



PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny – Chair
Commissioner Susan Soloway – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes October 21, 2024

I. Roll Call of Members

Warren County Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, called the roll. Ten members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 10 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present (Attachment 1).

II. Salute to the Flag

Commissioner Sarnoski led the room in a salute to the Flag.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2024 meeting was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by Union County, and carried unanimously.

IV. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

RTAC Vice Chair Andras Holzman reported on the October 15 RTAC meeting. The meeting featured a presentation by Deborah Kagan, Executive Director of the New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition and Tom Sexton, Northeast Regional Director of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, spotlighting the work of the New Jersey Trails Network initiative. The initiative is developing and mapping a network of shared use paths in North Jersey. This is envisioned as an essential part of creating active transportation options to increase access to transportation, recreation, sustainability, equity and more. Mr. Holzman said that details are available by contacting Ms. Kagan.

Mr. Holzmann said that Central Staff presented five information items: a summary of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory effort; draft municipal and traffic analysis zone population and employment forecasts; an update on *Connecting Communities: The NJTPA Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP); the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program; and a report on the ongoing development of local safety action plans in the region. Mr. Holzmann said several other programs and topics were covered by Central Staff including five written information items and a brief introduction of the four action items to be considered at today's meeting. The next RTAC teleconference is scheduled for November 8 and will focus on the LRTP with emphasis on the financial element. The next RTAC meeting is scheduled for December 9.

V. Presentation: Jersey City Traffic Calming Toolkit

Elias Guseman, Senior Transportation Planner, Jersey City, said that Jersey City recently concluded a study exploring how and where traffic calming measures can be implemented to help meet the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths by 2026. The study was funded through the NJTPA's Subregional Studies Program. The *Jersey City Traffic Calming Toolkit* study explored measures such as curb extensions, bike lanes, speed humps and raised intersections that can slow down traffic, discourage dangerous or aggressive driving and improve safety for all travelers.

The study, he said, developed a methodology for prioritizing locations for traffic calming, including targeting areas that have lagged in past public investment. Concept designs were developed for 12 high-priority locations. Mr. Guseman said the recommendations are detailed in a final report and accompanying Toolkit describing the traffic calming treatments and how they can be applied on various kinds of streets and intersections.

Public input was sought throughout the study including through meetings, two demonstration projects and stakeholder interviews. The project website included a survey and interactive map, which received over 2,000 responses. The top concerns were streets that are challenging to cross, followed by aggressive driving, unsafe vehicle speeds, and stressful biking.

One of the two demonstration projects for the study was on North Street in front of Washington Park. The short-term project used paint and plastic delineators to temporarily remove parking, install curb extensions and realign a bike lane. City staff used the demonstration to show the public what potential improvements could look like, gather input and answer questions.

Mr. Guseman said they are working to make the Toolkit more accessible by creating a digital version. The public can then walk through and use the tool to advocate for safety changes in their neighborhood. Mr. Guseman said the City plans to launch these upgrades in the coming months and this Toolkit is intended to replace Jersey City's prior guidance in the Circulation Element of the 2011 Master Plan. It aligns with the City's Vision Zero Action Plan, which was adopted in 2019. The final report, Toolkit and appendices are [here](#).

In response to questions regarding any pushback to eliminating parking, Mr. Guseman said that slowing traffic often does result in eliminating parking, and that was the number one complaint they received. He added that this is a complicated issue and that they did try to minimize the

impact where they could. In response to a question about gathering input through the demonstrations, Mr. Guseman said that feedback was obtained via submitted forms, having staff available to talk to the public, surveys, email and by posting contact information in various places. Also, he said outreach to property owners and residents was done in advance of the demonstrations and they worked with the special improvement districts to make sure the businesses knew about the changes. Mr. Guseman said tapping into the NJTPA demonstration project library helped lower costs significantly and the City only had to buy a few supplemental items. Mr. Guseman said the next steps include putting in two of the demonstration projects permanently. One in full form and one in a slightly altered form.

VI. Action Items

Planning and Economic Development Committee

1. Amendment to the NJTPA Long Range Transportation Plan to include the Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP)

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said the NJTPA has been working with the Port Authority of New York-New Jersey (PANYNJ) to develop this amendment to the current LRTP. Including the RIP in the plan, she said, will benefit applicants to the to the federal PROTECT grant program, making their proposals more competitive and lowering the required funding match. PROTECT stands for Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program, and was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act to provide funding to make transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change and flooding. A new notice of funding opportunity for PROTECT is anticipated sometime this month, so the development of this RIP is timely. Ms. Eaman said a copy of the RIP was included in the packet for today's meeting.

Commissioner Sarnoski commented that although this is a great program, it includes the Route 80 Rockfall Project, and Warren County continues to have concerns regarding the project cost and other issues. While the County has been working with NJDOT regarding the project, he said he will abstain on the action item at this time.

A motion to approve the action item was made by PANYNJ, seconded by City of Newark and carried with one abstention (Warren County).

Commissioner Sarnoski turned the meeting over to Middlesex County Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair of the Project Prioritization Committee.

Project Prioritization Committee

Commissioner Kenny said the first action item for consideration was Approval of a Regional Transportation Alternatives Program Project.

1. Approval of a Regional Transportation Alternatives Program Project

Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff, said the Regional Transportation Alternative Set Aside Program is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and was announced in March of this year.

Ms. Frimpong said potential projects were selected by the NJTPA in partnership with the subregions. Six projects were discussed with subject matter experts from the New Jersey Department of Transportation through pre-application meetings, and five projects were recommended. Four projects were submitted through the SAGE system, however only three of the projects were eligible for advancement. Ms. Frimpong said the Technical Advisory Committee, comprised of staff from the three metropolitan planning organizations and subject matter experts, met earlier this month to consider the applications. Ms. Frimpong said the committee recommended Warren County's Morris Canal Greenway Trail, Incline Plane 9 West to Strikers Road Project for \$1.5 million dollars. Commissioner Sarnoski commented that Warren County welcomed the funding for this important project.

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

Commissioner Kenny called upon John Witsch, Central Staff, to present the next two items on the agenda.

2. Minor Amendments to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Increase and Align Federal Funds for a Program and a Project as Requested by NJDOT
 - Mobility and Systems Engineering Program
 - Route 287, Route 202 to Ramapo River Project

Mr. Witsch said this action item includes two parts. The first request is to add \$43.8 million of National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds to the Mobility and Systems Engineering Program for engineering and construction in the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, increasing the total to \$49.8 million. This increase is necessary to fund Intelligent Transportation System projects, which include improvements around the Meadowlands Sports Complex to support the 2026 FIFA World Cup events. Mr. Witsch said the second request is to add \$24.7 million of NHPP funds for construction of the Route 287, Route 202 to Ramapo River project, increasing the total to \$103.5 million and to reprogram these funds for FY 2026 and 2027. The additional funds are necessary to cover increases in unit prices and the quantity of items needed for the project. The reprogramming of funds over two years is necessary to accommodate additional environmental surveys and to prepare a financial plan, which is required when the project cost exceeds \$100 million.

A motion to approve the modification was made by the Governor's Authorities Unit, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried unanimously.

3. Modification to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Increase Federal Funds on the Ferry Program as Requested by NJ TRANSIT

Mr. Witsch said this request is to add \$14.2 million of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Ferry Program funds for engineering, right of way and construction in FY 2025. The cost increase is necessary to fund the conversion of up to six New York Waterway ferry vessels from

diesel power to battery electric propulsion systems, as well as install charging equipment and make landside improvements needed to support the charger installation.

A motion to approve the modification was made by Sussex County, seconded by the Governor's Authorities Unit and carried unanimously.

VII. Information Items

FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Angellita Young, Central Staff, provided an update on the development of NJTPA's work program for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2025. Ms. Young said that a handout was provided, which included an overview of the UPWP development process, development schedule, organizational structure and activities including current activities and proposed new activities for FY 2026. It also includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FTA's planning priorities and emphasis areas along with NJDOT's planning priorities and the NJTPA's planning goals. The FY 2026 UPWP development process and organizational structure are similar to past years, she said. Therefore, in the interest of time, Ms. Young did not go over that information in detail and encouraged everyone to review the material on their own and visit the UPWP website. Ms. Young said she would be happy to review the information with anyone individually on request.

She said Chapter I includes Central Staff activities structured by the eight key departments and divisional areas, starting with the UPWP. Chapter II, is the Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) and Subregional Studies programs, and Chapter III covers the Transportation Management Associations (TMAs). For the STP program, Central Staff are proposing the new activities for FY 2026 including supporting LRTP development, strengthening data and information sharing between the NJTPA and subregional staff and implementing a fully online system for work program submittals and quarterly reports.

For the SSP, preliminary full proposals were received in August. Studies recommended to the board will be included in Chapter II. The TMA Program core activities remain unchanged, though staff will be working with the TMAs on a new cost tracking system for their work programs.

Ms. Young said Central Staff welcomes input and suggestions, but requested feedback be provided by the end of the month, so it can be incorporated into the draft that will be distributed for formal review in the first week of December. Presentations on the draft work programs will be made at the December or TAC and Joint committee meetings comments.

The final draft of the FY26 work program will be presented at the February Joint Committee meeting, with final adoption expected at the March Board meeting.

VIII. Executive Director's Update

Commissioner Kenny asked David Behrend, NJTPA Executive Director, to give his report.

Mr. Behrend thanked everyone for traveling to Newark for the first in-person Joint Committee meeting since early 2020. As decided by committee members, he said the NJTPA is holding one in-person committee meeting this year, with the next meeting in December returning to virtual. Future meeting formats will be at the Committees' discretion. Mr. Behrend thanked the trustees, alternates, and RTAC members who attended last week's visioning workshop for *Connecting Communities*. He said the insights gathered, including on the challenges posed by New Jersey's home rule tradition, will be reflected in our public engagement and planning efforts. This includes continued support for municipalities through the Complete Streets Technical Assistance and Planning for Emerging Centers programs. He said to look for NJTPA at next month's League of Municipalities Conference, where staff will promote these resources.

He concluded by mentioning that discussions have started in Washington for the reauthorization of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (expiring September 2026). He encouraged members to advocate for sustained infrastructure investment in their conversations with Congress.

VIII. Written Information Items

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

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Performance Plan – Rick Cippoletti, Central Staff
- Draft Municipal and Traffic Analysis Zone Population and Employment Forecasts – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
- Congestion Management Process Update – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
- Update on Connecting Communities – Lois Goldman, Ted Ritter, Peter Zambito, Central Staff
- Regional Capital Investment Strategy Update – Keith Miller, Central Staff
- Local Safety Action Plan Update – Keith Hamas, Central Staff
- Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads Programs – Sascha Frimpong, Central Staff

IX. Other Items

There were no other items to discuss.

X. Next Meeting: December 16, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. (Virtual)

XI. Adjournment

At 11:38 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Warren County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
October 21, 2024**

Project Prioritization Committee Members	
Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Susan Soloway (Vice Chair)	Hunterdon County
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Megan Fackler	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT

Planning and Economic Development Committee Members	
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski (Vice Chair)	Union County
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
Sara Sooy	Somerset County
Dolores Martinez Wooden	City of Newark
Elias Guseman	Jersey City
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Megan Fackler	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Other Attendees	
Pip Decker	Current Trucking
Peg Hanna	NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Janice Marino-Doyle	NJDOT
Walter Lane	Somerset County
John Hayes	Morris County
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
David Dech	Warren County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Liza Betz	Union County