



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

David Antonio, Chair  
Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

### **Meeting Minutes June 10, 2024**

---

#### **I. Roll call**

RTAC Chair David Antonio called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Ted Ritter, Central Staff, called the roll and 16 voting members were present.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Morris County and carried with one abstention (Bergen County).

#### **III. Presentation: New Jersey Safety and Health Outcomes Center for Integrated Data — Allison E. Curry, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

Dr. Curry said the New Jersey Safety and Health Outcomes Center for Integrated Data was started 13 years ago, and just launched a new data dashboard which is the subject of her presentation. She said the organization's goal is to reimagine how safety data is collected, integrated, analyzed and shared. To do that, the organization built a data warehouse which includes various kinds of safety data back to 2004, including data on crashes, driver licensing, EMS activity, trauma center registrations and discharges and more.

Dr. Curry said that integrating all the data is a laborious process and the database reaches the year 2021 so far. It includes 125 million records on 24,000 individuals, who are tracked over time. In addition to using the data for research purposes, the Center seeks to make the integrated data available to safety professionals for use to improve travel safety, including prioritizing safety improvements. She said the official state crash reports miss one third of injuries because they don't capture data from hospitals. Integrating this and other data sources, the Center presents a more complete picture of traffic safety across the state.

The database includes geocoded data on where people involved in crashes live and where the crashes occurred. Algorithms analyzing last names are cross-referenced with demographic information from the Census to help identify the race and ethnicity of the people currently

unavailable on crash reports or in licensing files. This enhances the ability to add equity considerations in targeting safety campaigns and improvements.

She offered an example of using the data to identify where crashes of cars without child restraint systems occurred, based on records of crashes causing injuries to children. These data patterns can be used to target communities with programs to improve use of the restraints. A similar analysis can be used, she said, to guide interventions to promote seatbelt use.

Dr. Curry introduced the online New Jersey Safety & Health Outcomes (SHO) data dashboard at <https://njsho.chop.edu/> which included ten pages focusing on various aspects of traffic safety. The data can be shown for individual counties and includes comparisons of rates for various incidents among counties. Training on the use of the dashboard is being planned. She said partners in the effort include the State Division of Highway Traffic Safety, NJDOT, New Jersey Department of Health, State Office of Information Technology and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

#### IV. Information Items

##### 1. Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridge Financial Plan Update – Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff.

Ms. Koenigkramer said that as outlined in Title 23, Section 106 of the United States Code, recipients of Federal Assistance for projects with a total cost from \$100 to \$500 million are required to prepare a financial plan prior to the first construction authorization and annual updates until the completion of the project. Route 72, Manahawkin Bay Bridges project falls into this category.

Ms. Koenigkramer said the initial financial plan was provided by NJDOT in 2012 for the project and has been updated annually. The NJTPA has been provided with a copy of the most recent update for Central Staff's Review for compliance and consistency with the TIP.

This project constructs a new parallel structure adjacent to the existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge, rehabilitates the existing Bay Bridge as well as three trestle bridges over Hilliards Thorofare and the East and West Thorofare's located in Stafford Township and Ship Bottom Borough Ocean County.

The preliminary design was completed as a single project with the remaining work being advanced as seven construction contracts. Contracts 2 through 5 have been completed, and other segments are scheduled for 2025. The most recent financial plan update for this project reflects a current total project cost of 354.5 million. That's an overall increase of six and a half million from the previous plan.

The funding increases are due to updated construction costs incurred to date due to inflation, supply chain issues and contractor change orders. The 2022 Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP Funding, was programmed and authorized to cover the current cost of the project, so no money is currently programmed on the 2024 TIP, and no funding is needed. The Financial Plan update does not indicate any changes to the project's air quality conformity, Ms. Koenigkramer said.

## 2. Subregional Programs Update — Justine Recio-Patel and William Long, Central Staff

- Subregional Studies Solicitation
- Reporting
- Workshop

Ms. Recio-Patel said development of the STP and SSP quarterly reporting tool is ongoing. Several regions have volunteered to test it before its rollout in FY2025. Central Staff be sending out invitations over the next month to these volunteers and asking them to help test the tool and provide insight into their user experience.

Mr. Long said the SSP solicitation will be released shortly. It highlights that the local share is no longer required. The thumbnails will be due in July and the full proposals in August. An abstract has been added to the thumbnail submission to get a clear and concise statement regarding the nature, main ideas and the desired outcomes of the proposed study. Also, studies are required to submit a draft final report by April 30th. He said this year the solicitation will also again emphasize electric vehicles.

He said NJTPA Finance and Administration is revising the budget sheets to better reflect the way the task and the cost tracking system match the format of the SSP section of UWP. A section about subregional project management specifics has been added. He said Central Staff was in the process of establishing the date for the pass-through Program Workshop for this year. Right now, it seems that it will be in September. During that workshop, the new reporting tool (that Ms. Recio-Patel spoke about) will be discussed. He said if subregions have additional topics they would like to discuss during the workshop, please inform Central Staff..

## 3. Zoning Atlas Update — Rick Cippoletti, Central Staff

Mr. Cippoletti said Central Staff continues to build the NJTPA section of the New Jersey zoning Atlas. When completed, the New Jersey zoning atlas will become part of the National Atlas Zoning Project, which is managed by Cornell University. It is composed of zoning details for each municipality in the state compiled into a GIS database.

He noted that zoning laws are complicated and inconsistent throughout the state. He says this project aims to centralize the data, standardize it and make it more accessible to the NJTPA region and state. It will help real estate developers, policymakers, citizens and planners across New Jersey.

This effort would also help NJTPA better understand the region and will inform the NJTPA's Long Range Transportation Plan and forecasting models. He said to complete the statewide effort, the NJTPA will continue to coordinate with the state's other two MPOs. The project was also discussed with the Regional Plan Association. So far, NJTPA has collected about 92% of the GIS data and about 55% has been reviewed and updated.

Mr. Cippoletti said he hopes to finish GIS QA-QC work by the end of the summer. Collection of non-spatial data must be completed and reviewed as well. The final data will be made available to all the subregions for planning and other purposes. He said Central Staff will continue to reach out to subregions to complete needed data.

## V. Written Information Items

The Chair said there was one written information item:

### 1. Local Safety Action Plan Development Update – Lois Goldman, Central Staff

There were no comments or questions on this item. Ms. Goldman said completion of the Zoning Atlas will help the NJTPA prepare an assessment of housing in the region which is a new requirement for Long Range Transportation Plan. She thanked the subregions for their participation in this important effort.

## VI. Review of Standing Committees Action Items

### Project Prioritization Committee

#### 1. Approval of the 2024 Safe Routes to School Awards — Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff

Ms. Frimpong said the Safe Routes to School program for fiscal year 2024 was released in July of 2023 by NJDOT in partnership with the three MPOs across the state. The program seeks to enable and encourage children in grades K through 12 to walk to school and to bike to school. It supports making biking and walking to school safer and a more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthier and more active lifestyle.

North Jersey received 62 applications that were considered eligible for review. The Technical Review Agency reviewed those applications and made a recommendation for \$13.996 million for 16 Safe Routes to School projects

#### 2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Six Programs as Requested by NJDOT – John Witsch, Central Staff

- Bridge Deck/Superstructure Replacement Program
- Bridge Preventive Maintenance
- Mobility and Systems Engineering Program
- Pavement Preservation, NJTPA
- Planning and Research, Federal-Aid
- Safety Programs

Mr. Witsch said this minor amendment to the TIP is to add federal funds from various federal sources to six programs. He said these funding increases are necessary to fund regional projects. They're anticipated to be authorized in FY2024.

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Adjust and Increase Federal Funds on the Route 80, Riverview Drive (CR 640) to Polify Road (CR 55) Project in Bergen and Passaic Counties as Requested by NJDOT – John Witsch, Central Staff

Mr. Witsch said this request is to advance and increase funding for design in FY2024 and to delay the first year of funding for construction by one fiscal year from FY2027 to FY2028. The cost increases for the projects design and delayed schedule for construction are being attributed to various design changes.

4. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Three Programs as Requested by NJ TRANSIT – John Witsch, Central Staff
  - Bridge and Tunnel Rehabilitation
  - Rail Support Facilities and Equipment
  - Transit Enhancements/Transportation Alternatives Program/Alternative Transit Improvements

Mr. Witsch said this request is to add FHWA surface transportation program funds to the three programs listed. These funds will support the advancement of regional projects expecting authorization in FY2024.

5. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add One Program and Four Projects as Requested by NJ TRANSIT – John Witsch, Central Staff
  - Light Rail Vehicle Rolling Stock
  - Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project
  - Lyndhurst Intermodal ADA Improvements
  - NEC Elizabeth Intermodal Station Improvements
  - New Brunswick Station Platform Extension and Elevator Improvements (Liberty Corridor)

Mr. Witsch said the request is to add the light rail vehicle rolling stock program to the tip as well as the four projects listed. They were previously in the TIP but were not authorized. They must be added to the current TIP to program the necessary funds for authorization.

6. Modifications to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to One Program and Two Projects as Requested by NJDOT – John Witsch, Central Staff
  - Intelligent Traffic Signal Systems
  - Route 3 & Route 495 Interchange
  - Route 202, Old York Road (CR 637) Intersection Improvements

Mr. Witsch said this request includes the addition of \$12.8 million STB to the Intelligent Traffic Signal Systems program for engineering and construction; \$1.5 million for preliminary engineering of the Route 202 Old York Rd. intersection improvements project; and \$5 million for the Route 3 and 495 interchange projects for preliminary engineering, based on revised cost estimates.

#### VII. Other Items for Discussion

The Chair acknowledged Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff, who reminded RTAC members about an email he sent on June 3 requesting feedback and information for developing New York, New Jersey MSA, Comprehensive Climate Action Plan or CCAP. The survey asked three questions. He said RTAC members can respond via the online survey or by email. The NJTPA is a key partner on this project and the CCAP will be the climate action plan for the MSA.

#### VIII. RTAC Teleconference – (Tentative)

The Chair said a teleconference is tentatively scheduled for Monday July 15. Please reach out to him or Andras if there are any ideas for discussion.

#### IX. Next Meeting: August 12, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

The Chair said the next virtual RTAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12.

#### X. Adjournment

Union moved adjournment and Middlesex seconded. Upon voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:50.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee  
Attendance  
June 10, 2024

Voting Members	
David Antonio (Chair)	Essex County
Andras Holtzmann (Vice Chair)	Passaic County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Not present	City of Jersey City
Michael Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Shilpa Bhojoppa	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Delores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Not present	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Farzana Ahmed	NJDOT
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Other Attendees	
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
David Dech	Warren County
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Alex Yu	Hudson County
Ashley Dominquez	Hudson County
? name pending	Hunterdon County
Other names still pending, stand by	
Various members	NJTPA Central Staff
Talya Schwartz	
Jocelyn	
Ruchi Shrivastava	