



## **Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)**

David Antonio, Chair  
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

### **Meeting Minutes February 10, 2025**

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#### I. Roll call

RTAC Chair David Antonio called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, called the roll and 18 voting members were present.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

Passaic County moved the minutes of the December 9, 2024, Sussex County seconded, and the motion carried with two abstentions (Union County and Governor's Authorities Unit).

#### III. Presentation: Active Transportation Plan Online Tool

Keith Hamas, Central Staff, presented the Active Transportation Plan Online Tool, a new resource to help advance the implementation of the NJTPA Active Transportation Plan. He said NJTPA completed the plan in 2023 to promote a safe and connected network of active transportation facilities throughout the region. It seeks to integrate trails with on-road connections to improve access to key destinations and strengthen communities.

Mr. Hamas said one of the key outputs of the plan is a conceptual Regional Active Transportation Network, identifying potential walking and biking routes. It provides a common framework for municipalities, counties, and state agencies to create active transportation facilities. The tool helps to visualize the network and facilitate its implementation. Key data layers within the tool include:

- Trip Potential Analysis
- Barriers Analysis
- Transit Facilities and Highway Interchanges
- Statewide Trails Layer
- Greenways and Scenic Byways

The presentation can be viewed [here](#), and the online tool can be accessed [here](#).

Jim Hunt, a member of the Morris Township Transportation Advisory Committee, asked if the NJTPA was at risk of losing any data in the tool, noting the policy changes resulting from the administration in Washington, DC, that have led to information being removed from federal websites. Melissa Hayes, Central Staff said that the NJTPA has not received information or guidance from the federal government affecting data in the tool.

Kamal Selah, Union County, asked if data tables from the presentation for networks and trails could be downloaded for the counties to use on their GIS systems. Mr. Hamas said that he will share that data with anyone who requests it.

#### IV. Information Items

##### ***Connecting Communities Outreach***

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said outreach for the NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan is underway, and the online survey launched last month and has approximately 1,000 participants to date. Mr. Ritter urged everyone to take the survey and share it widely. More information is at: [www.njtpa.org/connecting](http://www.njtpa.org/connecting). Mr. Ritter said a Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting was held on January 14 and the committee will meet at least two more times.

In addition, Mr. Ritter said the NJTPA has widely promoted *Let's Talk Transportation* virtual outreach events. The first of three sessions took place on January 28 and focused on investments for walking, biking, and micromobility. The recording is available under the Get Involved tab on the *Connecting Communities* website. Two additional virtual events are scheduled during March.

Mr. Ritter said in partnership with the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers, the NJTPA has relaunched its On Air contest, which allows young people to share their thoughts on transportation through various creative formats, including audio recordings, original artwork and written submissions. The NJTPA is also planning in-person outreach events this spring across all 15 subregions to gather more community input.

##### **FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development**

Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff, said the NJTPA met with the state agencies and the other metropolitan planning organizations that represent New Jersey January 8 to discuss funding available for the TIP. Central Staff distributed project pool analysis sheets to the subregions to compare the 2026 program information against the 2024 TIP. She asked anyone with questions regarding categories or projects to contact her. The NJTPA is evaluating projects that need to be scored, and that process will happen over the next few weeks. Central Staff will provide scores to NJDOT before March so the TIP can be sent to the State Legislature for approval.

##### **Financial Plan Update: Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges**

Ms. Koenigkramer provided an update on the financial plan for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project, which includes a new parallel structure adjacent to the existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge, rehabilitating the existing Bay Bridge and three trestle bridges over Hilliard's Thoroughfare, East Thoroughfare and West Thoroughfares in Ocean County. This project is under construction and expected to be completed soon.

NJTPA has received financial updates for this project since 2012. There has been an increase of \$35 million from the previous plan update due to a schedule extension to June 2025. This includes the costs for soil, mitigation, inflation, fuel, and asphalt. She said that funding was programmed and authorized to cover these updates in full in the FY 2022 TIP, so no additional money is needed, and there is no need for TIP revisions.

##### **Subregional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program**

Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff, announced the launch of the NJTPA's Subregional Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Program. This program aims to provide technical assistance and funding to install EV charging stations on subregion properties for fleet and public use. The goal is to expand the region's EV infrastructure and compliment state efforts. Central Staff will distribute a guidance document and application form soon.

### **Congestion Management Process Needs Identification**

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, said regional transportation needs are being identified as part of the Congestion Management Process (CMP) update. The NJTPA's CMP working group has been assisting with the effort and the team will meet February 13 to review draft needs. He invited RTAC members to review the findings and attend the meetings. Additional information can be found [here](#).

#### **V. Written Information Items**

The Chair read the titles of the three written information items. There were no comments or questions.

2. GIS Training – Gabrielle Fausel, Central Staff
3. Strategic Signal Framework Updates- Andy Kaplan, Central Staff
4. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Solicitation – Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff

#### **VI. Review of Standing Committees Action Items**

### **Planning and Economic Development Committee**

#### **1. FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Angellita Young, Central Staff, provided an overview of the FY 2026 UPWP, which the committee will consider at its February 18 meeting. She said the latest draft — including the budget, Central Staff activities, consultant efforts, subregional and transportation management association work programs — was updated to reflect feedback the subregions and state and federal partners provided on the draft document distributed in December. Among the changes: the budget decreased by 3 percent with minor adjustments to salaries for new hires and staff time allocations; and the Household Travel Survey funding for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council was removed. She said the revised budget and chapters 1-3 are posted online, while Chapter 4 (regional planning initiatives) is still in development. [The handout is available [here](#).]

### **Project Prioritization Committee**

John Witsch, Central Staff, presented the two action items this committee will consider at its meeting.

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add the Low Emissions Intermodal Trucks for Healthy Newark Communities Project in Essex County.

Mr. Witsch said that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded a Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant to the Port Newark Container Terminal, which needs to be added to the TIP. The \$3.8 million project will be programmed with the \$2.2 million grant and a \$1.6 million local match in FY 2025. Mr. Witsch said the project will replace 20 diesel trucks with low emission propane trucks. The goal of the project is to improve air quality by reducing pollution from idling trucks

at the port, modernizing infrastructure and strengthening supply chains. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 27.]

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Sayreville Waterfront Multimodal Transportation Improvement Project in Middlesex County

Mr. Witsch said the Sayreville Economic and Redevelopment Agency has been awarded \$1.3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and has requested this project be added to the TIP for planning study work in FY2025. The study will examine connectivity between isolated parcels in the Sayreville Waterfront Redevelopment Area, South Amboy Transit Station, and ferry terminal. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 34.]

VII. Other Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

VIII. RTAC Teleconference – March 17, 2025 (Tentative)

The Chair asked anyone who had topics to address during the teleconference please contact him or Vice Chair, Andras Holzmann.

IX. Next Meeting: April 14, 2025

X. Adjournment

Somerset County made a motion to adjourn at 11:16 a.m., City of Newark seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Attendance  
February 10, 2025

<b>Voting Members</b>	
David Antonio (Chair)	Essex County
Andras Holzmann (Vice Chair)	Passaic County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Mike Manzella	City of Jersey City
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
John Hayes	Morris County
Michael Nei	Monmouth County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Farzana Ahmed	NJDOT
Nathan Chadwick	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Kamal Saleh	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
<b>Other Attendees</b>	
Various members	NJTPA Central Staff
Sean Areia	Ocean County
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Brendan Lamb	
Dolores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Gregory Smith	
JASKELLY	
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Jim Hunt	Morris Township
Jonathan Eagle	Somerset County
Matt Loper	Somerset County
Kevin Stephens	
Lou Luglio, PE	
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Bob Werkmeister	
Ricardo Matias	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Tara Shepherd	goHunterdon
Todd Pagel	Metuchen
Victor Furmanec	Monmouth County