



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

David Antonio, Chair
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes April 14, 2025

I. Roll call

RTAC Chair David Antonio called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, called the roll and 18 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Sussex County moved the minutes of the February 10, 2025, meeting, Somerset County seconded, and the motion carried with one abstention (Ocean County).

III. Presentation: Get to Know a Subregion: Transportation in Hunterdon County

Katherine Fullerton, Supervising Planner in the Hunterdon County Department of Planning and Land Use, gave an overview of the county's transportation network and some of the challenges and opportunities it presents.

She noted that the county is rural in nature, with 120,000 acres of active farmland and just under 130,000 residents. Public transit options are limited to four stops along NJ TRANSIT's Raritan Valley Line, providing weekday service. There are no NJ TRANSIT bus routes. As of 2023, Hunterdon County has the highest per capita daily vehicle miles traveled (5.1 million), demonstrating an inverse relationship between population density and vehicle miles traveled.

Hunterdon County is developing a bicycle master plan through the Subregional Studies Program. She said the plan aims to create a vision for enhanced connectivity, addressing gaps in on-street networks and roads that function as barriers, without the need for new road construction. Ms. Fullerton said the NJTPA Active Transportation Plan's regional network mapping will serve as a starting point for public outreach and the creation of trail connections within the county. Public meetings are being planned and the county will be working with Go Hunterdon Transportation Management Association (TMA) on the project. The presentation is available [here](#).

IV. Information Items

1. Transportation Management Association Update

Donna Allison, RideWise Executive Director, updated the committee on the ways bicycles bridge the transportation gap by providing options for children, adults, and those lacking a car or transit access. Cycling offers an affordable, sustainable, and healthy alternative for short to moderate distances. Each TMA implements approaches based on local needs and demographics. This can include education, outreach, bike share & bike library programs and repair and rehabilitation programs. RideWise's Bike Connect program partners with a local bike shop to repair and donate bikes. In addition, safety equipment and instruction are also provided.

Jeffrey Vernick, NJTPA Central Staff, asked if the TMA's help to make bike racks or lockers available. TMA members at the meeting said they coordinate the rental of bike lockers with NJ TRANSIT at the local rail stations.

2. Local Mobility Initiatives Solicitation

Jasmine Lawrence, Central Staff, announced that the NJTPA, in partnership with NJ TRANSIT, has launched the Local Mobility Initiative (LMI) solicitation. The program can be used to operate new or expanded shuttle services, purchase vehicles and was expanded this year to include micromobility (including docks, parking, bicycles, e-bikes, and e-scooters). TMAs, municipalities, county transportation operators and academic institutions are eligible to apply.

There is a two-step application process 1) Submit an online LMI Interest Form and 2) After NJTPA review and approval, submit a full proposal. The solicitation is posted on the [NJTPA website](#) and there is no set deadline to apply. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Jasmine Lawrence at jlawrence@njtpa.org with questions or to discuss potential project ideas before submitting an interest form.

Tom Drabic, Sussex County, asked who purchases the shuttle buses for the county's transit agency. Ms. Lawrence said all purchases are made through NJ TRANSIT.

3. FY 2027-2028 Subregional Studies Solicitation

William Long, Central Staff, said the next Subregional Studies Program solicitation will be released in early June. He noted that all subregions are eligible to apply for FY 2027-2028, except those with studies underway or launching in FY 2026. He thanked committee members who provided feedback during the development of the solicitation. New this year, subregions will be required to attend meetings between May 1 and July 7, prior to submitting their thumbnail sketches. Thumbnails are due by 5 p.m. July 7 and full proposals will be due by 5 p.m. August 15. Selected subregions will be notified in October.

4. Planning for Emerging Centers Program Solicitation

Peter Bilton, Central Staff, said applications to the Planning for Emerging Centers Program will be due in mid-June. The municipal support program provides consultant-led studies to create coordinated transportation and land use plans and regulatory updates. It aims to foster economically sustainable, livable mixed-use places accessible by transit, biking, and walking to complement NJ TRANSIT's Friendly Planning Program and Transit Village Initiative. Up to two projects will be selected. Potential applicants are encouraged to contact Central Staff for a meeting to discuss their ideas during the application period, and to help align project goals with program objectives and available support. Additional information is available on the [program webpage](#).

5. Regional Performance Measures Dashboard

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said the regional performance measures information was recently updated on the [NJTPA website](#) to incorporate the latest available data. Three key reporting products include the scorecard showing the region's progress in meeting performance benchmarks, fact sheets and an interactive dashboard. He said these resources help communicate regional performance and enhance public awareness.

6. Regional Electric Vehicle Registration Update

Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff, said the NJTPA region saw a 42 percent increase in electric vehicle (EV) registrations between December 2023 and December 2024 (an addition of 11,696 EVs), the highest six-month increase to date. New Jersey is progressing towards its goal of 330,000 EVs by December 2025 but still needs to register approximately 105,000 new EVs in the next year. The majority of new EVs were battery electric vehicles.

EV registration is increasing in every county in the region. Passaic (58 percent), Union (50 percent), and Warren (50 percent) saw the largest percentage increases. Bergen and Middlesex counties have the highest total number of registered EVs. The top 10 municipalities with the highest number and percentage of registered personal EVs showed a mix of urban centers and smaller, wealthier communities with significant EV adoption rates. Mr. Tech-Czarny said the data is available on the NJTPA [website](#).

He also reminded RTAC members that the NJTPA launched a Subregional Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program in March, which provides funding to install charging stations. He encouraged anyone with questions to email him at ztech-czarny@njtpa.org

Peter Kortright, Bergen County, said that Deal's 42 percent increase in the presentation is misleading due to the size and wealth of the municipality.

Kamal Saleh, Union County, asked if there was a limitation on the number of charging stations a subregion can seek funding for through the NJTPA's program. Mr. Tech-Czarny said there is no set limit at this time.

Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, asked if the funding could be used for utility upgrades. Jeffrey Perlman, Central Staff, said he did not think that would be covered.

7. Connecting Communities Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said the draft *Connecting Communities* plan will be shared with partner agencies and subregions prior to the July public comment period, which will include a public meeting, and cover the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination. The plan will go before the Planning and Economic Development Committee in August and then to the Board for adoption in September.

Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said public outreach has included Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings and virtual Let's Talk Transportation forums on active transportation, transit access, and vibrant downtowns. About 100 people attended and provided valuable input. Recordings are available on the *Connecting Communities* [website](#). He said about 2,100 people participated in the online survey and targeted outreach is underway to engage children, teens, young adults and others. Pop-up events are scheduled in every subregion this spring.

8. Routes 80 & 15 Interchange Financial Plan Update

Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff, said the latest financial plan for the Route 80 and 15 interchange project reflects a total cost of \$209.8 million, a \$1.2 million increase over the prior plan, due to the remaining final design work for the Route 15 northbound bridge. This increase includes coordination with Picatinny Arsenal and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for right-of-way, stormwater drainage design and permit revisions.

Federally funded projects between \$100 and \$500 million must provide updated financial plans annually. This project will provide new ramp connections between Route 80 eastbound and Route 15 southbound and between Route 15 northbound and Route 80 westbound in Wharton Borough and Rockaway Township.

9. Route 287, Route 202 to Ramapo River Financial Plan

Ms. Koenigkramer said an initial financial plan has been prepared for the Route 287 rehabilitation project, which is estimated to cost \$107.2 million. This project will rehabilitate an 11.3-mile section of Route 287 in Morris, Passaic and Bergen counties and includes work on traffic signals, shoulders, guide rail, bridge parapets and crash cushions. This project is in the final design phase and has expended \$2.3 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2027 and conclude in fall 2030.

V. Written Information Items

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

1. NJTPA Supported Local Safety Action Plans - Keith Hamas, Central Staff
2. Local Concept Development Solicitation FY 2026 – Sarbjit Kahlon, Central Staff
3. Congestion Management Process Needs Identification – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff

VI. Review of Standing Committees Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

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

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Route 4, Hackensack River Bridge Project in Bergen County

Mr. Witsch said this action will add \$35.4 million to the project, increasing the total funding to \$224.8 million. The additional funds are necessary to cover cost increases for accelerated bridge, construction, roadway, and lighting, and for purchasing environmental mitigation credits. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 16 [here.](#)]

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Align and Increase Federal Funds on the Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue Project in Somerset County.

Mr. Witsch said this request will add \$33.5 million of National Highway Performance Program funds for Construction in FY 2026, increasing the total to \$120.5 million, and to align anticipated needs by reprogramming these funds as follows: \$3 million in FY 2027, \$50 million in FY 2028, \$46 million in FY 2029 and \$21.5 million in FY 2030. These changes are necessary based on a revised construction schedule and estimates accounting for changes due to inflation, cost increases and potential changes during the final design to structural and

roadway items. [A summary of the action item is included in the Joint Committee meeting agenda package on [page 22 here](#)]

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to the Landing Road Bridge Project in Morris County.

Mr. Witsch said the request will add \$18 million for construction in FY 2025, increasing the total to \$40 million. This action is necessary to cover construction cost increases, additional night-time work and flagmen to accommodate NJ TRANSIT rail operations and the incorporation of several significant structural design features and the Lake Hopatcong wall restoration. [A summary of the action item is included in the Joint Committee meeting agenda package on [page 68 here](#)]

VII. Other Items for Discussion

Trevor Howard, City of Newark said he added a link to the chat regarding toll credits. He said that North Carolina gave a presentation on toll credits that answered his questions on the subject from the last meeting. Link to presentation can be found [here](#).

There were no other items for discussion.

VIII. RTAC Teleconference – May 19, 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: June 19, 2025

X. Adjournment

Sussex County made a motion to adjourn at 11:48 a.m., Somerset County seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Attendance
April 14, 2025

Voting Members	
David Antonio (Chair)	Essex County
Andras Holzmann (Vice Chair)	Passaic County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Mike Manzella	City of Jersey City
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
John Hayes	Morris County
Michael Nei	Monmouth County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Andrew Clark	NJDOT
Nathan Chadwick	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Other Attendees	
Various members	NJTPA Central Staff
Dan Callas	Avenues in Motion
Kevin Stephens	
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Bob Hornby Brendan Lamb Frank Bell	Hunterdon County
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Dolores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Jim Vari	NJ TRANSIT
Sean Areia	Ocean County
Gregory Smith	
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
JASKELLY	
Jonathan Eagle	Somerset County
Krishna Murthy	EZ Ride
Donna Allison	RideWise
Rosemary Nivar	
Bob Werkmeister	
Ricardo Matias	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Ryan Fisher Tara Shepherd Scott Shepherd	goHunterdon
Samantha De Andrea	
SCBENNET	

Evan Hanson	
Amy Polachak	NJDOT