



John P. Kelly, Chair
Charles Kenny, First Vice Chair
David W. Behrend, Executive Director

JOHN P. KELLY, CHAIR

Board Meeting Minutes March 10, 2025

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

First Vice Chair Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, reported that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of this meeting was forwarded to the Newark Star Ledger, the Asbury Park Press, the Courier News, the Daily Record, the Home News Tribune and the New Jersey Herald. It was also posted on the bulletin board at the Essex County Hall of Records in Newark.

B. Roll Call

Ms. Truvillion called the roll. Twenty voting members were present (Attachment 1)

C. Approval of Minutes

Morris County moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025 meeting, Union County seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Chair's Remarks

First Vice Chair Kenny presented a report on behalf of Chair John Kelly who was unable to attend the meeting. He said that public outreach for *Connecting Communities: The NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan* is underway. In the past two months, approximately 1,500 people have completed the online survey. Virtual events on active transportation and transit access have been held, and another event is planned for March 25 on creating vibrant downtowns.

He said outreach efforts will include pop-up events in April and May across the 15 subregions. He encouraged Board members and others to attend events and promote the survey, which closes at the end of the month.

He thanked Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw for his efforts to discuss the plan and promote the survey at a recent Morris County Chamber of Commerce event.

He said that NJTPA is partnering with Rutgers' Voorhees Transportation Center to conduct outreach with hard-to-reach populations and engage kids and teens who can participate in the NJTPA On Air multimedia contest. Members of the NJTPA's young adult advisory committee, UpNext North Jersey, and the Outreach Liaisons are also helping gather input for the plan.

He said a key focus of the plan is efforts to improve safety for all travelers, something that has long been a priority for the NJTPA. Eight subregions are working with the NJTPA to create Local Safety Action Plans, which will identify safety needs and strategies for addressing them. The draft plans are being finalized and will be shared later this month. A final round of public outreach is also being scheduled.

The First Vice Chair concluded by mentioning that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the NJTPA are accepting applications for Transportation Alternative grants, with pre-application meetings required by April 11th.

He called on the partner agencies to provide updates. Eric Powers, NJDOT, said the department continues to work on the I-80 sinkhole in Morris County. The problem has been declared an emergency to provide the state with the opportunity to seek federal funds. He also reported that NJDOT has been leading and participating in the state's new Target Zero Commission, which has a goal of reaching zero fatalities by 2040. All the MPOs are members and the Commission recently had its first public meeting at NJ TRANSIT headquarters.

Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, NJ TRANSIT, said a tentative agreement has been reached between NJ TRANSIT and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, averting a possible strike.

E. Executive Director's Report

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend said the draft Fiscal Year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) on the Board's agenda includes some changes based on federal guidance and input from national organizations (the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of Regional Councils). These changes mostly involve adjustments to descriptions and emphasis without altering the tasks, program, or budget. They are in response to recent presidential executive orders. For example, references to Environmental Justice were removed as federal guidance now no longer requires Environmental Justice screening for federally funded projects, although the NJTPA remains committed to addressing transportation needs for all communities and adhering to non-discrimination statutes.

He said that recent shifts in federal approval processes have caused concern. In late January, a freeze on reimbursements for federally funded programs was announced but was quickly reversed after widespread concerns. On February 26, a policy shift meant planning approvals would be delayed, but that too was reversed the next day, ensuring that planning-level approvals would continue as normal. These approvals are crucial for ensuring that the NJTPA and other agencies can secure funding when the new fiscal year begins on July 1.

He said he attended the Target Zero Commission's first meeting and the group aims to create data-driven safety strategies involving multiple agencies and public input. The NJTPA's safety efforts include Local Safety Action Plans, Street Smart NJ campaigns, and the Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads programs, which complement its work on Complete Streets planning. Additionally, the NJTPA has launched an online tool showing routes identified in the Active Transportation Plan that can be upgraded to improve walking and biking safety.

He noted that an updated Board of Trustees Handbook was distributed via email and posted on the website with essential information about the Board and agency operations. Mr. Behrend also reminded the Board that NJTPA will be hosting a booth and is organizing or presenting on a variety of panels at the upcoming New Jersey TransAction Conference April 15-17 in Atlantic City. Topics include the long-range plan, Local Safety Action Plans, and municipal programs. For more details, visit NJTransAction.com.

F. Presentation: Update on Federal Policy and Legislation

Jessica Monahan, a Principal at Cozen O'Connor Strategies, presented on behalf of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), where she serves as the group's federal policy advocate. She said that over the last 45 days since the current administration began, Executive Orders have caused confusion for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and other agencies that rely on federal funding. She urged everyone to continue advocating for their interests without overreacting. She said the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is driving many of these changes, causing tension especially in agencies like the Department of Transportation.

With the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) law set to expire in September 2026, she said Congress has begun working on reauthorizing surface transportation programs. While IIJA was a huge bill, partly in response to the pandemic, the reauthorization will likely shrink to a more traditional scope. A key challenge remains the Highway Trust Fund, which hasn't seen a gas tax increase since 1993. The Ways and Means Committee, she said, may consider restructuring the fund.

Ms. Monahan said NARC has identified several priorities for the reauthorization. These include increasing metropolitan planning funding, promoting non-metropolitan planning, supporting local decision-making through formula programs, and preserving discretionary grant programs that allow local governments and MPOs to receive federal funds directly. These goals aim to ensure that federal funds are accessible to local governments, not just state DOTs. In conclusion, Ms. Monahan encouraged everyone to continue telling their story and focusing on the value MPOs bring to their communities.

G. Committee Reports/Action Items*

- **Project Prioritization** – Hunterdon County Commissioner Zach Rich, Vice Chair

Commissioner Kenny thanked Commissioner Rich for chairing the meeting in his absence, then called on him to read the report. Commissioner Rich said the Committee considered two action items, which are before the Board for approval, both minor amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He said the adds \$2.2 million in federal funds for the Low Emissions Intermodal Trucks for Healthy Newark Communities Project in Essex County. The \$3.8 million project will replace 20 diesel trucks with low emission propane trucks to improve air quality at the port, while modernizing infrastructure and strengthening supply chains.

The second item adds a \$1.3 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration for a planning study for the Sayreville Waterfront Multimodal Transportation Improvement Project in Middlesex County. This study will explore the feasibility of creating multimodal transportation connectivity between isolated parcels in the Sayreville Waterfront Redevelopment Area and the South Amboy Transit Station and Ferry Terminal.

Action Item 1: Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Low Emissions Intermodal Trucks for Healthy Newark Communities Project in Essex County (Attachment 2) [Details here on page 19.](#)

Essex County moved the item, Hudson County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

Action Item 2: Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add the Sayreville Waterfront Multimodal Transportation Improvement Project in Middlesex County (Attachment 3) [Details here on page 26.](#)

Union County moved the item, Morris County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

- **Planning and Economic Development** – Warren County Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair

Commissioner Sarnoski said the Committee considered one action item that is before the Board, approval of the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The draft was issued in December for review and comments from the Board, subregional partners, federal sponsors, and the NJDOT were incorporated into the work program and budget. NJTPA Central Staff revised the wording of some task activities to comply with recent Executive Orders and the revised draft was shared ahead of the meeting.

Board approval is necessary for the NJTPA to receive federal funding for staff, subregional, and Transportation Management Association activities to be conducted in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

He said the meeting also featured a presentation by Darius Sollohub, a professor at NJIT's School of Architecture, on the Newark Airport City Project, which seeks to enhance connections between Newark Liberty International Airport and the Dayton Neighborhood in the city's South Ward. The project is a collaborative effort between the City of Newark, multiple agencies, universities, and community groups. The NJTPA is playing a role through the funding we approved last fall for planning and implementation of this worthy project, and this work will

continue in the UPWP before the Board today. More information on the Newark Airport City Project can be found here.

Action Item 3: FY 2026 UPWP Update (Attachment 4) [Details here on page 33.](#)

Sussex County moved the item, City of Newark seconded, and it carried unanimously.

- **Freight Initiatives** – Commissioner Shaw, Chair

Commissioner Shaw said Central Staff provided an update on two ongoing activities. The 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecast update is on track for completion in June. And public involvement plans are being developed, and data is being collected for three studies in the FY 2025 Freight Concept Development Program.

He said the meeting featured two speakers who provided updates on the industrial real estate market. Bill Waxman, Vice Chair of Cushman & Wakefield, reported that vacancies for warehousing space were up in 2024, reflecting a softening in demand for older, less efficient buildings. The demand was focused on smaller buildings of less than 50,000 square feet and some of the larger ones are being broken into smaller units. Mr. Waxman predicts there will be fewer new buildings by 2026, creating upward pressure on pricing, even as the state remains a good location for warehousing and industrial uses.

Ryan Conklin, Assistant Director of Warren County’s Planning Department, presented actions the County has taken to manage warehouse development and associated truck traffic. Warren County has identified areas along major roads that were hot spots for crashes, with approximately 10 percent of crashes overall involving trucks.

In reports from Committee members, the NJDOT’s representative said the agency is finalizing data analysis for its Truck Parking Study including identifying unmet parking needs, undesignated parking trends and crash clusters involving trucks. The Port Authority reported that 2024 port volumes reached 8.7 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) handled during the year. Middlesex County reported they are collaborating with Central Staff on their two freight concept development studies. Commissioner Shaw said the third study underway this year is in his home county of Morris.

H. Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

I. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting o will be held on May 12, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the NJTPA’s office.

J. Adjournment

Morris County made a motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m., Port Authority seconded and carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: March 10, 2025

Subregion/Agency	Voting Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Bergen County	Peter Botsolas	Joseph Baladi
Essex County	David Antonio	
Hudson County	Tom Malavasi	Tanner Thul
Hunterdon County	Hon. Zachary Rich	Bob Hornby Katherine Fullerton
City of Jersey City	Mike Manzella	Elias Guseman
Middlesex County	Hon. Charles Kenny	
Monmouth County	Teri O' Connor	David Schmetterer
Morris County	Hon. Stephen Shaw	John Hayes Kevin Stephens
City of Newark	Dolores Martinez-Wooden	Trevor Howard
Ocean County	Mark Jehnke	Sean Areia
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	Andras Holzmann
Somerset County	Hon. Sara Sooy	Ken Wedeen
Sussex County	Hon. Jack DeGroot	Tom Drabic
Union County	Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski Hon. Michele Delisfort	Kamal Saleh Ricardo Matias
Warren County	Hon. Jason Sarnoski	David Dech Ryan Conklin
Gov's Authorities Unit	Dorian Smith	
NJDOT	Eric Powers	Megan Fackler
NJ TRANSIT	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan	Robert Palladino
PANYNJ	Jay Shuffield	Mary K. Murphy
Citizens Representative	Charles Burton	
Other Attendees		
Brenda Lamb		
Dan Callas		Avenues in Motion
Denise Nickel		
Gegory Smith		
Jessica Monahan		Cozen O'Connor Strategies
Paul St. Onge		Gibbons Law
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay		FHWA New Jersey Division Office
Tara Shepherd		goHunteron
Ted Del Guercio III		Legal Counsel

Approved March 10, 2025

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2024 – 2027
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
TO ADD THE LOW EMISSIONS INTERMODAL
TRUCKS FOR HEALTHY NEWARK
COMMUNITIES PROJECT IN ESSEX COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the northern New Jersey region; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA formally adopted the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA on September 24, 2012 approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and NJ TRANSIT on procedures to amend and modify the State Transportation Improvement Program and the NJTPA TIP; and

WHEREAS, the TIP may be revised any time; and

WHEREAS, according to the MOU when a project or program with federal funds is added to the TIP and a new air quality conformity determination is not required, this constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Port Newark Container Terminal has requested a minor amendment to the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP to add the Low Emissions Intermodal Trucks for Healthy Newark Communities project in Essex County with \$2.2 million in federal funds and \$1.6 million in local match funds, totaling \$3.8 million for Capital Acquisition (CAP) work; and

WHEREAS, fiscal constraint is maintained through funds available from the FY 2022 FHWA Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program in the amount of \$2.2 million, and local match funds in the amount of \$1.6 million; and

WHEREAS, this minor amendment does not require an air quality conformity determination as per the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127) and does not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to this action;
and

WHEREAS, the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP conforms to federal performance-based planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, consistent with NJTPA public participation procedures, the NJTPA has provided opportunities for review of this action; and

WHEREAS, no action authorized by the NJTPA shall have force or effect until 10 days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hereby approves the specified amendment to the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Port Newark Container Terminal, LLC for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.

Approved March 10, 2025

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2024 – 2027
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO
ADD THE SAYREVILLE WATERFRONT MULTIMODAL
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the northern New Jersey region; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA formally adopted the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA on September 24, 2012 approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and NJ TRANSIT on procedures to amend and modify the State Transportation Improvement Program and the NJTPA TIP; and

WHEREAS, the TIP may be revised any time; and

WHEREAS, according to the MOU when a project or program with federal funds is added to the TIP and a new air quality conformity determination is not required, this constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Sayreville Economic & Redevelopment Agency has requested a minor amendment to the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP to add the Sayreville Waterfront Multimodal Transportation Improvement Project in Middlesex County with \$1.316 million in federal funds for Planning Study (PLS) work; and

WHEREAS, fiscal constraint is maintained by adding \$1.316 million of FY 2022 Federal Transit Administration Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Program (DEMO) funds to this project; and

WHEREAS, this minor amendment is exempt from an air quality conformity analysis as per the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127) and does not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to this action; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2024 – 2027 TIP conforms to federal performance-based planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, consistent with NJTPA public participation procedures, the NJTPA has provided opportunities for review of this action; and

WHEREAS, no action authorized by the NJTPA shall have force or effect until 10 days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hereby approves the specified amendment to the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the Sayreville Economic & Redevelopment Agency for submission to the Federal Transit Administration.

Approved March 10, 2025

DRAFT RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE FY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the northern New Jersey region; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 104 (f) et. seq. and 49 U.S.C. 1607 et. seq., is responsible for the development of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to guide the transportation planning process in northern New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2026 UPWP (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) describes all urban transportation and transportation-related planning activities to be undertaken by the NJTPA Central Staff, New Jersey Department of Transportation, NJ TRANSIT, NJTPA subregions, Transportation Management Associations, and other planning agencies in the region; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026 UPWP is fully consistent with the U.S. Department of Transportation Metropolitan Transportation Planning Regulations (23 CFR part 450) which became effective May 27, 2016, as well as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); and

WHEREAS, any FY 2026 Compensation Plan and salary parameters will be subject to New Jersey Institute of Technology's approved salary rate schedule and bargaining unit agreements; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA Central Staff may modify the adopted FY 2026 UPWP to update or remove any subtask activities that are no longer eligible or required per the direction of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), to ensure compliance with recent Executive Orders issued by President Donald J. Trump and ensure timely approval and authorization of federal funds by FHWA and FTA.

WHEREAS, no action authorized by the NJTPA shall have force or effect until 10 days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hereby approves the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program for the region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for submission to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.