



PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair
Commissioner Susan Soloway – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Joint Meeting Minutes June 17, 2024

I. Roll Call of Members

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Ted Ritter, Central Staff, called the roll. Thirteen members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and twelve members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2024, meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by Morris County, and carried with a voice vote.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Vice Chair Andras Holzmann reported on the June 10 virtual meeting of the RTAC. The meeting featured a presentation by Allison Curry, a senior scientist and director of epidemiology and biostatistics at the recently created Center for Injury Research and Prevention, based at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She spotlighted the Safety and Health Outcomes Data warehouse, which took more than a decade to develop. She said its goal is reimagining how data are collected, integrated, analyzed and then shared to support safe transportation statewide. Allison encouraged RTAC members to check out the data dashboard at the website www.njsho.chop.edu.

Next, he said Central Staff presented three information items. These included an update of the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridge Financial Plan, a report on the NJTPA subregional programs and an update on the Zoning Atlas effort currently underway. One written information item covered the ongoing development of Local Safety Action Plans in the region. Also, Central Staff encouraged members to get involved in the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Finally, Central Staff briefed the Committees on the six action items to be considered by the Project Prioritization

Committee. Details were included in the meeting agenda package. The next RTAC teleconference, if needed, is tentatively scheduled for July 15. Otherwise, the next regular RTAC meeting will take place on August 12. Holzmann said he will conduct a presentation on planning activities in Passaic County at that meeting as part of the NJTPA's ongoing "Get to Know a Subregion" series.

IV Presentation: Presentation: Regional Electric Vehicle Update — Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff

The Chair called on Zenon Tech-Czarny, Central Staff, for this presentation. Mr. Tech-Czarny said the NJTPA's three main climate change mitigation activities focus on data collection, strategy development, and implementation, with electric vehicles (EVs) playing a crucial role in all three. The NJTPA collects and analyzes EV data, incorporates EVs into greenhouse gas emissions inventories, and develops strategy documents to promote EV adoption. EVs are also key to implementing projects through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction programs, among others. This approach is cyclical, where data informs strategy, which leads to implementation, and this in turn generates new data. He noted that the state recently published its carbon reduction strategy. The NJTPA provided early input as part of the project working group.

Mr. Tech-Czarny highlighted the strong growth in EV adoption, despite media claims of declining sales. Factors such as New Jersey's Charge Up program, the Tesla Model Y's popularity, and changes to the federal EV tax credit program have contributed to this growth. There was a 24 percent increase in EV registrations between June 2023 and December 2023, albeit slightly lower than the previous period's 35 percent increase.

Mr. Tech-Czarny also highlighted the different types of plug-in EVs and their distribution across counties, with battery electric vehicles (BEVs) showing significant growth. Bergen and Middlesex counties have the highest numbers of EVs, while Somerset County leads in EV percentage relative to total vehicles. The EV index, which accounts for both the number and percentage of EVs, showed high adoption rates in municipalities like Edison and South Brunswick. More information on EVs, he said, is available at the NJTPA's EV Resources Hub at NJTPA.org/EV including funding opportunities for EV infrastructure through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) programs.

Liza Betz, Union County, commented that Union County completed its EV infrastructure study in June 2023 and is looking to build out the recommendations. The county established a website to keep residents informed about the progress. She said the EV industry is constantly changing, noting there are least seven or eight different charging companies building their equipment in Union County. She said she is glad that NJTPA is staying on top of this and measuring how far and how fast we transition from internal combustion vehicles to EVs.

Elias Guseman, City of Jersey City, asked if there had been any preliminary research or identified trends on traffic safety impacts involving the rise of EVs. Mr. Tech-Czarny said he did not know but would explore the issue and get back to him.

V. 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 (SRTS) Program is funded through the IJA and has set aside funds under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. The SRTS Program is designed to encourage children in grades K-12, including those with disabilities, to walk, cycle and roll to school; and to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) sent out the solicitation for the Fiscal Year 2024 program in July of 2023 and 62 eligible applications were received for projects in the NJTPA region. A Technical Review Committee comprised of NJTPA Central Staff, NJDOT Division of Local Aid, Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety and the Bureau of Environmental Program Resources reviewed the applications.

Within the NJTPA region, NJDOT agreed to fund the top-scoring projects with \$13.996 million.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by Ocean County, and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Witsch said the second action item consists of minor amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add funds to seven programs, as requested by NJDOT. This item has been revised to include a request for additional funds for the TIP's Local Safety/ High Risk Rural Roads Program. NJDOT is requesting to add \$25.5 million in Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 to fund contract authorizations for Local Safety/High Risk Rural Road projects. All of these increases are being recommended so that funding is available for the projects, which are anticipated to be authorized in the current fiscal year.

- Bridge Deck/Superstructure Replacement Program - This request is to add \$27.7 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Flex funds for Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Construction in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$46.6 million . This increase is necessary to fund regional projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.

- Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program - This request is to add \$44.6 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Flex funds for Engineering and Construction in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$54.6 million. This increase is necessary to fund Bridge Preventive Maintenance contracts, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.
- Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Program - This request is to add \$25.5 million of Highway Safety Improvement Program funds for Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Construction in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$53.5 million. This increase is necessary to fund regional projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.
- Mobility and Systems Engineering Program- This request is to add \$15.4 million of National Highway Performance Program funds for Engineering and Construction in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$28.9 million. This increase is necessary to fund FIFA 2026 Meadowlands Area ITS Improvements Contracts and the I-280 Smart and Connected Corridor Project.
- Pavement Preservation, NJTPA Program - This request is to add \$84 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Flex funds for Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Construction FY 2024, increasing the total to \$96 million. This increase is necessary to fund regional pavement preservation projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.
- Planning and Research, Federal-Aid Program - This request is to add \$10.6 million of State Planning & Research funds for Planning Studies in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$50.4 million dollars, and to add \$8.2 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Flex funds for Planning Studies in FY 2024, increasing the total \$20.2 million. These increases are necessary to fund planning programs and studies.
- Safety Programs - This request is to add \$21.8 million of Highway Safety Improvement Program funds for Engineering, Right of Way, Construction in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$27.3 million. This increase is necessary to fund utility pole relocation/replacement projects and safety program projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by NJDOT, seconded by Sussex County, and carried unanimously.

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 FY 2024 to cover its current estimated cost of \$76.5 million and to delay the first year of funding for construction by one fiscal year for its anticipated start date in FY 2028. National Highway Performance Program funding in the amount of \$25.9 million is being added and \$12.3 million is being advanced to FY 2024 for Design. This funding as well as National Highway Freight Program funding, totaling \$108.2 million and currently programmed in FY 2027, is being reprogrammed to FY 2028. Cost increases for the project's design and delayed schedule for construction are attributed to various design changes, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Ocean County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Witsch said the Attachment for PPC Action No. 4 has been revised to reflect additional Hurricane Sandy emergency relief funds that had been made available for the TIP's Bridge and Tunnel Rehabilitation Program line item's Raritan River Drawbridge Replacement project. NJ TRANSIT is requesting an additional \$7.5 million of emergency relief funds be added in FY 2024. The initial request was to add \$326.7 million; the revised letter is requesting \$334.3 million be added. Approval of the following action will allow NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT to maximize funding obligation prior to the close of the current fiscal year. NJ TRANSIT is requesting the approval to amend the TIP by adding federal funds to three programs.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has approved reallocating unobligated Section 5324 Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program funds no longer required for the NJ TRANSIT Grid Project to support other Hurricane Sandy Competitive Resilience projects that require additional funds to be completed. Available Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds are also requested to be transferred from NJDOT to FTA and NJ TRANSIT to support various eligible transit projects that require additional funds to allow them to be authorized. The flexing of these FHWA funds to NJ TRANSIT will allow NJDOT to request an increase to its annual budget authority through the FHWA August Redistribution process. Unobligated FHWA funds are available that can be redistributed to increase NJ's obligation limit and allow additional projects to advance in the region.

- The Bridge and Tunnel Rehabilitation Program - This request is to add \$27.7 million of FHWA Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program funds and to add \$326.7 million of FTA Section 5324 Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program funds for Engineering, Right-of-Way, and Construction in FY 2024. This funding will support the advancement of regional transit projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.
- The Rail Support Facilities and Equipment Program - This request is to add \$60 million of FHWA Surface Transportation Program funds and add FTA \$37.1 million of Section 5324

funds for Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2024. This funding will support the advancement of the regional transit projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.

- The Transit Enhancements/Transportation Alternatives Program/Alternative Transit Improvements Program - This request is to add \$180 million in FHWA Surface Transportation Program funds for Engineering, Right of Way, Construction in FY 2024, and \$6.6 million in FHWA PROTECT funds for Engineering Right of Way, and Construction in FY 2024. This funding will support the advancement of regional transit projects, which are detailed in the summary of action and its supporting documents.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Ocean County, seconded by Hudson County, and carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Witsch said funds for Engineering, Right, of Way, and Construction for the following Program and projects were programmed in FY 2023 in the previous TIP but not authorized.

They all must be added to the current TIP to program the necessary funds for Engineering, Right, Of Way, and Construction for authorization in the current fiscal year.

- The Light Rail Vehicle Rolling Stock Program will be programmed with \$7.1 million of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program funds.
- The Lackawanna Cutoff MOS Project in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties will be programmed with \$9.8 million of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds.
- The Lyndhurst Intermodal ADA Improvements Project in Bergen County will be programmed with \$364,000 of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds and \$13.2 million of Section 5307 Transportation Alternatives Program funds.
- The NEC Elizabeth Intermodal Station Improvements in Union County will be programmed with \$16.8 million of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds.
- The New Brunswick Station Platform Extension and Elevator Improvements (Liberty Corridor) Project in Middlesex County will be programmed with \$7.3 million of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula funds.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Sussex County, seconded by Warren County, and carried unanimously.

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 Program - Mr. Witsch said this request is to add \$12.8 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Flexible funds for Engineering and Construction in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$16.3 million dollars. This increase is necessary to fund the Route 23, Route 80 to Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike ATS C1 project in anticipation of its authorization.
- Route 3 & Route 495 Interchange Project in Hudson County - This request is to add \$5 million of National Highway Performance Program funds for Preliminary Engineering in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$11.5 million. Based on historical data and the magnitude of the project, this phase requires an additional \$5 million to cover anticipated consultant and in-house costs.
- Route 202, Old York Road (CR 637) Intersection Improvements in Somerset County - This request is to add \$1.5 million of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program-Flex funds for Preliminary Engineering in FY 2024, increasing the total to \$3 million. This increase is based on a revised cost estimate prepared in anticipation of authorization.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by NJDOT County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw, filling in for PEDC Committee Chair and Warren County Commissioner Jason Sarnosky, said the Planning and Economic Development Committee has no action items on the agenda today. He asked Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff to address the first of two information items, the update of the Route 72 Manahawkin and Bay Bridge Financial plan.

VI. Information Items

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

Ms. Koenigkramer said, as outlined in Title 23, Section 106 of the United States Code, recipients of federal funding for projects with a total cost from \$100 million to \$500 million are required to prepare a financial plan prior to the first construction authorization and provide annual updates until the completion of the project. The Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project falls into this category. The initial financial plan was prepared by NJDOT in 2012 and has been updated annually. 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 bridge as well as three trestle bridges over Hilliards Thorofare, East Thorofare and West Thorofare 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, 1A,1B, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5A. Contracts 2 through 5 have been completed. Contract 5A includes the implementation of submerged aquatic vegetation mitigation requirements in the

Manahawkin Bay to comply with the environmental permit restrictions. This work began in February 2016 and 90 percent was completed as of February 2024. The approximate completion date is anticipated in December 2024.

Contract 1A involves Marsha Drive intersection improvements and 1B covers operational and drainage improvements, and construction began in February 2021 and is scheduled to be completed in 2025. The most recent financial plan update for this project reflects a current total project cost of \$354.5 million and an overall increase of \$6.5 million from the previous plan. Funding increases are due to updated construction costs incurred to date due to inflation, supply chain issues and contractor change orders. As of February, 88.8 percent of the current total project estimate has been expended. The 2022 TIP Funding was programmed and authorized to cover the current cost of the project. No money is currently programmed in the 2024 TIP, and no funding is needed at this time. The Financial Plan update does not indicate any changes to the project's air quality conformity.

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

Ms. Goldman said Central Staff continues to work with eight counties on Local Safety Action Plans: Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren. The first round of Local Implementation Committee meetings were held. The committees are comprised of municipalities, various county departments, safety advocates, law enforcement and the like, and act as technical advisory committees. Websites will be developed this summer. Outreach this fall will help identify safety concerns in specific locations. A second round of Local Implementation Committee meetings will also be held.

Regarding the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All Program, Ms. Goldman said there is a Notice of Funding Opportunity open and the deadline for submissions is August 19. She said Central Staff can provide support to any subregions or municipalities who intend to apply. In May, FHWA announced that \$64 million was allocated for 99 communities in 34 states under the last round of funding.

Commissioner Shaw noted that he attended Morris County's Local Implementation Committee meeting and got a lot of positive feedback from participants.

VII. Executive Director's Update – David Behrend, Central Staff

Commissioner Shaw called upon David Behrend, Central Staff for the Executive Director's report. Mr. Behrend emphasized the importance of the TIP actions the committee acted on as they are allowing the state to reach full authorization of FHWA funding for the second year in a row. As occurred last year, the State of New Jersey will once again be able to receive additional federal funds that other states leave on the table at the end of the federal fiscal year, which ends on September 30. The fact that this was accomplished without the need for special meetings, he said, was due in part to our ever-improving working relationship with NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT. He thanked Eric Powers at NJDOT and Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan at NJ TRANSIT and their staffs for maintaining excellent communication throughout this process. He also thanked Central Staff for their work on the action items. He noted that the state fiscal year closes

at the end of this month and staff is working to finalize products, working with the subregions, the TMAs and other partners. He said, with these efforts, the NJTPA will be ready to hit the ground running on next year's work program, which starts July 1. This will include development of our next Long Range Transportation Plan, one of our core foundational documents. The NJTPA is now in the process of finalizing consultant selection for the plan's financial element as well as a separate consultant effort focused on public engagement. By late fall, he said, the NJTPA will begin a variety of public outreach activities in coordination with the subregions.

VIII. Written Information Items

Commissioner Shaw asked if there were any questions on the written information item concerning the Zoning Atlas.

- Zoning Atlas Update – Rick Cippoletti, Central Staff

There were no questions on the item. Sussex County posted a question asking if there is any update available from NJDOT on the Route 15 closure in Jefferson Township and the temporary bridge replacement. NJDOT said someone would answer this directly with Sussex County following the meeting.

IX. Other Items

Commissioner Shaw noted that based on the survey Central Staff circulated to members after the last meeting, the August joint meeting of the committees will be held virtually, and the October meeting will be held in person at NJTPA in Newark. There were no other items for discussion.

X. Next Meeting: August 19, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

At 11:00 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Hunterdon County, and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
June 17, 2024**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Susan Soloway (Vice Chair)	Hunterdon County
Hon. John Bartlett	Passaic County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Peter Botsolas	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Shilpa Bhojappa	Monmouth County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Hon. Christopher Carney	Sussex County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Sudir Joshi	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
Hon. Sara Sooy	Somerset County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski, Hon. Michele Delisfort	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Dolores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Sudhir Joshi	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative

Also, in Attendance	
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Alex Yu	Hudson County

Frank Bell	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
John Hayes	Morris County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Farzana Ahmed	NJDOT
Tavainya Smith	NJDOT
Lou Milan	NJ TRANSIT
Jim Vari	NJ TRANSIT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Michael Popovech	Monmouth County
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Walter Lane	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Ward Kradjel	
Lisa Lee	EZ Ride TMA
Krishna Murthy	EZ Ride TMA
Paul St. Onge	
Victoria Schulz	
Kevin Stephens	
Bob Werkmeister	