



Board Meeting Minutes May 12, 2025

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

First Vice Chair Charles Kenny, Middlesex County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, reported that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of the meeting was forwarded to the *Star Ledger*, the *Asbury Park Press*, the *Courier News*, the *Daily Record*, the *Home News Tribune*, the *Jersey Journal*, *New Jersey Herald*, and *The Record*. It was also posted at the Essex County Hall of Records in Newark.

B. Salute to the Flag

The First Vice Chair led the room in a salute to the Flag.

C. Roll Call

Ms. Truvillion called the roll, and 19 voting members were in attendance. (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

Morris County made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting, Union County seconded, and the motion carried with one abstention from Ocean County.

E. Chair Remarks

First Vice Chair Kenny thanked everyone for joining and welcomed Zoe Baldwin of the Regional Plan Association (RPA), who would be delivering the featured presentation. He provided an update on *Connecting Communities*, NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan, which is scheduled for Board approval in September. He noted that about 2,000 people participated in an online survey earlier this year, and the NJTPA has been conducting in-person outreach at pop-up events across the region. The feedback collected from the online survey and in-person events will be incorporated into the draft plan, which will be distributed to the Board and RTAC members in the coming weeks. A public comment period will be held in July.

He reminded everyone that Ocean County will host the July Board meeting, which will feature a presentation on the Local Concept Development (LCD) study of Kennedy Boulevard and County Line Road in Lakewood.

He also noted that this is the final Board meeting of the fiscal year, with many projects nearing completion and others scheduled to begin in July. In addition to the Ocean County LCD study, similar studies are concluding in Monmouth, Morris, and Somerset counties. Eight subregions are also developing Local Safety Action Plans, which will be completed in June. Counties and municipalities will be able to pursue funding for implementation through the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program, with applications due June 26.

First Vice Chair Kenny said the NJTPA and NJ TRANSIT are accepting applications for the Local Mobility Initiatives Program, which supports innovative shuttle services operated by counties, municipalities, universities and the transportation management associations (TMAs). The eligibility criteria has been expanded to include micromobility devices such as bikes, e-bikes, scooters, docking stations, and parking infrastructure. Subregions are encouraged to apply and to share the funding opportunity with eligible municipalities and universities.

Following his remarks, First Vice Chair Kenny called on partner agencies to provide updates.

Eric Powers, NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT), shared that oversight of the state’s three metropolitan planning organizations has been moved from the Statewide Planning group to Capital Investment and Program Coordination (CIPC). He introduced Suzanne Tomlinson, Director of CIPC, and Amy Polachak, Deputy Director of CIPC, who will also serve as alternates to the Board.

Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, NJ TRANSIT, encouraged everyone to visit the NJ TRANSIT website for information about the potential rail strike. He said in the event of a strike there would be supplemental bus service, but he encouraged people who are able to work remotely to stay home. First Vice Chair Kenny asked if any of the contingency buses were already running, and Mr. Colangelo-Bryan said the agency doesn’t have the resources to run extra buses prior to a rail service shutdown.

Jay Shuffield, Port Authority, said they have been working closely with NJ TRANSIT on preparations in the event of a strike.

F. Executive Director’s Report

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend said the finance team has worked with NJIT to prepare NJTPA’s accounts for FY 2026, which begins July 1. On April 11, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program, which the Board adopted in March, much earlier than expected. He thanked FHWA for its prompt action, which ensures continued funding for NJTPA, the subregions, and the TMAs. He said a recently signed continuing resolution maintains the higher level of funding made available through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Bipartisan discussions in Congress have begun on the next transportation authorization bill. He said the national organizations the NJTPA belongs to, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of Region Councils, are actively engaged in discussions and he will continue to update the Board.

Mr. Behrend thanked Board members and subregional staff who have been helping with outreach for *Connecting Communities*. He noted that Monmouth County Commissioner Thomas Arnone, Hudson County Executive Craig Guy and Passaic County Commissioner John Bartlett participated in recent events. He asked that the Board encourage others to share input online at njtpa.org/connecting.

Mr. Behrend also thanked Commissioner Kenny and Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski for moderating NJTPA sessions at the recent [NJ TransAction](#) conference, adding that Central Staff spoke on several panels and staffed a booth. He noted that the NJTPA also had a booth at the New Jersey Association of Counties (NJAC) conference, which several Board members attended. He congratulated Commissioner Kowalski on her upcoming retirement and her induction into the NJAC Commissioners Hall of Fame.

Mr. Behrend said several projects are wrapping up including two through the Vibrant Places Program supporting park improvements in Paterson and placemaking in New Brunswick. Five Complete Streets Technical Assistance projects are concluding, including a corridor assessment in Verona featured at [NJ TransAction](#). Three subregional studies are also concluding: Hudson County’s West Hudson Circulation and Connectivity Study; Middlesex County’s Road Safety Audits; and Warren County’s Comprehensive Complete Streets Policy. Details were included in the Central Staff highlights distributed to the Board.

As summer approaches, NJTPA is gearing up for another Street Smart NJ campaign, which will kick off with an event in Harvey Cedars May 22. Mr. Behrend also thanked Bergen County Executive James Tedesco III, who recently spoke at Teaneck’s Street Smart kickoff. He encouraged anyone interested to visit BeStreetSmartNJ.org.

Mr. Behrend said that the Morris Canal Working Group will meet virtually on May 28 and on May 29 and Morris County will celebrate the opening of the Pompton Valley Rail Trail, a \$31.5 million NJTPA-funded project converting 5.1 miles of former rail line into a multi-use trail. He also encouraged everyone to read the latest [InTransition](#) magazine article on pedestrian safety, linked to our homepage.

In conclusion, Mr. Behrend recognized two long-serving individuals attending their final Board meeting. Hudson County Engineer Tom Malavasi, who serves as a Board alternate, is retiring July 1 and Mark Solof, NJTPA’s Director of Communications and Public Affairs, is retiring June 1 after 32 years of service. He asked everyone to join him in thanking them both for their many contributions.

The presentation was moved to follow the committee reports and public comment portion of the meeting.

G. Committee Reports/Action Items

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

Commissioner Rich said the Committee considered three action items requiring Board approval. The first is a Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Add Federal Funds to the Route 4, Hackensack River Bridge Project in Bergen County. This request adds \$35.4 million for construction in FY 2025, increasing the total to \$224.8 million. The additional funds will cover cost increases for accelerated bridge construction, electrical and roadway lighting, and purchasing environmental mitigation credits.

The second item is a Minor Amendment to the TIP to Align and Increase Federal Funds on the Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue Project in Somerset County. This request adds \$33.5 million for construction in FY 2026, increasing the total to \$120.5 million. This action also realigns funding with the revised construction schedule, allocating \$3 million in FY 2027, \$50 million in FY 2028, \$46 million in FY 2029 and \$21.5 million in FY 2030. Commissioner Rich noted that at the Joint Committee meeting, Somerset County Commissioner Sarah Sooy expressed concerns over delays to the project’s schedule and encouraged everyone involved to complete the work as soon as possible.

The final item for approval is a Minor Amendment to the TIP to Add Funds to the Landing Road Bridge Project in Morris County. This project is advancing with state funding. This request adds \$18 million for construction in FY 2025, increasing the total to \$40 million. Cost increases are due to additional night-time work and flagmen needed to accommodate NJ TRANSIT rail operations, as well as the incorporation of several significant structural design features, including a left-turn lane, a shared-use shoulder for bicyclists and the Lake Hopatcong wall restoration.

Action Item 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. (Attachment 2) [Details here on page 15.](#)

Bergen 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 Align and Increase Federal Funds on the Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue Project in Somerset County. (Attachment 3) [Details here on page 21.](#)

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

Action Item 3: Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Funds to the Landing Road Bridge Project in Morris County. (Attachment 4) [Details here on page 67.](#)

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

- **Planning and Economic Development** — Union County Commissioner, Bette Jane Kowalski, Vice Chair

Commissioner Kowalski said there were no action items on the Committee’s April agenda. She said the meeting featured Will Irving, an Associate Professor of Practice who leads the Rutgers Economic Advisory Service, who presented an Economic and Demographic Outlook related to the long-range plan. He warned of a potentially challenging economic period for New Jersey over the next two years before a return to modest long-term growth.

He said federal policy changes related to immigration could also have an impact on the state, because international migration had been outpacing significant domestic out-migration over the past two decades.

Commissioner Kowalski said Central Staff briefed the committees on several projects, including progress on the Local Safety Action Plans. Central Staff also shared that a significant update about progress in meeting regional performance measures is available on the NJTPA [website](#).

- **Freight Initiatives Committee** — Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair

Commissioner Shaw said technical work for the 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Update is almost complete, with the project wrapping up at the end of next month. The study will provide data on commodity flows around the region, including profiles of each county. It will also include an analysis of e-commerce. The findings will be presented at the June 16th Freight Initiatives Committee meeting.

He said that FY 2025 Freight Concept Development Program studies are underway and include the East Hanover Avenue Bridge Catenary Rail Clearance Project in Morris Plains and Morris Township in Morris County; the Southern Middlesex County North-South Truck Corridor Project in Cranbury and Monroe, and preliminary screening for Plate F vertical rail clearance in Perth Amboy, both in Middlesex County; and related program support activities.

Commissioner Shaw said the meeting also featured presentations by Janice Marino-Doyle, a Program Specialist with NJDOT’s Office of Freight Planning, and representatives from WSP, on a two-phase study looking at the critical shortage of truck parking in New Jersey. The study analyzed 55 segments along New Jersey’s road network, covering major freight corridors. It identified 76 truck parking facilities with 2,886 striped spaces. More than 500 long- and short-haul truck drivers completed surveys as part of this effort, identifying significant issues.

Sections of Interstates 95, 78, 80, and 295 have the greatest parking needs. Crowded segments have a daily shortfall of 20 to 35 spaces, and this could grow to 1,700 to 1,800 spaces statewide by 2050. Overall, looking at detours and costs of crashes, insufficient truck parking causes losses of \$93 million annually in New Jersey. Potential solutions discussed include public capacity expansion, public/private partnerships, improved rest area design, and modifying local ordinances to include short-term truck parking at industrial facilities.

He said as part of Committee member reports, he shared that Morris County is reviewing proposals for the design of the Chester Branch Rail Bridge over Berkshire Valley Road in Roxbury, a graduate of the NJTPA’s Freight Concept Development Program that later received funding from NJDOT’s Rail Freight Assistance Program. Morris County also recently received another award from the same program to rehabilitate a rail bridge that carries the Dover and Rockway Railroad over the Rockaway River. He said NJDOT shared that the next freight advisory committee meeting will be July 18 and noted the agency is gearing up for its next freight plan update.

H. Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

I. Presentation: Priority Issues for NJTPA and the Region

Ms. Baldwin, Vice President of State Programs & New Jersey Director of RPA, spoke about her agency's planning work and how it can support efforts by the NJTPA and its partners. She highlighted significant infrastructure projects including construction of the Gateway trans-Hudson rail tunnel. A recent RPA analysis found that once completed the full Gateway Program, which includes the rail tunnel and several other projects, will generate \$230 billion in economic activity for the tri-state area and another \$170 billion nationwide in its first 15 years of operation (2045-2060), with \$43 billion and 24,000 regional jobs generated during construction. She said a partial Hudson River rail tunnel shutdown could cost the U.S. economy \$16 billion over four years. Ms. Baldwin said another regionally significant project underway is the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan, which will also generate economic benefits for the region.

She said New Jersey was once a national leader in transit planning and smart growth, experiencing significant rail expansion, but progress slowed significantly during the recession. Investments have improved under Governor Murphy but the state faces decades of structural deficits. Ms. Baldwin said New Jersey has a robust state capital program and the capacity for leadership but warned that decisions made at the local level significantly impact transportation efficiency. She said municipalities must be engaged in the process because they can help bolster transit-oriented development, which has many benefits, including reduced emissions and maximizing the impact of infrastructure investments. Half of New Jersey residents already live within a 10-minute walk of transit, providing a strong foundation for smart growth planning. She said the NJTPA offers valuable resources for downtown revitalization and placemaking initiatives that can be aligned with transportation investments.

Following the presentation, Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw said state plans call for designated centers to concentrate development, but many municipalities won't enact the designations. He asked what could be done to help implement the regional plans. Ms. Baldwin said there needs to be better visioning. She said it's helpful to visually show people what is being proposed. She said mayors and local planning officials also need to help educate the public about the need for growth centers and mixed housing types.

Jay Shuffield, PANYNJ said that conversations around transit-oriented development in New Jersey focus on rail and asked whether buses have been considered. Ms. Baldwin said high frequency bus stops could benefit, but there's a lack of data to identify where to concentrate the development. She said RPA is doing a pilot study in Connecticut that is tracking high frequency bus stops, and they hope to do the same in New Jersey.

Michael Manzella, Jersey City, said the region's transportation network is bistate, but funding is not. He asked if RPA was looking into this issue. Ms. Baldwin said RPA is looking at this, especially as the region continues to host larger events like the upcoming World Cup. She said there is a need for cross compatibility of payment systems among other things.

The board meeting [presentation](#) and the [video](#) are available on the NJTPA website.

J. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is Monday, July 14, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the Ocean County Library's Long Beach Island Branch, 217 S. Central Avenue, Surf City, NJ 08008.

K. Adjournment

Morris County made a motion to adjourn at 11:40 a.m., Passaic County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: May 12, 2025

Subregion/Agency	Voting Board Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Bergen County	Peter Botsolas	
Essex County	David Antonio	
Hudson County	Tom Malavasi	Tanner Thul
Hunterdon County	Hon. Zachary Rich	Bob Hornby Kathleen Fullerton
Jersey City	Mike Manzella	
Middlesex County	Hon. Charles Kenny	
Monmouth County	Teri O'Connor	Joseph Ettore
Morris County	Hon. Stephen Shaw	John Hayes Kevin Stephens
Newark		Trevor Howard Raymond Concepcion
Ocean County	Mark Jehnke	
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	Andras Holzmann
Somerset County	Hon. Sara Sooy	
Sussex County	Hon. Jack DeGroot	
Union County	Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	
Warren County	David Dech	
Office of the Governor	Dorian Smith	
NJDOT	Eric Powers	Suzanne Tomlinson Amy Polachak
NJ TRANSIT	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan	
PANYNJ	Jay Shuffield	
Citizens Representative	Charles Burton	

Other Attendees	
Malcolm X. Thorpe	Legal Counsel
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
James Yeager	Michael Baker Intl.
Bob Werkmeister	
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay	FHWA
Edward Murray	Photographer
Syd Chan	
Zoe Baldwin	RPA

Approved May 12, 2025

DRAFT RESOLUTION:

**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**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization 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 federal funds are added to a program or project in the TIP above a specified threshold and a new air quality conformity determination is not required, this constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT has requested a minor amendment to the FY 2024-2027 TIP to add federal funds to the Route 4, Hackensack River Bridge project as requested by the NJDOT (DBNUM 02346); and

WHEREAS, fiscal constraint is maintained through federal funds available from the Bridge Formula Program; and

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

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to these actions; 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 these actions; 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 amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the NJDOT for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.

Approved May 12, 2025

DRAFT RESOLUTION:

**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**

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 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 federal funds are added to a project in the TIP above a specified threshold and a new air quality conformity determination is not required, this constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT has requested a minor amendment to the FY 2024-2027 TIP to align and increase federal funds on the Route 206, Valley Road to Brown Avenue (DBNUM 780A) project in Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, funding for construction is increased outside of the fiscally constrained four-year TIP to match the project's updated financial plan; and

WHEREAS, the project is not exempt from an air quality conformity determination as per the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127), but does not require further emissions analysis; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to these actions; 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 these actions; 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 minor amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the NJDOT for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.

Approved May 12, 2025

DRAFT RESOLUTION:

**MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2024-2027
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD
FUNDS TO THE LANDING ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT IN
MORRIS 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 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 *Exchange of Program Funds MOU*, STATE-NJTPA Transportation Trust Fund funding shall follow the actions prescribed in the *MOU for Statewide Procedures for TIP/STIP Revisions*, and when funds are added to a new project or added above the specified threshold and a new air quality conformity determination is not required, this constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, Morris County has requested a minor amendment to the FY 2024-2027 TIP to add state funds to the Landing Road Bridge Over Morristown Line, CR 631 project; and

WHEREAS, fiscal constraint is maintained through the NJTPA, Future Projects program line item; and

WHEREAS, the project is not exempt from an air quality conformity determination as per the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127), but does not require further emissions analysis; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to these actions; 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 these actions; 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 minor amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the NJDOT for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.