



Charles Kenny, Chair
Jason J. Sarnoski, First Vice Chair
David W. Behrend, Executive Director

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski – Chair
Commissioner John W. Bartlett – Vice Chair

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Michèle Delisfort – Chair
Commissioner Jack DeGroot – Vice Chair

Joint Meeting Minutes April 20, 2026

I. Roll Call of Members

Warren County Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski, Chair of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC), called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, called the roll, and 13 PPC members and 12 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present (Attachment 1).

II. Approval of Minutes

Hunterdon County moved the minutes of the February 17, 2026, joint committee meeting, Sussex County seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

Andras Holzmann, RTAC Chair, reported on the April 13 meeting which featured a presentation from Tiffany Robinson from the [New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition](#). Ms. Robinson presented the North Jersey Trails Network Initiative with a progress overview since their launch date last year. She also shared their vision for a connected trail network across six counties. Ms. Robinson encouraged members to use the mapping app to help spot any missing projects or potential spots for quick-build demonstrations and invited everyone to join the implementation working group in discussions with municipalities as planning moves forward. The meeting presentation can be found [here](#).

Six information items included an update on the Transportation Management Association (TMA) program from Greater Mercer TMA; projects related to clean air measures; and the solicitation for the FY 2028-2029 Subregional Studies Program. Mr. Holzmann said the committee also heard about competitive grants for Monmouth, Ocean, and Hudson counties; a financial plan update for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project; and federal funding opportunities

through the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program. Four additional written items included input for the Climate Action Plan; the *From Streets to Stadiums* placemaking guidebook; coordination on Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) performance targets, and the Resilience Hub's Community Roadmap. The committee also reviewed a Project Prioritization Committee action item included in today's agenda.

IV. Presentation: *From Streets to Stadiums*

Jasmine Lawrence, Central Staff, shared information about the World Cup, and the new guidebook, *From Streets to Stadiums*, to help encourage communities throughout New Jersey to celebrate the World Cup Soccer Tournament. She said the World Cup presents a major opportunity to boost the social and economic energy of New Jersey towns, bringing visitors from around the world to the region. She emphasized the importance of public spaces, such as parks, cafés, and soccer fields, in supporting social, mental, and physical wellbeing.

Ms. Lawrence noted that eight matches will take place in the NJTPA region and six in Philadelphia, and that communities planning celebrations should consider weekday versus weekend scheduling. Two official Fan Fests, the American Dream Fan Fest and the Jersey Fan Hub in Harrison, will run from June 11 to July 19. Four teams will also have base camps in the state, including three in the NJTPA region. In addition, "Goya Flag Cities," including Jersey City, Bergen County, Secaucus, Newark, and Rutherford, will host festivals leading up to matches.

She said NJTPA's placemaking approach focuses on activating public spaces to support economic activity and encouraged communities to plan events that fit local capacity, such as youth tournaments or watch parties. Where larger events are not feasible, smaller efforts like murals or themed curb extensions can be used, and a range of spaces, including streets, parking lots, and small parks, can be activated. The *From Streets to Stadiums* guide and "Kit of Parts" offer tools to inspire community celebrations. She emphasized coordinating with local public works departments, police, and others for permitting and noted that businesses have until May 15 to participate in the New York New Jersey "Welcome World Rewards Program."

In conclusion, Ms. Lawrence said the NJTPA demonstration library is available to help with temporary street designs, traffic calming, or parklets. Communities and groups interested in brainstorming soccer-themed placemaking or demonstration projects, can reach out to demonstration@njtpa.org.

The full meeting recording can be found [here](#). The presentation can be found [here](#).

V. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

Commissioner Sarnoski called on Vanessa Koenigkramer, Central Staff, to present the PPC action item.

1. Minor Amendments to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation

- Guiderail Upgrade Program, Statewide
- Pavement Preservation Program, Statewide
- Pavement Preservation NJTPA Program

Ms. Koenigkramer said this action is to approve a Minor Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as requested by the NJDOT as follows:

Guiderail Upgrade Program, Statewide — This request is to remove \$35 million of National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds for Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction in 2026. This decrease supports the remaining 2026 Pavement Preservation authorizations for the statewide pavement preservation increases detailed in the summary of action attachment.

Pavement Preservation Program, Statewide — This request is to add \$37.7 million of NHPP funds for Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction in 2026 to the Pavement Preservation Program. This increase is to support statewide FFY 2026 Pavement Preservation authorizations including a project on Route 1 in Middlesex County.

Pavement Preservation NJTPA Program — This request is to add \$42.3 million of NHPP funds for Engineering, Right of Way, and Construction in 2026 to the NJTPA Pavement Preservation Program line. This increase is to support remaining 2026 Pavement Preservation authorizations in the region along various routes in Morris, Middlesex, Monmouth, Warren, Hudson, Somerset, and Hudson counties as shown in the attachments.

A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package on page 15 [here](#).

Monmouth County moved the item, the Governor’s Authorities Unit seconded, and it carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Union County Commissioner Michèle Delisfort, PEDC Chair, asked Ms. Koenigkramer to present the information items.

1. Competitive Grants Update

- Kings Highway Pedestrian Safety Improvements, Middletown Township
- Route 72 Transportation & Safety Connector Project, Stafford Township
- County Road 653/County Ave Improvements, Hudson County

Ms. Koenigkramer said under the revised TIP and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) MOU adopted at the March 9 Board meeting, competitive or congressionally directed spending or DEMO grants already included in a TIP/STIP appendix can be processed as informational modifications. The following three projects, which are included in Appendix J of NJTPA’s 2026 TIP is available on the [NJTPA website](#), are being programmed in the TIP:

Kings Highway Pedestrian Safety Improvements—This project, led by Middletown Township, involves resurfacing pavement on Kings Highway from Route 35 to New Monmouth Road and sidewalk, ADA, and lighting improvements from Conover Avenue to New Monmouth Road.

This project will be programmed with \$997,500 of DEMO funds for Construction in 2026 from a Congressionally Directed Spending grant administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Design and remaining Construction costs will be addressed with non-federal funds.

Route 72 Transportation & Safety Connector Project — This project led by Stafford Township, involves constructing an exit from Route 72 Westbound onto Barnacle Drive to eliminate left turn movement from Route 72 Eastbound onto Barnacle Drive as well as turning movements from Barnacle Drive into Route 72. The Route 9 Corridor of Oak Avenue, North Lakeshore Drive, Oxycocus Road, Silo Road and Sugar Hill Road includes a mill and overlay and ADA sidewalks and ramps. This project will be programmed with \$2 million of DEMO funds for Construction in 2026 from a Congressionally Directed Spending grant administered by FHWA. Design and any remaining Construction costs will be funded with non-federal funds.

County Road 653/County Ave Improvements — This project, led by Hudson County, includes milling and repaving, upgrading existing guide rails, end treatments, rub rails, and drainage work on County Avenue. This project will be programmed with \$315,350 of DEMO funds for design in 2026 and \$1.4 million of DEMO funds for Construction in 2027 from a Congressionally Directed Spending grant administered by FHWA. Any remaining Construction costs will be funded with county or nonfederal funds.

2. Financial Plan Update: Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges

Ms. Koenigkramer said NJDOT has revised its financial plan for the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project, which was first prepared in 2012 and is updated annually. The updated plan was shared with Central Staff for its review.

This project constructs a new parallel structure adjacent to the existing Manahawkin Bay Bridge, rehabilitates the existing Bay Bridge and three trestle bridges over Hilliards Thorofare and the East and West Thorofares, in Stafford Township and Ship Bottom Borough, Ocean County. The preliminary design was completed as a single project, with subsequent work being advanced as six construction contracts, with two contracts completed. The remaining Contract (5A) includes the implementation of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) mitigation requirements in the Manahawkin Bay to comply with environmental permit restrictions. This work began in February 2016, is 98 percent completed, and expected to be finished this spring. The remaining work for Contract 1 involves Marsha Drive intersection improvements and operational and safety improvements. Construction began in February 2021, is 75 percent completed, and expected to be finished late this spring.

This financial plan update reflects a total project cost of over \$391.2 million, an increase of \$1.7 million from the previous plan. Funding increases are due to Contract 1 change orders, including work to address alignment of utility poles and drainage systems to avoid conflicts with underground utilities.

Previous TIP funding was planned and authorized to cover the current costs of the project. There are no funds planned for the 2026 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.

VII. Written Items

Commissioner Delisfort read the written items submitted by Central Staff and asked for questions from the committee members and participants. There were no questions.

1. Transportation Clean Air Measures Solicitation – Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff
2. Coordination on CMAQ Performance Measure Target Setting for NY/NJ Urbanized Area – Keith Miller, Central Staff
3. Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Opportunity – Lois Goldman, Central Staff

VIII. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Behrend said that last week's NJ TransAction conference was a great success for the NJTPA and shared his appreciation for the staff members who participated in panels and managed the exhibit booth. He extended a special thank you to Commissioners Kenny, Arnone, and Delisfort for moderating sessions on topics such as public engagement, modern roundabouts, and technical assistance programs. He also extended a special thank you to Central Staff member Ted Ritter in recognition of his long-standing work on the conference committee and for ensuring the NJTPA was well-represented throughout the event.

Regarding federal transportation reauthorization, Mr. Behrend said Congressman Sam Graves, Chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, announced that the committee plans to begin the markup of the draft bill on April 29. This is an aggressive schedule, and it appears the Congressman hopes to make this his signature legislation before he leaves office.

Key points in the anticipated draft included total funding between \$500 billion and \$550 billion over five years, which is roughly equal to or slightly lower than current levels. The bill is expected to emphasize traditional road and bridge projects and will still include the mass transit account. In addition, a federal fee on electric vehicle (EV) registrations is being considered as a new revenue source as there is currently no federal mechanism to collect funds from EVs like the gasoline tax does for other vehicles.

He said although there is a push to move forward, it is unclear if the bill will make it out of committee before the midterm elections, especially with the current law expiring on September 30. Historically, a reauthorization bill has never passed on time without needing a continuing resolution to keep funding moving, and a similar delay is expected this year. In conclusion, Mr. Behrend said the situation will continue to be monitored through partners at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of Regional Councils, and he will share further updates as things develop.

IX. Other Items

Farzana Ahmed from the New Jersey Department of Transportation updated the committees on the status of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She said the FY2027 UPWP was submitted to FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration for approval on April 2. The

approval process usually takes 45 days, and she will update everyone when the final approval letter is received.

Commissioner Delisfort reminded attendees that the Freight Initiatives Committee meeting will be held in the afternoon and thanked everyone for their participation.

There were no other items to discuss.

X. Next Meeting

June 15, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (Virtual)

XI. Adjournment

At 11:08 a.m., Morris County made a motion to adjourn, Hunterdon County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
April 20, 2026**

Project Prioritization Committee Members

Hon. Jason J. Sarnoski, Chair	Warren County
Anthony Iacono	Bergen County
Mark Kataryniak	Hudson County
Hon. Susan Soloway	Hunterdon County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Michael Nei	Monmouth County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Mike Manzella	NJDOT
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Blair Gerold	Governor's Authorities Unit
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Charles Burton	Citizens Representative

Planning and Economic Development Committee Members

Hon. Michèle Delisfort, Chair	Union County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
David Antonio	Essex County
Charles Burton	Citizens Representative
Blair Gerold	Governor's Authorities Unit
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
Elias Guseman	City of Jersey City
James D. Adams	City of Newark
Mike Manzella	NJDOT
Megan Massey	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	Port Authority of NY & NJ

Other Attendees

Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Trevor Howard	City of Newark

Alan Hunt Bob Hornby Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Peter Kortright	Bergen County
Andy Kaplan	Jersey City
Evan Hanson	
Kamal Saleh	Union County
John Hayes	Morris County
Mark Solof	
Victor Furmanec	
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Meghna Hari	Middlesex County
Farzana Ahmed	NJDOT
Nathan Chadwick	
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Ken Wedeen Samantha DeAndrea	Somerset County
Bob Wekmeister	
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Vin Palmieri	