



Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)

David Antonio, Chair

Andras Holzmann, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2024

I. Roll call

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2024, meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by the City of Newark. There were no abstentions.

III. Presentation: Project Prioritization Scoring Process Update

John Witsch, Central Staff, introduced Michael Grant, Vice President, ICF, a member of the consultant team working to update the Project Prioritization Scoring Process. This process is used by NJTPA to evaluate proposed future investments systematically and objectively. Mr. Grant said that key elements of this project include integrating data-driven methods, improving user-friendliness, and ensuring compatibility with partner agency processes like that of the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), NJ TRANSIT, and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ).

The project consists of four tasks:

1. **Best Practices Review:** Analyze national metropolitan planning organization processes, interview partners, and draft initial recommendations for integration.
2. **Updated Criteria Development:** Define goal areas and criteria through stakeholder workshops, culminating in a consensus-based prioritization framework.
3. **Scoring Parameters:** Specify scoring criteria, data sources, and weights to develop a scoring platform.
4. **Finalization and Training:** Produce a web application, scoring guide, and conduct training sessions.

Mr. Grant said the process emphasizes emerging priorities like equity, resilience, carbon reduction, and safety while considering separate scoring for varied project types. Extensive

engagement activities, such as interactive workshops and public forums, are planned to refine the criteria and scoring framework, with key milestones extending through early 2026. The full presentation including detailed criteria and next steps can be found [here](#).

IV. Information Items

Transportation Management Association (TMA) Update

Dan Callas from Avenues in Motion updated the committee on TMA involvement in Local Safety Action Plans (LSAPs) throughout the state. He said, these plans identify and prioritize safety improvements to reduce fatal and severe injury crashes. The plans are required to access federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding. All counties in New Jersey either have an existing plan or are developing one with funding from the NJTPA or a federal grant. Mr. Callas noted that several municipalities and authorities have also received planning grants to develop plans.

The TMAs are among the stakeholders serving on local implementation committees, which will help enact plan recommendations. He said they have assisted with outreach, data collection and collaboration on walkability audits, speed studies, and safety campaigns.

Mr. Callas said examples include:

- Go Hunterdon: Provided crash data, supported committees in Raritan and collaborated with local police on bike and pedestrian safety.
- RideWise (Somerset County): Shared safety campaign results, walkability audits, and speed studies for corridor prioritization.
- Cross County Connection: Incorporated county/MPO safety recommendations into road safety audits and school travel plans.
- Keep Middlesex Moving: Aligned work with the county's Vision Zero plan, prioritized routes, and supported safety audits in identified locations.
- Greater Mercer TMA: Leads Mercer County's LSAP, including crash data analysis, high-injury network development, and Vision Zero committee facilitation.

Mr. Callas encouraged stakeholders to collaborate with their local TMA to support LSAP efforts.

FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Angellita Young, Central Staff, provided details on the development of the FY 2026 UPWP, which was submitted to NJDOT and shared with the subregions and other partners. She reminded the committee that comments are due January 10, so the document can be finalized and presented to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in February. The Board of Trustees will consider adoption in March.

Ms. Young said the four chapters include: Central Staff Activities, Regional Pass-Through Programs, TMA Program, and Other Regional Planning Initiatives. Central Staff activities are split into three categories: long-term core tasks, short-term tasks, and new activities. She then

highlighted some new tasks in each department which are included in the handout distributed prior to the meeting.

For answers to questions and further information, Ms. Young said RTAC members can contact Peter Zambito for the Subregional Transportation Planning Program, William Long for the Subregional Studies Program and Jasmine Lawrence for the TMA Program.

Roadway Functional Class Update

Keith Miller, Central Staff, said this information item is a follow-up to the email he sent on December 3. The Roadway Functional Classification, which is updated following the decennial Census, directly impacts highway design, federal funding eligibility, and criteria. NJDOT made several changes to the 2010 classification, including six updates in the NJTPA region (Hunterdon, Morris, Ocean, Union, and Somerset Counties), and the Geographical Information System (GIS) data layers. Further details are available in the email and can also be found here: [2020 Urban Areas | North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority \(NJTPA\) Open Data Portal Hub Site](#). The deadline for comments is December 15.

Mr. Miller requested that everyone submit one comment per roadway by providing their organization, name, and marking up the roadway on the map to justify comments. He asked that the comments include details on system continuity, roadway characteristics, and applicable FHWA criteria (refer to the 2023 FHWA manual) and attach all supporting documents (e.g., traffic studies, data).

Demographic and Employment Forecasts Update

Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff, provided an update on work with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and partner agencies, on the 2050 household and employment forecasts, which will be used for the Long Range Transportation Plan update and Air Quality Conformity Determination. Based on the review thus far, NJTPA staff were able to correct a minor calculation error that inadvertently constrained growth estimates for some Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs). Mr. McGuinness said that this affected a small number of municipalities. Central Staff will reach out to the affected subregions.

A web map is available to help visualize 2020 and 2050 data by municipality and TAZ. Recent outreach to subregions with significant changes has been conducted, but adjustments are unlikely to be needed. Next steps include distributing a final county draft with municipal numbers. Mr. McGuinness asked that any further feedback or suggested changes be submitted as soon as possible for discussion.

Climate Action Plan

Blythe Eaman, Central Staff, said work on the Climate Action Plan for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes New York City, the lower Hudson Valley, and Long Island, is nearing completion. A link to the draft was shared with RTAC members. Feedback is requested by December 16 and can be directed to Zenon Tech-Czarny (ztech-czarny@njtpa.org).

Ms. Eamon said that once the plan is finalized, it will be posted on the NJTPA Climate Action Plan [website](#), which already includes background information and a greenhouse gas inventory developed for this effort.

Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, asked for more time for review since he would need some of his colleagues to review the information as well. Ms. Eamon replied that the project is being coordinated by a consultant in NYC, and she would request more time at their next meeting and provide an update.

V. Written Information Items

The Chair read the titles of the five information items. There were no questions.

1. Local Safety Action Plan Development Update – Keith Hamas, Central Staff
2. *Connecting Communities: The NJTPA Long Range Transportation Plan* Update – Lois Goldman, Peter Zambito, Ted Ritter, Central Staff
3. Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment Update – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
4. Air Quality Conformity Determination Procedures – Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff
5. FY 2025 Vibrant Places Program – Blythe Eaman, Central Staff

VI. Review of Standing Committees Action Items

Planning and Economic Development Committee

1. Adoption of NJTPA-Specific Roadway Safety Performance Measure Targets for 2025

Mr. Miller said this is an annual process that started in 2017 with federal requirements for setting targets for five roadway performance measures. In 2022, NJTPA began setting targets specific to its region intended to make progress to reducing roadway injuries and fatalities to zero by 2050 which today's action continues. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 17 [here](#).]

Elias Guseman, Jersey City, asked if there would be any changes if targets were not met. Mr. Miller said yes, there would potentially be a reduction in the flexibility of the program. The Highway Safety Improvement Program funds that the NJDOT receives would not be transferable to other types of projects if the targets are not met.

2. Support for Adjusted Pavement and Bridge Performance Measure Targets Set by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Mr. Miller said the NJTPA supported NJDOT's original 2 and 4-year targets for six national pavement and bridge performance measures covering 2022–2025. NJDOT submitted its mid-performance progress report to the FHWA on October 1 and adjusted the 4-year targets for all six measures based on the updated data and projections. Through this action, the NJTPA adopts those targets. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 26 [here](#).]

Project Prioritization Committee Action Items

1. Minor Amendment to the FY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Align and Increase Federal Funds to the CR 508 (Bridge Street) Bridge over Passaic River Project in Essex and Hudson Counties

John Witsch, Central Staff, said this request reprograms \$7 million of funds for final design from FY 2024 to FY 2025 and increases the funding amount by \$15.2 million. This request also advances \$100,000 in funding for right-of-way acquisition from FY 2026 to FY 2025 and adds another \$6.4 million for that phase of work. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 31 [here](#)].

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to add the Route 7, Kearny, Drainage Improvements Project in Hudson County

Mr. Witsch said the project will be programmed with \$26 million in USDOT Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program funds, and \$7 million in state funds for construction in FY 2025. The funds were initially included in the FY 2022 TIP but the INFRA funds are just now available for obligation and must be reprogrammed in the current TIP to secure regular federal authorization. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 38 [here](#).]

3. Modification to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Other Rail Station/Terminal Improvements Program as Requested by NJ TRANSIT

Mr. Witsch said this request adds \$13.2 million dollars to the program in FY 2025. This increase is necessary to support the design and construction of a Long Branch station pedestrian tunnel project in Monmouth County. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 42 [here](#).]

4. Modifications to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funds to Two Projects in Bergen County

Mr. Witsch said this action modifies the TIP to add \$6.54 million in FY 2025 for right of way and utility relocation on the Route 4, Grand Avenue Bridge project; and \$8.9 in FY 2025 for construction of the Route 4, Hackensack River Bridge project. [A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 46 [here](#).]

VII. Other Items for Discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

VIII. Next Meeting: February 10, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

X. Adjournment

Somerset County made a motion to adjourn, Passaic County seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:39.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Attendance

December 9, 2024

Voting Members	
David Antonio (Chair)	Essex County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Elias Guseman	City of Jersey City
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Ricardo Matias	Union County
David Dech	Warren County
Farzana Ahmed	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative
Other Attendees	
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Sean Areia	Ocean County
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Sam Bowden Akbari	
Dan Callas	Avenues in Motion
Nathan Chadwick	NJ TRANSIT
Luis Delgado	Hudson County
Jonathan Eagle	Somerset County
Leah Emmerich	Monmouth County
Victor Furmanec	
Michael Grant	ICF
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Raymond Tomczak	FTA
Noah Levine	ICF
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Rosemary Nivar	
Gregory Smith	
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Jim Vari	NJ TRANSIT

Bettina Zimny	NV5
David Schmetterer	Monmouth County
Jason Pene	Monmouth County
Michael Nei	Monmouth County
Kevin Force	Hudson County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Brian Tobin	Keep Middlesex Moving