



Event Summary “Take a Hike! (Or Bike) A Subregional Study in Hunterdon County”

Location: High Bridge, NJ

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm



About UpNext North Jersey

UpNext North Jersey (UpNext) is an emerging leaders' group that engages young North Jersey residents in a dialogue with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The NJTPA seeks to better understand the values and needs of this demographic group regarding key transportation issues. The NJTPA provides UpNext members with unique opportunities to learn about and discuss timely topics related to regional planning and public policy, develop a network of peers who share similar interests, and engage with regional thought leaders and decision-makers.

The Public Outreach and Engagement Team, part of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (POET), worked with the NJTPA to plan and conduct this event in the Borough of High Bridge, focused on supporting the Hunterdon County Bicycle Plan.

Overview of the Take a Hike! (Or Bike) Event

UpNext members participated in a walking audit of key locations in High Bridge, a municipality in the NJTPA's Hunterdon County subregion. UpNext members met with borough and county officials; local residents also attended this event. Utilizing a walk audit worksheet and map developed by POET, participants helped identify potential

biking and walking improvements, opportunities for connectivity, and safety issues. The walk audit began at the High Bridge Train Station's parking lot and ended at High Bridge Middle School. The walk audit covered the historic downtown, which includes churches, local businesses, two locations slated for redevelopment, as well as a portion of the 17-mile Columbia Trail, a major draw for biking and walking. After the walk audit, participants continued their discussion of sidewalk and road conditions at Borough Hall. Participants returned their completed worksheets to POET staff, and a summary will be provided to Hunterdon County's transportation planning staff.



Planning and Promotion

Leading up to the event, POET and NJTPA staff met with Hunterdon County transportation planning staff and High Bridge stakeholders to discuss and plan the walk audit, sites to include, and discussion themes. POET then distributed a save-the-date graphic and RSVP via email, social media, and WhatsApp to UpNext members and High Bridge residents.

Agenda

10:00 to 10:15 am – Introductions: NJTPA and POET staff welcome participants. The group introduced themselves and received instructions for the walk audit worksheet.

10:16 to 11:15 am – Walk Audit: Participants walked to select sites throughout High Bridge. At each site, participants discussed observations on the conditions of sidewalks, roads, trails, and public transit.

11:16 to 12:00 pm – Borough Hall: Participants met at High Bridge Borough Hall to discuss overall findings from the walk audit and cycling.

Attendance

Fifteen people attended this event, including two UpNext members representing the group.

Feedback

Participants had several questions about the goals of the walk audit and how different levels of local government collaborate to address transportation needs. High Bridge was recently designated as a Transit Village by NJDOT, and residents had questions about how the



designation may affect development and transit service in High Bridge. In discussions about the sites visited during the walk audit, connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists emerged as a key issue. Many residents agreed that connectivity between High Bridge and neighboring municipalities up to three miles away is missing. Other themes that emerged included ADA improvements and connectivity within the Borough to community assets like the Columbia Trail. A detailed summary of the feedback was shared with stakeholders and audit participants.