



KATHRYN A. DeFILLIPPO, CHAIR

Board Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2020

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

Chair Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, reported that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of this meeting had been forwarded to the *Star Ledger*, the *Asbury Park Press*, the *Courier News*, the *Daily Record*, the *Home News Tribune*, the *Jersey Journal*, *New Jersey Herald*, and *The Record*.

B. Roll Call

Ms. Morris called the roll, and 18 voting members were present. (Attachment 1).

C. Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) Report/Action Item

Chair DeFillippo called on PPC Chair Freeholder John W. Bartlett, Passaic County, to introduce the action item. The Freeholder reported that NJ TRANSIT requested a minor amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to add \$766.5 million in federal funding for the Portal North Bridge project in Hudson County. The federal funding replaces state funding that was previously allocated from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for the project. He said the funding is for the design, engineering, construction, and other necessary work to complete the proposed replacement of the existing bridge with a new fixed structure bridge on a new rail alignment.

Freeholder Bartlett said the new fixed bridge will replace the existing and unreliable movable span and improve reliability, allowing NJ TRANSIT to operate longer and higher-capacity trains. Additionally, trains will be able to cross the bridge at 90 miles per hour, up from 60 miles per hour.

The Freeholder said a local match of \$797.3 million by NJ TRANSIT is being committed to the Portal North Bridge replacement as well. The project is exempt from an air quality conformity determination and does not impact the current conformity determination. He said PPC members voted to recommend Board approval of the action item, which was considered at the joint committee meeting earlier that morning. He noted that NJ TRANSIT requested that the action be

taken as soon as possible after the joint committee meeting in order to expedite its agreement with the Federal Transit Administration on this important project.

Action Item: Minor Amendment to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Add Federal Funding for the Portal North Bridge as Requested by NJ TRANSIT (Attachment 2)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Passaic County, seconded by Union County. Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, NJ TRANSIT, thanked the Board for the special meeting to approve this action which allows the agency to advance the Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The project, he said, when completed, will allow the agency to put higher capacity trains into service, among other benefits. He noted that the project includes an intercity component, including funds contributed by Amtrak and the Federal Railroad Administration. Chair DeFillippo noted that NJTPA Board looks forward to implementing this important project.

The action item was approved unanimously.

E) Time and Place of Next Meeting

Chair DeFillippo announced that the next virtual meeting of the NJTPA Board will be held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

F) Adjournment

At 12:50 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Monmouth County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: December 14, 2020

Voting Members/Alternates

Hon. Kathryn DeFillippo, NJTPA Chair, Morris County Freeholder
Hon. John Bartlett, NJTPA First Vice Chair, Passaic County Freeholder
Hon. Charles Kenny, NJTPA Third Vice Chair, Middlesex County Freeholder
Hon. Jason Sarnoski, NJTPA Secretary, Warren County Freeholder
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner, NJ Department of Transportation
Peter Botsolas, Bergen County
David Antonio, Essex County
Byron Nicholas, Hudson County
Hon. Zach Rich, Hunterdon County Freeholder
Barkha Patel, Jersey City
Teri O'Connor, Monmouth County
Philip Scott, Newark
Walter Lane, Somerset County
Hon. Joshua Hertzberg, Sussex County Freeholder
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County Freeholder
Lauren LaRusso, Governor's Office
Jeremy Colangelo-Bryant, NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield, PANYNJ

Other Attendees

Michael Russo, Assistant Commissioner, NJ Department of Transportation
Andrew Swords, NJ Department of Transportation
Louis Millan, NJ TRANSIT
RJ Palladino, NJ TRANSIT
Raymond Tomczak, FTA
Elias Guseman, Jersey City
Tom Drabic, Sussex County
David Dech, Warren County
Elizabeth Betz, Union County
Joseph Ettore, Monmouth County
Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County
Mark Jehnke, Ocean County
John Hayes, Morris County
Joseph Baladi, Bergen County
Brian Appezzato, Warren County
Robert Werkmeister
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director, NJTPA

David Behrend, Deputy Executive Director, NJTPA
Angel Young, NJTPA
Elizabeth Johnson, NJTPA
Jeffrey Perlman, NJTPA
Mark Solof, NJTPA
Brian Fineman, NJTPA
Ann Ludwig, NJTPA
Ann Strauss-Wieder, NJTPA
Sascha Frimpong, NJTPA
Igor Sorin, NJTPA
Melissa Hayes, NJTPA
Ted Ritter, NJTPA
Beverly Morris, NJTPA
Maria Slump, NJTPA
Joanna Doyle, NJTPA
Keith Hamas, NJTPA
Eve Chamberlain, NJTPA
John Witsch, NJTPA

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2020 – 2023
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO ADD
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE PORTAL NORTH BRIDGE
AS REQUESTED BY NJ TRANSIT**

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 formally adopted the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on September 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA on September 24, 2012 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 there is a funding source change for a project in the TIP from the use of non-federal funds to the use of federal funds and a new air quality conformity determination is not required constitutes a minor amendment; and

WHEREAS, NJ TRANSIT is requesting the addition of federal funding to the Portal North Bridge (DB# T538) project to be programmed with Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program (Section 5309) funds; and

WHEREAS, this minor amendment is exempt from an air quality conformity determination and does not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process requirements do not apply to this action; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2020 TIP conforms to the MAP-21/FAST Act 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 ten (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 amendment to the FY 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to NJ TRANSIT for submission to the Federal Transit Administration.