



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 June 15, 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 11 PPC members and 11 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present (Attachment 1).

II. Approval of Minutes

Union County moved the minutes of the April 20, 2026, joint committee meeting, Middlesex County seconded, and the motion carried with one abstention from Passaic County.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Update

Andras Holzmann, RTAC Chair, reported that the June 8th meeting was held in-person at the NJTPA office in Newark. He said he was happy to see strong participation from subregions and partner agencies, and it was great to see everyone in-person. He also thanked NJTPA Chair Charles Kenny for attending the meeting.

The meeting featured a presentation by Anisha Selvam, a recent graduate at NJIT. Her work was on Missing Middle Housing and the Use of Pattern Books, which define building types and design standards, and allows communities to see the types of housing that can be built.

The meeting included four information items:

- Resilience Hubs: A Community Roadmap
- Solicitations for the FY 28-29 Subregional Studies and Subregional Transportation Programs
- Active Transportation Plan Refinement Project

- Statewide Freight Plan Update

RTAC members also participated in a group discussion on Local Safety Action Plan Implementation. The NJTPA partnered with eight counties in the region to develop action plans to help county and local governments identify and prioritize safety improvements to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. RTAC was also briefed on the four Action Items detailed in the meeting agenda package. The next RTAC meeting is scheduled for August 10th.

IV. Presentation: Powering Ahead for Somerset County

Warren County Commissioner Jason J. Sarnoski invited Somerset County Commissioner Sara Sooy to introduce the feature presentation. She said that Somerset County has undertaken a comprehensive electric vehicle (EV) study over the past year to develop a practical roadmap for fleet electrification and identify opportunities for charging infrastructure investment. The study provides a strategy to transition the county's fleet, prioritize charging infrastructure investments, and to position the county for future funding opportunities. Commissioner Sooy introduced Samantha De Andrea, Director of Planning, and Ken Wedeen, Supervising Transportation Planning and Planner, to present *Powering Ahead for Somerset County*, the county's EV study.

Ms. De Andrea explained that the study centers on three main objectives: building a tailored roadmap for a phased county fleet transition, identifying secondary charging corridors to complement the interstate network, and pinpointing public charging opportunities on county-owned properties.

Ms. De Andrea said through an initial needs assessment, the team identified charging gaps, emphasizing the importance of public options for residents in multifamily or rental housing who lack dedicated home charging. They also evaluated site feasibility factors like electrical access and flood risks. The study involved extensive community outreach, including technical committees, public workshops, and a survey that received 316 responses. By screening 43 county properties, the team narrowed the list down to 14 candidates, ultimately selecting three priority sites for Phase 1 implementation.

Mr. Wedeen said each of the priority locations will feature wayfinding signage, safety lighting, and ADA-compliant chargers. The first location is the Lord Sterling Park Environmental Education Center in northern Somerset County, which will feature six Level 2 chargers at an estimated capital cost of \$300,000. The second site is the Howe Athletic Complex at Colonial Park, a high-traffic regional amenity well-suited for nearby apartment and townhouse residents, which is slated for eight Level 2 chargers. The third location is Mountain View Park in Hillsboro along the Route 206 corridor, which is planned for 14 Level 3 chargers with a larger infrastructure setup estimated at \$700,000 to accommodate future park expansions.

Mr. Wedeen also discussed the fleet transition strategy, which categorizes county vehicles into tiers based on market availability. Near-term vehicles like sedans and SUVs are ready for electrification now, while specialized heavy-duty construction vehicles will be monitored as the

technology matures. He emphasized the importance of coordinating early with utilities like PSE&G and JCP&L to verify grid capacity, using shared spaces such as the Bernie Field parking deck to maximize charger use, and thoroughly training staff on safe operations.

Next steps include an implementation timeline divided into three phases. Short-term goals over the next year focus on securing funding, finalizing priorities, and performing utility capacity checks. The mid-term phase, spanning one to five years, will cover design, permitting, procurement, and pilot deployments. The long-term plan involves monitoring use and evaluating emerging technology for heavy-duty vehicle conversions.

Following formal adoption by the Planning Board later this summer or early fall, the county will begin moving forward with engineering, design, and funding coordination.

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

V. Action Items

Project Prioritization Committee

Commissioner Sarnoski called on NJTPA Central Staff members to present the PPC action items:

1. Minor Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as Requested by NJTPA.
 - Local CMAQ Initiatives, Regionwide
 - Small/Special Services Program, Statewide

Blythe Eaman said this minor amendment is to transfer CMAQ program funds to NJ TRANSIT for two projects in Passaic County. Both the county and the City of Passaic submitted applications to the Local Mobilities Initiative Program. This action awards \$2.295 million for the expansion of the Passaic County MOVE Microtransit Program to include the City of Patterson into its service area; and \$1 million for the City of Passaic's Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Shuttle Bus Program. The City plans to introduce new stops or establish an additional route and purchase of two buses.

A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package on page 12 [here](#).

Hudson County moved the item, the Governor's Authorities Unit seconded, and it carried unanimously.

2. Minor Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as requested by NJDOT:
 - Bridge Deck/Superstructure Replacement Program, Statewide
 - Bridge Preventive Maintenance, Statewide
 - Bridge Replacement, Future Projects, Statewide
 - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, Statewide

- Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Program, Regionwide
- Oak Tree Road Bridge, CR 604, Middlesex County
- Route 80 EB, Retaining Wall Replacement, Hardwick and Knowlton Townships, Warren County
- Route 80/15 Interchange, Morris County
- Route 287, Route 202 to Ramapo River, Morris, Bergen, and Passaic Counties
- Safety Programs, Statewide

John Witsch said the revisions listed in the documents align funding with anticipated need by releasing funds from projects not ready to advance in 2026 carrying unobligated balances and advancing or adding funds to those ready to authorize. A total of \$34 million is being removed from the Bridge Deck/Superstructure Replacement and Bridge Replacement, Future Project programs are removing over \$34 million of NHPP funds not needed in 2026 and are available as a resource. Funding is being added to Oak Tree Road Bridge, Route 80/15 Interchange, and Route 287, Route 202 to Ramapo River projects and the Bridge Preventive Maintenance, Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads, and Safety programs. Funding for several projects is being adjusted to align with when the various phases of work will occur.

Commissioner Sarnoski asked what was changing for the Route 80 EB, Retaining Wall Replacement Project, noting Warren County has several concerns about this project. Mr. Witsch said the project was being pushed back to allow time for needed environmental work.

A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package on page 18 [here](#).

NJDOT moved the item, the NJ TRANSIT seconded, and it carried unanimously.

3. Modification to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as requested by NJDOT

- Delaware & Raritan Canal Bridges, Hunterdon, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties
- Mobility and Systems Engineering Program, Statewide
- Route 4, Bridge over Palisade Avenue, Windsor Rd and CSX Railroad, Bergen County

Mr. Witsch said this modification removes \$16.805 million from the Delaware & Raritan Canal Bridges project so that it can be allocated to others that are ready to advance in FY 2026. This action adds \$17.2 million to the Mobility and Systems Engineering for Engineering and Construction to address ongoing ITS maintenance in FY 2026. It also adds \$15.1 million to the Route 4, Bridge over Palisade Avenue, Windsor Road and CSX Railroad for Construction in FY 2026 to address increased construction costs and utility relocation. A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package on page 36 [here](#).

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

4. Modification to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program as Requested by NJTPA

- NJTPA Carbon Reduction Program, Regionwide
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities - Section 5310 Program, Statewide

Ms. Eaman said this modification transfers \$10 million in NJTPA Carbon Reduction Program funds to the NJ TRANSIT Section 5310 program to support Access Link, ADA Paratransit, and community transportation providers. It also includes \$7.7 million for the implementation of new Access Link software to modernize and enhance technology to support ADA Paratransit services. In addition, \$2.3 million will support the procurement of up to 13 replacement vehicles for community transportation providers, including Access Link.

A summary of the action item is included in the agenda package on page 41 [here](#).

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

VI. 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. FY2028-2029 Subregional Studies and Subregional Transportation Program Solicitations – Lois Goldman and Frank Tolbert
2. Active Transportation Plan Refinement – Peter Zambito
3. Safe Streets and Roads for All Advancement – Ms. Goldman

VII. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Behrend, NJTPA Executive Director, provided an update on the proposed federal transportation bill, which recently passed the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with a strong bipartisan vote of 62 to 2. Because the bill still requires full House and Senate approval, a continuing resolution will likely be needed to maintain steady funding at current levels in the interim. The bill authorizes \$580 billion over five years from FY 2027 to FY 2031, consisting of \$474.4 billion in guaranteed Highway Trust Fund money and \$106 billion subject to future general fund appropriations.

He said, compared to the current Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, overall funding is down, which raises concerns for our transit-reliant region. Specifically, highway funding decreases by just under 4 percent, transit drops by more than 15 percent, and Federal Railroad Administration funding is cut by nearly 44 percent, impacting Amtrak and freight projects outside of metropolitan planning organization (MPO) programming approval.

Despite these cuts, Mr. Behrend noted several positive shifts for MPOs like the NJTPA. Funding will increase year over year during the bill's lifespan, allowing the NJTPA and member subregions to expand planning work and use planning dollars for new activities like preliminary

design and local project fiscal administration. Furthermore, the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program is receiving a funding boost and expanded eligibility to open doors for more locally led projects.

The Highway Safety Improvement Program is also expanding its eligibility, potentially helping fund alternative transportation projects. Approximately 22 percent of federal transportation funding will be directed toward locally led projects, a 1 percent increase from the previous bill. These will be evaluated regionally alongside partner agencies like NJDOT to ensure better alignment with regional planning. Additionally, a new set-aside for locally owned bridges will be available through a competitive grant process developed by states and MPOs.

The Safe Streets and Roads for All program is being codified into permanent law under federal Title 23. While its planning set-aside drops from 40 percent to 5 percent to shift the focus to implementation, subregions should be in a good position to secure these dollars since local safety action plans are already in place or nearly finished. Conversely, the bill eliminates and reduces certain programs. The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program is being discontinued, shifting most EV initiatives to compete directly with traditional projects for CMAQ funds. The competitive and discretionary portions of the PROTECT resilience program are also being eliminated, though a formula component will remain.

In conclusion, Mr. Behrend said while the bill cuts or eliminates specific funding, it presents many positive proposals for MPOs and local governments through rare bipartisan teamwork. Detailed impact materials from the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and National Association of Regional Councils are available for anyone interested.

Mr. Behrend invited Passaic County Commissioner John W. Bartlett to share news regarding his resignation from the NJTPA Board of Trustees. He congratulated Commissioner Barlett on his new appointment and thanked him for his hard work and dedication over the years.

Commissioner Bartlett said that at the time of the July meeting he will have resigned his position as County Commissioner to take the position of Chief Legal Officer for the Gateway Development Commission. He said the new position is an amazing opportunity and it is vital to the continued work of our region. He thanked his board colleagues, and NJTPA Central Staff for their exceptional work over the years. Several commissioners and subregional staff congratulated Commissioner Bartlett on his new position.

VIII. Other Items

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.

IX. Next Meeting

August 17, 2026, 10:30 a.m. (Virtual)

X. Adjournment

At 11:22 a.m., Passaic County made a motion to adjourn, Warren County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
ATTENDANCE
June 15, 2026**

Project Prioritization Committee Members

- Hon. Jason J. Sarnoski, Chair, Warren County
- Joseph Baladi, Bergen County
- Mark Kataryniak, Hudson County
- Hon. Susan Soloway, Hunterdon County
- Hon. Charles Kenny, Middlesex County
- Michael Nei, Monmouth County
- Hon. John Bartlett, Passaic County
- Hon. Jack DeGroot, Sussex County
- Mike Manzella, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
- Megan Massey, NJ TRANSIT
- Blair Gerold, Governor's Authorities Unit

Planning and Economic Development Committee Members

- Hon. Michèle Delisfort, Chair, Union County
- Hon. Jack DeGroot, Sussex County
- David Anbtonio, Essex County
- Blair Gerold, Governor's Authorities Unit
- Hon. Charles Kenny, Middlesex County
- Hon. Stephen Shawe, Morris County
- Elias Guseman, Jersey City,
- James D. Adams, Newark
- Mike Manzella, NJDOT
- Megan Massey, NJ TRANSIT
- Hon. Sara Sooy, Somerset County

Other Attendees

- Various members of Central Staff
- Trevor Howard, City of Newark
- Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County
- Katherine Fullerton, Hunterdon County
- Andy Kaplan, Jersey City
- Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
- Kamal Saleh, Union County
- John Hayes, Morris County
- Tom Drabic, Sussex County
- Ken Wedeen, Somerset County
- Meghna Hari, Middlesex County

- Gina Rossi, NJDOT
- Tanner Thul, Hudson County
- Nathan Chadwick, NJ TRANSIT
- Samantha DeAndrea, Somerset County
- Bob Werkmeister
- Ryan Conklin, Warren County
- Jonathan Eagle, Warren County
- Addie Shiloh
- kmalaricjh