



Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2026

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

Chairman Charles Kenny, Middlesex County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, reported that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975. Adequate notice of the meeting was also forwarded to the *Star Ledger*, the *Asbury Park Press*, the *Courier News*, the *Home News Tribune*, the *New Jersey Herald*, and *The Daily Record*. It was also posted at the Essex County Hall of Records in Newark.

B. Salute to the Flag

The Chairman led the room in a salute to the flag.

C. Roll Call

Ms. Truvillion called the roll, and 19 voting members were in attendance. (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

Morris County made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 meeting; Warren County seconded and the motion carried with one abstention from Jersey City.

E. Chair Remarks

Chairman Kenny welcomed Jim Kirkos, President and CEO of the Meadowlands Chamber, the featured presenter. He said while the last Board meeting focused on transportation surrounding the upcoming FIFA World Cup, this meeting will highlight the fan celebrations planned around the region, including the Flag Cities events Mr. Kirkos is working on. He added that anyone who missed the presentation at our Joint Committee meeting last month could review NJTPA's [*From Streets to Stadiums*](#) placemaking guide. He said this is a great resource for communities interested in putting on their own World Cup celebrations.

Chairman Kenny said Union County Commissioner Michèle Delisfort, Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, would talk about the guide more in her report, and it has some inspiring ideas for staging an event or crafting a soccer-themed demonstration project, along with a list of materials and instructions for their use. The guide and information about the NJTPA's Demonstration Library are available at njtpa.org. Central Staff also recently published articles on placemaking and the World Cup the topic in *InTransition*, our transportation-themed online magazine.

One last note on the World Cup – Central Staff recently shared some resources from NJDOT with the subregions and municipalities in our region to help get the word out about reducing non-essential travel on match days. To help reduce congestion as much as possible and avoid getting stuck in traffic, residents are strongly encouraged to: skip non-essential travel on match days, plan alternate routes for commutes, avoid driving near stadiums

where matches are happening between five hours before and five hours after kickoff; try to carpool when possible and check for travel alerts at 511nj.org

Due to festivities being planned in and around Newark, Chairman Kenny said the NJTPA will relocate our July Board meeting to Middlesex College in Edison, New Jersey.

In conclusion, he also shared another resource that the NJTPA has developed, aimed to help communities prepare for extreme weather events. [*Resilience Hubs - A Community Roadmap*](#), is a guidebook and toolkit that offers steps for planning and implementing a resilience hub. A resilience hub is a multi-functional place that provides crucial community support before, during, and after extreme weather events. These facilities can provide shelter for residents evacuating a flood zone or relief from extreme cold or hot temperatures.

The NJTPA and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection held a webinar on Resilience Hubs May 5.

Following his remarks, Commissioner Kenny asked the agencies if they had anything to report. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) thanked the NJTPA for helping distribute the information about reducing non-essential travel during match days. The Port Authority noted that the Newark Regional Business Partnership, at its annual spring leadership awards breakfast, honored former NJTPA Executive Director Mary K. Murphy, who recently retired from the Port Authority, and Lou Milan, who recently retired from NJ TRANSIT and had served as an NJTPA Board alternate.

F. Executive Director's Report

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend also welcomed Mr. Kirkos to the meeting. He said he was happy to report on our NJTPA'S recent participation in the 50th Annual New Jersey TransAction Conference in Atlantic City. He said the event has grown significantly, bringing together nearly 1,500 people this year. It served as a fantastic venue for us to staff a booth and showcase the work of the NJTPA and its subregions. NJTPA staff organized seven sessions, and he thanked Commissioners Kenny, Delisfort, and Monmouth County Commissioner Thomas Arnone for moderating.

He said Commissioner Kenny's session on public engagement featured NJTPA's mascot, Sammy the Squirrel, and highlighted successful outreach for studies in Middlesex, Jersey City, Hudson, and Essex counties. Commissioner Delisfort led a discussion on municipal programs where Belmar shared how they leveraged our technical assistance to secure a \$1.1 million grant for 8th Avenue improvements, with construction set for 2027. Mr. Behrend also noted that Verona is moving to the bidding phase of a project that also started with the NJTPA's Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program.

Commissioner Arnone moderated a session on modern roundabouts, which are smaller and safer than traditional traffic circles. There has been recent success with these in Monmouth County and Newark, with another currently under construction in Livingston in Essex County. Mr. Behrend said he also participated in an MPO executive director roundtable, and staff presented on the Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge, the Morris Canal Greenway, and travel demand modeling.

He said the NJTPA also had a booth at the New Jersey Association of Counties conference May 6-8. He noted that several Board members were in attendance including Warren County Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski, Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Hunterdon County Commissioner Susan Soloway, Somerset County Commissioner Sara Sooy and Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III.

Regarding federal funding, the House Transportation Committee missed its April 29 target for a reauthorization markup as lawmakers work toward a consensus on funding levels. With the introduction delayed, though a full reauthorization by the September 30 deadline seems unlikely.

Finally, The NJTPA's [Street-Smart New Jersey](#) pedestrian safety program reached a major milestone by exceeding 300 partners. Since 2013, the campaign has expanded statewide and updated its messaging to include the Safe Passing Law. Interested communities can visit [BeStreetSmartNJ.org](#) to learn more.

G. Presentation: Flag Cities 2026 – Jim Kirkos, President and CEO, Meadowlands Chamber

Mr. Kirkos said the Meadowlands Chamber realized after the 2014 Super Bowl at Met Life Stadium that it missed an opportunity to capitalize on the event. As a result, when the Chamber learned that FIFA could be coming to the Meadowlands three years ago, it began planning for ways to engage businesses, residents and visitors to boost the local economy.

The Chamber partnered with Goya, and later Hackensack Meridian Health, to plan five fan festivals, called Flag Cities, to celebrate the flags of the countries participating in matches. Thanks to a grant from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority's NJ World Cup Community Initiative, they are now planning seven, and possibly an eighth Flag Cities festival. The initial five events have been announced, and Mr. Kirkos said the additional events being added with the state funding are being finalized. The initial events will air the following matches:

- June 12 at Columbus Avenue in Jersey City: USA vs Paraguay
- June 14 at Overpeck Park in Bergen County: Germany vs. Curacao and Netherlands vs. Japan
- June 21 at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus: Spain vs. Saudi Arabia and Belgium vs. Iran
- June 24 at Mulberry Plaza in Newark: Scotland vs. Brazil and Morocco vs. Haiti
- June 26 at Riggin Memorial Field in East Rutherford: Uruguay vs. Spain and Cape Verde vs. Saudi Arabia

The other events will be held in Bayonne and Paterson and possibly Hackensack.

When asked about attendance fees, Mr. Kirkos said tickets would be \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, except for Jersey City, which would be free thanks to event sponsors.

Mr. Kirkos noted that in addition to Flag Cities, NJPAC is hosting the North to Shore Festival with funding from the state and there are several "community experiences" planned, which are smaller events that also received state grants.

Moving on, Mr. Kirkos detailed the Chamber's market demand, financial and economic analysis for a convention and multi-use center in the Meadowlands Complex, which would replace the former arena. The Chamber received \$2.5 million from the state for an initial analysis and additional work on the plans, which call for a 460,000 square foot convention center, a connected hotel with 1,000 rooms, and the possibility of two additional hotels, one with 700 rooms and another with 500. The market analysis estimates the facility could generate \$30.4 billion in revenue over 30 years.

When asked about cost, Mr. Kirkos said the state would have to bond \$1 to \$2 billion for the project and the Chamber is conducting an analysis to identify revenue streams that could be used to repay that funding. Asked about when the project could be implemented, he said if the state were to sign off on it this year, work could

begin in 2027 and be completed in 2030. He was also asked if there were concerns about a new convention center taking business away from Atlantic City. Mr. Kirkos said the Meadowlands would be in competition with facilities in New York and should not take revenue away from Atlantic City. The presentation can be found [here](#).

H. Committee Reports/Action Items

• Project Prioritization Committee

Commissioner Sarnoski, Committee Chair, gave the report and recommended the approval of action item before the Board. The action item is minor amendments to the Fiscal Year 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), requested by NJDOT. This involves reallocating \$35 million in federal funds away from the Statewide Guided Rail Upgrade Program to cover pavement projects in 2026. The action adds \$37.7 million to the statewide Pavement Preservation Program for work including a Route 1 project in Middlesex County, plus another \$42.3 million for the NJTPA Pavement Preservation Program to support various routes across Warren, Somerset, Morris, Monmouth, Middlesex, Hudson, and Hunterdon counties.

The committee also reviewed several information items, starting with three projects receiving congressionally designated funding that are being added to the TIP. These include pedestrian safety improvements on Kings Highway in Monmouth County, the Route 72 Transportation and Safety Connector in Ocean County, and improvements to County Road 653/County Avenue in Hudson County. Central staff provided a financial update on the Route 72 Manahawkin Bay Bridges project in Ocean County. While the cost is rising by \$1.7 million to handle utility pole and drainage alignment issues, there is enough funding available to cover the cost. No Board action is required for this update, and the project is expected to wrap up late this spring.

Action Item 1: Minor Amendments to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (Attachment H.1) [Details here on page 16](#).

New Jersey Department of Transportation moved the item, Hudson County seconded, and it passed unanimously.

• Planning and Economic Development Committee

Commissioner Delisfort said Central Staff member, Jasmine Lawrence, shared a presentation on [From Streets to Stadiums](#), a new guidebook and “Kit of Parts” designed to help New Jersey communities celebrate the World Cup. The guide offers creative ideas for parks, businesses, and public spaces, providing specific instructions on using seating and screens to build an inviting atmosphere. Ms. Lawrence encouraged towns to coordinate with local public works, police, and businesses on event permitting while following shared guidelines on logos and signage to avoid trademark issues.

The committee also reviewed two key funding opportunities. First, the NJTPA is accepting applications on a rolling basis for the Transportation Clean Air Measures Program. This federal program is open to public and private entities for ready-to-implement projects that reduce congestion or improve air quality, such as electric vehicle infrastructure, traffic signal optimization, and bicycle facilities. Second, federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grants are available for planning and implementing safety improvements, with applications due by May 26. Information about both programs is available at njtpa.org.

Finally, the New Jersey Department of Transportation provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program. The program was submitted for federal review on April 2, and the committee expects to receive a final approval letter following the standard 45-day review period.

- **Freight Initiatives Committee**

Commissioner Shaw, Committee Chair, said the meeting featured an annual update on the state of the Port from Bethann Rooney of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and John Nardi, President of the Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey. Some of the presentation highlights included:

- The Port generates \$163 billion in business activity and more than \$18 billion in tax revenue.
- The Port handled 8.9 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units last year, exceeding previous forecasts.
- Bulk cargo reached 3.1 million metric tons, and nearly 2.5 million cruise passengers used the Port's terminals in Bayonne.
- A new longshoremen's contract was finalized in 2025 following a three-day strike.

In reports from committee members, Commissioner Shaw said he shared that Morris County was recently awarded a \$318,000 grant from NJDOT's Rail Freight Assistance Program to rehabilitate a bridge in Rockaway Borough.

The NJDOT reported that they have created a FIFA flyer for the freight stakeholders in the Philadelphia and Meadowlands areas regarding how the World Cup may impact traffic. And Hudson County reported that it is one of the "ground zero" counties for impact from FIFA-related traffic congestion, and they are managing roadway infrastructure for secondary roads that will experience significant impacts.

I. Public Participation

Vito Havrilla, Vice Chair of the Lackawanna Coalition, gave an overview of the Coalition's budget and requested two service improvements: hourly weekend service for the Montclair- Boonton Line (Montclair State University-Hoboken) and restoration of weekend service on the North Jersey Coast Line (New York Penn Station-Bay Head). The Coalition is seeking legislation to allocate funds for these operational and capital improvements.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is Monday, July 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at Middlesex College, 2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, New Jersey 08818.

K. Adjournment

Passaic County made a motion to adjourn at 11:26 a.m.; Morris County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: May 11, 2026**

Subregion/Agency	Voting Board Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Middlesex County	Hon. Charles Kenny	Vijayant Rajavanshi
Warren County	Hon. Jason J. Sarnoski	
Morris County	Hon. Stephen Shaw	John Hayes
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	Andras Holzmann
Bergen County	Hon. James J. Tedesco, III	
Union County	Hon. Michèle Delisfort	Kamal Saleh
Essex County	David Antonio	
Hudson County	Mark Kataryniak	
Hunterdon County	Alan Hunt	Katherine Fullerton
City of Jersey City	Andy Kaplan	
Monmouth County	Teri O'Connor	Joseph Ettore
City of Newark		Raymondo Concepcion
Ocean County	Hon. Frank Sadeghi	Mark Jehnke
Somerset County	Hon. Sara Sooy	
Sussex County	Hon. Jack DeGroot	Tom Drabic
Office of the Governor	Blair Gerold	
NJDOT	Michael Manzella	
NJ TRANSIT	John (Jack) Dean	
PANYNJ	Jay Shuffield	
Citizens Representative	Charles Burton	
Other Attendees		
Ted Del Guercio, III	McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC	
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA	
Edward Murray	Photographer	
Sharon Tepper	VHB	
Bob Werkmeister	GPI	
Vito Havrilla	Lackawanna Coalition	
P Stonge	FBT Gibbons	

Approved May 11, 2026

DRAFT RESOLUTION: MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2026-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO AS REQUESTED BY NJDOT

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) has been designated by the Governor of New Jersey as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the northern New Jersey region; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA adopted the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 8, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and NJ TRANSIT on procedures to amend and modify the State Transportation Improvement Program and the NJTPA TIP; and

WHEREAS, the TIP may be revised any time; and

WHEREAS, according to the MOU when a project is added or funds are added above the specified threshold and a new air quality conformity determination is not required, this constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT has requested a minor amendment to the FY 2026-2029 TIP to add federal funds to the Pavement Preservation program (DBNUM X51) and Pavement Preservation, NJTPA program (DBNUM X51B); and remove federal funds from the Guiderail Upgrade program (DBNUM X201); and

WHEREAS, fiscal constraint is maintained by adding federal funds available from unobligated balances; and

WHEREAS, this minor amendment is exempt from an air quality conformity analysis as per the Transportation Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127) and does not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to these actions; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2026- 2029 TIP conforms to federal performance-based planning requirements; and

WHEREAS, consistent with NJTPA public participation procedures, the NJTPA has provided opportunities for review of these actions; and

WHEREAS, no action authorized by the NJTPA shall have force or effect until 10 days, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays excepted, after a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees has been delivered to the Governor for review, unless prior to expiration of the review period the Governor shall approve same, in which case the action shall become effective upon such approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hereby approves the specified minor amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the NJDOT for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.