meeting Central Staff updated the Committee on the 2020 Transportation Capital Program, the Regional Performance Measures effort, the Freight Rail Industrial Opportunity (FRIO) Corridors Program, the Pilot Freight Concept Development Program, and the 2020 pass-through programs solicitations. Central Staff briefed the Committee on the TIP and Air Quality action items and introduced a new initiative to gauge accessibility to key destinations for traditionally underserved segments of the region's population.

IV. Presentation

Jennifer Fogliano, Central Staff, said as of December 2018, 23,000 electric vehicles (EVs) have been registered in the state, representing less than one percent of all vehicles registered, although the number is climbing, as demonstrated by an increase of 10,000 EV sales during the 2016-2018 period.

Ms. Fogliano said the first tranche (\$3.2 million) of the Volkswagen Settlement has been awarded by the Department of Environmental Protection, and the NJTPA region's share is \$2.2 million. \$10 million of the overall settlement will fund EV charging infrastructure.

Ms. Fogliano also reported that the draft New Jersey Energy Master Plan will be released for public comment this spring by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). She also noted that utilities, including PSE&G, have proposed that the plan invest in EV charging infrastructure.

Ms. Fogliano said the NJTPA continues to offer technical assistance for EV readiness planning to the subregions and municipalities. Staff worked with Middlesex County to identify appropriate locations for installing chargers and provided Metuchen with data from the 2018 NJTPA Greenhouse Gas Inventory to help them assess their mobile emissions and develop EV strategies to lower them. Staff also will be working with the City of Newark to determine EV charging locations.

IV. 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 said the modification would add \$32.4 million in National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funding to advance the construction phase of the Bridge Deck/Superstructure Replacement Program for six projects:

- The Route 15, Bridge over Main Street, Sussex County
- The Caven Point Road/National Storage Bridge, Hudson County
- The Route 78, Bridges over Route 202/206 & Washington Valley Road, Somerset County
- The Rattlesnake Bridge Road, Bridge over Route 78, Somerset County
- The Old Newark Pompton Turnpike, Bridge over Route 202 & Route 23 and the
- The Route 23, Bridges over NYS&W Railroad, Passaic County

Ms. Chamberlain said funding for this request is available from unobligated prior year balances and NHPP funds that were released from projects with changed funding sources.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Union County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2018-2021 TIP as Requested by NJDOT to Add Federal Funds to Three Projects in the NJTPA Region

Ms. Chamberlain said revisions would add federal funds to three projects, two of which are currently programmed with state funds:

- Route 15 SB, Bridge over Rockaway River, Morris County – this project is part of a federal multi-solicitation list and must have all future phases of work programmed with \$11 million in federal NHPP funds for design in 2019, Right-of-way in 2021 and construction in 2022.
- Route 46, Canfield Avenue project, Morris County – the Design phase of work can be authorized earlier than planned, therefore, \$1 million in Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP-NJ) funding will be added for Design in 2019, along with \$300,000 for right-of-way in 2021 and \$4.6 million for construction in 2022.
- F.R.E.C. Access Road, Bridge over Toms River project, Ocean County – the Design phase of work can be authorized earlier than planned; therefore, federal funds need to be programmed as follows: \$1.1 million for Design in FFY 2019, \$100,000 for Right-of-Way in 2020, and \$3.5 million for Construction in 2021.

Ms. Chamberlain said fiscal constraint is maintained because funds have been made available from project fund releases.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Chamberlain said the following projects are advancing toward authorization and need to be amended into the TIP with STBGP-NJ funding:

- CR 508 (Central Avenue), Bridge over City Subway project, in the City of Newark – this project needs \$500,000 for Preliminary Engineering in FFY 2019, \$3 million for Design in 2021, \$1 million for Right-of-Way in 2023, and \$20 million for Construction in 2024.
- CR 571, Garden State Parkway Interchange 83 Improvements, Ocean County – this project needs \$1 million for Preliminary Engineering in FFY 2019, \$1.500 million for Design 2021, \$800,000 for the Right-of-way in 2023, and \$5.9 million for Construction in 2024.
- Sixth Avenue (CR 652), Bridge over Passaic River, Passaic County – this project needs \$500,000 for Preliminary Engineering in FFY 2019, \$3 million for Design in 2021, \$300,000 for the Right-of-way in 2023, and \$15 million for Construction in 2024.

Funding for these projects has been made available from programmed resources in Local Preliminary Engineering and NJTPA Future Projects programs.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Essex County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

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

Ms. Chamberlain said the project has received a \$657,000 Federal Transit Administration Passenger Ferry Grant, which must be amended into the TIP. The funds will be used for improvements to the ferry pier and dock. Funding for completing the project, which includes a ferry terminal, will be provided by the City of Bayonne using Urban Enterprise Zone funds, developer contributions and Special Improvement District funds.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

5. Air Quality Conformity Determination on the FY 2018-2021 TIP and Plan 2045 for the New 2008 Ozone NAAQS

Rick Cippoletti, Central Staff, said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), designated parts of the NJTPA region to be in non-attainment with national air quality standards for Ozone, as measured by emissions of its precursors, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. The EPA recently established more stringent ozone standards for the region and required the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to develop new ozone budgets in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The EPA approved the new budgets last September, and the NJTPA is now required to show that implementation of projects in its TIP and Plan 2045 will result in ozone precursor emissions that are less than those budgeted. The Northern New Jersey Air Quality Conformity Determination document is the outcome of intensive modeling, interagency consultation and a public outreach process, and it demonstrates that the both the current TIP and Plan 2045 meet the conformity requirements for ozone.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Union County, seconded by Essex County and carried unanimously.

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, said that the U.S. Department of Transportation rules on performance management require that MPOs and operators of public transportation coordinate on setting performance targets for the condition of transit system assets. The Federal Transit Administration has established national performance measures for transit asset management and requires the NJTPA to either support the transit agencies' asset performance targets or establish its own. The NJTPA coordinated with NJ TRANSIT and PATH on their respective targets for rolling stock, equipment, facilities and infrastructure and agrees to program investments that support them.

Brad Mason, NJ TRANSIT and Michael Vozza, PATH briefed the Committee on the targets.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Ocean County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

V. Information Items

1. TIP Development: FY 2020 Transportation Capital Program (TCP) – Ann Ludwig, Central Staff

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the TCP was with the Governor's Office for review. After review by Central Staff, the subregions will have the opportunity to review the projects, comment and ask questions.

2. FRIO Project Update

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, said the study, which identified rail service locations with physical obstacles to accommodating national standard rail cars will be completed in June. The study also looked at potential economic development opportunities from addressing the obstacles. He thanked NJ TRANSIT, Conrail, and the short line railroads for their contributions to the study database and access to rights-of-way. Mr. Rowinski also thanked the subregions for their feedback and logistical support for consultant field visits.

3. Freight Concept Development Update – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff

Mr. Rowinski updated the committee on the Freight Concept Development Program, which creates a new 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 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.

4. Trans-Hudson and Federal Transportation Policy Update

David Behrend, Central Staff, reported that discussions in Congress about the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act are ongoing, but no significant developments are expected, and there is no indication of how funding challenges will be addressed. He said some members of Congress are showing more interest in a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) tax, which has been piloted in a few states. The I-95 Corridor Coalition, of which the NJTPA is a member, is part of a team working to bring a pilot VMT program to the mid-Atlantic and northeast regions.

Mr. Behrend reported that members of the Senate are looking to revive the driverless car bill that stalled last year and are meeting House members to see if there can be consensus for a new bill or reintroduction of the original bill (American Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies Act).

Concerning funding for the Portal Bridge and Hudson River Tunnels projects, Mr. Behrend said the President's budget proposal does not include funding for these Gateway projects. He said the Federal Transit Administration had released its annual ratings for nation-wide transit capital investments, and the Portal Bridge and Hudson River Tunnels again received medium to low grades, making them ineligible for capital investment funding. He said the Gateway Program Development Corp. and Amtrak are looking for ways to keep the trans-Hudson tunnels viable for as long as possible.

VI. Next Meeting: June 17, 2019

VII. Adjournment

At 10:55 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
April 15, 2019**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo (Chair)	Morris County
Hon. Joshua Hertzberg	Sussex County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Elizabeth Ward	Passaic County
Lauren LaRusso (via phone)	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
Barkha Patel (via phone)	Jersey City
Trevor Howard	Newark
Elizabeth Ward	Passaic County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
David Dech	Warren County
Lauren LaRusso (via phone)	Governor's Authorities Unit
Jim Vari	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative

Also In Attendance	
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Frank Scarantino	Mott MacDonald
Brad Mason	NJ TRANSIT
Ryan Adams	Michael Baker International

Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Gideon Davidson	PATH
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Peter Palmer	Somerset County
Jim Yeager	Michael Baker
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Susanne Mack	Bayonne City
Michael Vozza	PATH
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA