



## **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 October 20, 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. Eleven members of the PPC and 10 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present (Attachment 1).

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

Union County moved the minutes of the August 18, 2025 joint committee meeting, Monmouth County seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

David Antonio, RTAC Chair, reported on the October 14 meeting. The meeting featured a presentation from Eugene McGuinness of Central Staff and Sunil Dhuri, a consultant with ICF, on the Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment, which updated the NJTPA's Congestion Management Process. The study looked at the region's travel patterns, identified needs and developed strategies to address them. This project informed *Connecting Communities: The NJTPA Long Range Transportation Plan*. The presentation included a demonstration of the online StoryMap developed to highlight the various needs and strategies the project identified. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

#### **IV. Presentation: Complete Streets Technical Assistance Update**

Central Staff member Peter Bilton provided an update on the NJTPA's Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program, which helps municipalities develop Complete Streets solutions by offering knowledge, skills and resources. The program is administered by the NJTPA in

partnership with Sustainable Jersey and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University. It enables municipalities to benefit from federal funds for local planning without any grant management responsibilities.

Past projects have included community walk audits to identify potential improvements, bicycle network concepts and workshops that have supported the creation of municipal Complete Streets policies. Round 4 recently concluded, featuring four walkable community workshops and one neighborhood safety plan. Final reports are available on the NJTPA Complete Streets [webpage](#).

The latest solicitation opened September 29, with applications due November 7. Projects will take place in Spring and Summer 2026. Application materials and guidelines are available through the online portal.

The program is open only to municipalities, focusing primarily on local roads. County roads may be included if the county provides an email or letter of support with the application.

Mr. Bilton thanked RTAC members and county staff for their continued input and assistance in promoting the program. He encouraged members to share the opportunity with municipalities that could benefit.

Commissioner Kenny noted that the program will be featured at the NJTPA booth during the League of Municipalities convention.

The complete meeting recording can be found [here](#), and the presentation can be found [here](#).

## **V. Action Items**

### **Project Prioritization Committee**

Commissioner Kenny called on Mark Serrano, Central Staff, to present the action item.

#### **1. Approval of the FY 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Projects.**

Mr. Serrano presented an update on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program, which provides federal funding for community-based, non-traditional projects that enhance the cultural and environmental aspects of the nation's intermodal transportation system.

In December 2024, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) issued a solicitation inviting eligible applicants to apply. The NJTPA region had 45 applications, of which 36 met eligibility requirements.

Applications were reviewed by a technical committee consisting of NJTPA Central Staff and representatives from NJDOT's Division of Local Aid, Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety and Bureau of Environmental Program Resources.

Mr. Serrano reported that NJDOT approved funding for 29 projects, totaling \$29.3 million. All selected projects align with TASA program goals, and Central Staff recommended approval of this action.

During the discussion, Trevor Howard from the City of Newark asked about common reasons for ineligibility. Mr. Serrano explained that applicants must meet six eligibility criteria outlined in the program handbook.

Sascha Frimpong from Central Staff added that examples include missing maintenance agreements with local governments or incomplete documentation. Even project sponsors who attend pre-application meetings must still submit all required materials.

A list of approved projects was included in the meeting agenda package.

[A summary of the action items is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 14 [here.](#)]

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

### **Planning and Economic Development Committee**

The PEDC had one action item on the agenda. Commissioner Kenny called on Keith Miller to present the item.

#### **1. Endorsement of NJDOT Updated Roadway Functional Classification System**

Mr. Miller explained that the Roadway Functional Classification System groups roads by the type of service they provide. Following each decennial census, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires states, MPOs and counties to update their urban area boundaries and corresponding functional classifications.

Mr. Miller noted that the urban area boundaries were adopted several years ago, and the current update to functional classifications is now underway. NJTPA has been working with NJDOT and RTAC members to review and respond to comments on the proposed classifications. The action item included a map showing the final draft functional classifications within the NJTPA region. The next step is for MPO Boards to endorse the final classifications before NJDOT submits them to the FHWA.

Mr. Miller thanked Sushant Darjee from NJDOT and Kevin McElwain of Michael Baker International for attending the meeting and answering questions.

During the discussion, Joseph Baladi of Bergen County asked whether the county's recent request to change the functional classification of Route 17 between Route 4 and Essex Street from "arterial freeway" to "arterial other" had been included. Mr. Miller confirmed that the request was incorporated into the map distributed with the agenda package and said NJDOT would follow up directly with Mr. Baladi.

[A summary of the action items is included in the agenda package for the Joint Committee meeting on page 20 [here.](#)]

Union County moved the item, Morris County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

### **VI. Information Items**

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

### **FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program**

Angellita Young reported that committee members received a handout in the meeting agenda package providing an overview of the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) development process, schedule, organizational structure and activities. The handout also summarized current FY 2026 activities, proposed FY 2027 activities, NJDOT planning priorities, NJTPA planning goals, and federal planning factors.

Ms. Young noted that the FY 2027 UPWP development process and structure are consistent with previous years. She encouraged members to review the handout and visit NJTPA's UPWP website for more information on the current FY 2026 program. New participants were invited to schedule a separate meeting with her to discuss the process.

Chapter 1: Outlines NJTPA Central Staff activities organized by eight key departments and divisions, beginning with the UPWP. NJDOT requests that MPOs prioritize coordination, safety, congestion mitigation, air quality, freight, emerging technologies, intelligent transportation systems, active transportation, and community engagement. Planning goals, reflecting the Long-Range Transportation Plan *Connecting Communities* adopted in September, were also included in the handout.

Chapter 2: Covers the Subregional Transportation and Subregional Studies Program.

Chapter 3: Details the Transportation Management Association (TMA) Program, with solicitations for FY 2027 currently underway.

For the Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) Program, Central Staff propose new FY 2027 activities, including implementing *Connecting Communities* and requiring subregions to support the zoning atlas. Updated requirements include a plenary discussion on software purchases to help subregions fully utilize NJTPA resources.

Full proposals for the Subregional Studies Program (SSP) were received in August, and the selection committee completed applicant interviews and a final meeting on September 29. The SSP is a two-year effort, with two studies from the prior cycle continuing into FY 2027. Two new studies, for Hudson and Monmouth counties, are under consideration for FY 2027–2028 and will be included in the draft FY 2027 UPWP.

The core TMA Program remains unchanged, though certain activities have been updated to incorporate recommendations from *Connecting Communities*, the Congestion Management Process, Local Safety Action Plans and ongoing TMA initiatives.

For more information on pass-through programs, members may contact Frank Tolbert (STP Program), William Long (SSP), or Jasmine Lawrence (TMA Program).

Ms. Young asked for any members with suggestions for the FY 2027 UPWP to contact her by October 28. The initial draft will be circulated for formal review in early December, with presentations at the December RTAC and joint committee meetings. Comments on the draft are

due by January 9, 2026, ahead of final review during the February 2026 joint committee meetings and anticipated adoption at the March 9 Board meeting. The presentation can be found [here](#).

### **Route 1 Northbound Bridge over Raritan River Financial Plan**

Vanessa Koenigkramer explained that federal regulations require that financial plans be prepared for projects costing between \$100 million and \$500 million. These plans must be completed before the first construction authorization, and annual updates are required until completion.

The Route 1 Northbound Bridge over the Raritan River project meets these criteria. NJDOT prepared the initial financial plan, which was reviewed by Central Staff for compliance and consistency with the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This plan establishes the baseline cost and schedule for future updates.

The Route 1 Northbound Bridge, also known as the Morrison Goodkind Bridge, lies on the border of New Brunswick and Edison. The project aims to rehabilitate the bridge by addressing structural deficiencies and extending its service life. Work includes reconstruction of the superstructure, deck, railings, and balustrades, along with widening the bridge deck on the rehabilitated substructure.

Ms. Koenigkramer noted that the project is in the final design phase, with \$9.4 million spent to date, representing about 7 percent of the total estimated cost of \$161 million. This figure includes projected escalation and contingencies for design and construction. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2026 and conclude in summer 2030.

She added that the project is exempt from air quality conformity, and the TIP remains fully programmed with no revisions needed to the adopted 2026 amount.

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

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

1. Zoning Atlas Update – Richard Cippoletti, Central Staff
2. Congestion Management Process: Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment Products – Eugene McGuinness, Central Staff
3. PRIME Users Group – Jeffrey Vernick, Central Staff
4. NJTPA Prototype Bicycle Travel Demand Model – Brian Fineman and Hella Alnajjar, Central Staff

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

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend said that the ultimate fate of the Hudson River Tunnel Project under construction by the Gateway Development Corporation is currently unknown. He said that if anything official is reported from the United States Department of Transportation, he

will make everyone aware. FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration remain open and working during the shutdown, as they are funded through the Highway Trust Fund rather than appropriations. Funds for NJTPA operations are not currently in jeopardy.

Mr. Behrend said that he recently spoke with FHWA's New Jersey Division Office and was informed that there are no competitive grants in our region that have been canceled by the current administration. He said he hopes it remains this way.

He said the NJTPA will continue to work with the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of regional Councils to provide Congress with information on effective federal transportation policies and investments as requested. Any additional information will be shared on an ongoing basis.

#### **IX. Other Items**

Commissioner Kenny reminded attendees that the Freight Initiatives Committee meeting would be held today in the afternoon.

There were no other items to discuss.

#### **X. Next Meeting**

December 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. (Virtual)

#### **XI. Adjournment**

At 11:16 a.m., Morris County made a motion to adjourn, City of Newark seconded, and it carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ATTENDANCE  
October 20, 2025**

<b>Project Prioritization Committee Members</b>	
Joseph Baladi	Bergen County
Hon. Susan Soloway	Hunterdon County
Mark Kataryniak	Hudson County
Hon. Charles Kenny, Chair	Middlesex County
Michael Nei	Monmouth County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Hon. Jack DeGroot	Sussex County
Suzanne Tomlinson	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Hon. Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
Charles Burton	Citizens Representative
<b>Planning and Economic Development Committee Members</b>	
David Antonio	Essex County
Hon. Jason Sarnoski, Chair	Warren County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski, Vice Chair	Union County
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
Dolores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Elias Guseman	City of Jersey City
Suzanne Tomlinson	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Charles Burton	Citizens Representative
<b>Other Attendees</b>	
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Antonio Scanziani	
Katherine Fullerton Alan Hunt Bob Hornby Brendan Lamb	Hunterdon County
Denise Nickel Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Samantha De Andrea	Somerset County
Kevin Stephens John Hayes	Morris County

Mike Dannemiller	NJ TRANSIT
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Shushant Darji	NJDOT
Sydney Chan	
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County