



## PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski – Chair  
Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski – Vice Chair

## PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair  
Commissioner Zach Rich – Vice Chair

### Joint Meeting Minutes June 16, 2025

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#### I. Roll Call of Members

Middlesex County Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC), called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, called the roll. Twelve members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 12 members of the PEDC were present (Attachment 1).

#### II. Approval of Minutes

The City of Newark moved the minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting, Hudson County seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

David Antonio reported on the June 9 RTAC meeting. The meeting featured a presentation from Gernot Riether from NJIT's School of Architecture and Design. NJIT partnered with the NJTPA to explore ideas around leveraging public spaces in connection with the FIFA 2026 World Cup games. The presentation can be found here: [Game On! Activating Public Spaces During the World Cup.](#)

NJTPA staff presented a series of information items, including updates on Next Steps for Local Safety Action Plans, FY 2027 Subregional Transportation Planning Solicitation Schedule, *Connecting Communities*, FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Development, Zoning Atlas and the Congestion Management Process.

NJTPA Staff also reviewed the series of Action Items on the PPC agenda. The next RTAC will be held virtually on August 11.

#### IV. Presentation: Project Prioritization Scoring Process Update

Michael Grant, Vice President, ICF, gave an update on the Project Prioritization Scoring Process used to prioritize projects for funding in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He outlined project objectives and the proposed updated framework. The current framework scores local highway and bridge projects and state highway and bridge projects administered by NJDOT. The scoring process is being updated to align with the revised Regional Capital Investment Strategy and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) goals. This update will also incorporate scoring criteria for transit projects.

RTAC is scheduled to meet in July to discuss scoring results followed by a series of working sessions to finalize data for detailed recommendations by October. Results will be presented to the PPC and RTAC for final approval. Mr. Grant concluded the presentation with an invitation for discussion and feedback. He also welcomed questions after the meeting either to him or John Witsch, Central Staff. The Project Prioritization Scoring Process presentation can be found [here](#).

## V. Action Items

### Project Prioritization Committee

Commissioner Kenny called upon Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff, to present the five action items.

1. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Split the Route 80 Riverview Drive (CR640) to Polifly Road (CR 55) Project into Six Projects in Bergen and Passaic Counties

Ms. Koenigkramer said this request is to remove the Route 80, Riverview Drive to Polifly Road project from the TIP and divide it into six separate projects under this action. Dividing the project into multiple contracts allows NJDOT to prioritize critical sections and replace structure-critical bridges promptly. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 14 [here](#).]

Bergen County moved the item, Middlesex County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Seven Programs.

Ms. Koenigkramer presented the changes to the seven programs:

**Bridge Preventive Maintenance, Statewide** - This request is to add \$58.5 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-FLEX funds for Engineering and Construction in FY 2025, increasing the total to \$68.5 million dollars.

**ITS Safety Program, Statewide** - This request is to add \$20.1 million in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds for Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Construction in FY 2025, increasing the total to \$23.1 million.

**Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Program, Regional** - This request is to add \$18.8 million of HSIP funds for Engineering Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2025, as well

as \$7.4 million of HSIP-Vulnerable Road User Safety funds for Engineering Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2025.

**Mobility and Systems Engineering Program, Statewide** - This request is to add \$ \$29.2 million of National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds for Engineering and Construction in FY 2025.

**Pavement Preservation, NJTPA, Regional** - This request is to add \$27 million of NHPP funds for Engineering Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2025, increasing the total to \$107 million dollars.

**Resurfacing, Federal, Statewide** - This request is to reduce \$40 million of NHPP funds for Engineering Right of Way and Construction in FY 2025. These funds will be reallocated to fund other projects anticipated to be authorized in FY 2025.

**Safety Programs, Statewide** - This request is to add \$22.9 million of HSIP funds for Engineering Right of Way and Construction in FY 2025. This request also reduces \$7.4 million dollars of HSIP-Vulnerable Road user funds for Engineering Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2025 to be reallocated to NJTPA Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Program.

[A summary of the action items is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 27 [here](#).]

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

3. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to the Bus Support Facilities and Equipment Program

Ms. Koenigkramer said this request is to add \$79.6 million of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 funds for Engineering Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2025. [A summary of the action item is included in the Joint Committee meeting agenda package on page 42 [here](#)]

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

4. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Transfer NJTPA Carbon Reduction Program Funds to the NJ TRANSIT Light Rail Infrastructure Improvements Program.

Ms. Koenigkramer said the NJTPA Carbon Reduction Program provides urbanized area Carbon Reduction-New York/Newark funds for local level projects in the NJTPA region to support transportation emission reductions. This request is to transfer \$28.4 million of these funds for Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Construction to the NJ TRANSIT Light Rail Infrastructure Improvements Program. [A summary of the action item is included in the Joint Committee meeting agenda package on page 48 [here](#)]

Warren County moved the item, NJ TRANSIT seconded, and it carried unanimously.

5. Modifications to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to One Regionwide Program and One Project in Bergen County:

- Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Program, Federal, Regionwide
- Route 17, Essex Street to South of Route 4, Bergen County

Ms. Koenigkramer said this action will add \$11.6 million of Rail-Highway Crossing funds for Engineering and Construction in FY 2025 to the Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Program.

It would also add \$8 million of NHPP funds for Preliminary Engineering in FY 2025 to the Route 17, Essex Street to South of Route 4 Project. [A summary of the action item is included in the Joint Committee meeting agenda package on page 55 [here](#)]

Bergen County moved the item, Passaic County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

## **VI. Information Items**

Commissioner Kenny introduced Central Staff members to present the three information items:

### **Next Step for Local Safety Action Plans**

Keith Hamas, Central Staff, said that NJTPA is in the final stages of developing Local Safety Action Plans for eight counties in the region, aimed at eliminating fatal and serious injuries on county and local roads. The project team has completed the final round of public engagement through virtual and in-person workshops and draft plans were sent to each county's Local Implementation Committee (LIC) for review. The LICs were established to oversee plan development and implementation. Each plan will address county and local roads to fulfill the requirements of the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All program. Counties and LICs will be responsible for implementing these plans, with LICs agreeing to meet quarterly. NJTPA will continue to provide resources and assistance to counties and municipalities for implementation.

The final plans will incorporate feedback from LICs and will be available by the end of this month on county websites and the NJTPA's Local Safety Action Plan [webpage](#).

### ***Connecting Communities Update***

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said the *Connecting Communities* plan draft was distributed to RTAC, Board members and agency partners during the last week of May. The public comment period will begin on July 7, 2025, and run concurrently with the TIP and Air Quality Conformity comment periods. A virtual public meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025, from 4 to 7 p.m. Ted Ritter, Central Staff, said in-person public outreach efforts, which began at Essex County's Bloomfest and concluded with Newton Day in Sussex County, successfully engaged several hundred residents across all NJTPA subregions. NJTPA staff and consultants attended diverse community events including flea markets, Earth Day festivals and street fairs, to gather input on the draft LRTP. Outreach efforts focused on key areas identified in a prior online visioning survey. The public comment period for the draft LRTP, TIP and Air Quality Conformity determination, will run from July 7 to August 5. Additional details can be found [here](#).

## **FY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program Development Update**

Ms. Koenigkramer said the Transportation Capital Program (TCP) was distributed to the subregions at the end of April. Comments from NJDOT and follow-up questions from the subregions are currently being addressed. The draft TIP database was received on June 5 and the data is being processed for distribution to the subregions. A preliminary review of the data includes 324 projects and programs, totaling over \$16 billion across the first four years, encompassing projects from NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Gateway Development Commission and other discretionary grants. The draft will be posted on the NJTPA website for review in advance of the public comment period. Further updates will be shared as they become available.

### **VII. Written Information Items**

Commissioner Kenny read the titles of two written items. There were no questions.

1. Congestion Management Process Update – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
2. FY 2026 Local Concept Development Solicitation – Sarbjit Kahlon, Central Staff

### **VIII. Executive Director’s Update**

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend said a comprehensive report of FY 2025 accomplishments and initial plans for FY 2026 will be presented at the July Board meeting. He commended the Board and its partners for a successful FY 2025 and anticipates continued progress in FY 2026. Mr. Behrend said that there have been positive developments concerning federal funding for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The federal budget request for FY 2026, commencing on October 1, includes \$700 million for the Hudson River Tunnel Project, and \$300 million for the Second Avenue Subway Project in New York City.

Passaic County Commissioner John Bartlett was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). NARC is a key national organization representing the interests of MPOs and councils of governments in Washington D.C., advocating for their empowerment and funding. Commissioner Bartlett will serve as the District 2 Representative, covering Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Mr. Behrend said that he was re-elected to NARC’s Executive Directors Council. Both he and Commissioner Bartlett will work to ensure the NJTPA remains engaged in critical national policy discussions especially as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law approaches its expiration next fall and reauthorization talks are underway. Mr. Behrend encouraged NJTPA Board members to advocate for the transportation authorization bill in their communications to members of Congress.

In closing, Mr. Behrend acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Dave Dech, Planning Director of Warren County, at the end of this month. He noted Mr. Dech’s long-standing involvement and significant contributions to the NJTPA’s work, describing him as a valued and responsive partner. Committee members and staff extended a virtual round of applause to Mr. Dech in appreciation of his years of service.

### **IX. Other Items**

There were no other items to discuss.

**X. Next Meeting**

August 18, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. (Virtual)

**XI. Adjournment**

At 11:32 a.m., Ocean County made a motion to adjourn, Middlesex County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ATTENDANCE  
June 16, 2025**

<b>Project Prioritization Committee Members</b>	
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Hon. Jack DeGroot	Sussex County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Amy Polachak	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
David Dech	Warren County
<b>Planning and Economic Development Committee Members</b>	
David Antonio	Essex County
David Dech	Warren County
Michele Deslafort	Union County
John Hayes	Morris County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Dolores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Elias Guseman	City of Jersey City
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Amy Polachak	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Hon. Sara Sooy	Somerset County
<b>Other Attendees</b>	
Adam C	
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Amanda Gendek	NJDOT
Frank Bell Bob Hornby Brendan Lamb	Hunterdon County
Crystal Fernandez- Pen	
David Schmetterer Michael Nei	Monmouth County
Halleigh Johnston	
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Joseph Baladi	

Kamal Saleh	Union County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Liz Ward	
Lou Luglio	HNTB
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Mark Kataryniak	Hudson County
Mark Serrano	
MHusami	
Michael Grant Noah Levine Emma Balsam	ICF
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Nathan Chadwick	NJ TRANSIT
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Samantha De Andrea	
Shilpa B	
Suzanne Tomlinson	
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Tina Lund	
Tom Drabic	Sussex County