



JOHN P. KELLY, CHAIR
Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

First Vice Chair Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, chaired the meeting in the absence of NJTPA Chair John P. Kelly. Commissioner Kenny called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, reported that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of this meeting was 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*. It was also posted at the Essex County Hall of Records in Newark.

B. Salute to the Flag

The First Vice Chair asked for a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and then led the 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

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2024 meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by City of Newark and carried with two abstentions from Ocean and Union counties.

E. Chair Remarks

Commissioner Kenny announced that Central Staff will host a visioning session with the Board for the NJTPA's next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update, on October 10 at 10 a.m. He emphasized the importance of this in-person session in shaping the development of the LRTP, which underpins the NJTPA's work and provides a vision for the region's transportation future. He encouraged Board members, alternates, and RTAC members to participate. Commissioner Kenny said a key LRTP priority is improving travel safety. The NJTPA is assisting eight counties in developing Local Safety Action Plans (LSAPs) to help local governments identify and prioritize safety improvements to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. Public outreach for the LSAPs began last month with events in several counties. He also said that an online survey and interactive map are available to get public and stakeholder input. The plans are expected to be completed by June. In addition, several counties and municipalities have received federal grants to develop their own safety plans. These plans are crucial for applying for federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grants to implement safety improvements.

To learn more about the eight LSAPs or to provide input, Commissioner Kenny directed the Board to visit www.SafetyPlansNJ.com.

The Commissioner also mentioned the Resiliency Improvement Plan being developed in partnership with the Port Authority. Once completed, the NJTPA Board will be asked to adopt it and incorporate it into the LRTP. This plan will allow the region to seek federal funding for resiliency-related infrastructure improvements and is an important step to improve our competitiveness in the region. It will also enhance the region's chances of securing federal grants under the federal PROTECT program by lowering the non-federal match requirement for counties, municipalities, or agencies receiving grants.

Commissioner Kenny reminded the subregions that applications for the Local Safety and High-Risk Rural Roads programs to support cost-effective, high impact safety improvements on county and local roads, are due October 15. During the past 20 years, the NJTPA has allocated \$340 million to Local Safety projects throughout the region and \$60 million to High-Risk Rural Roads projects since that program began in 2009.

In response to the Commissioner's request for updates from implementing agencies, Megan Fackler, Director of Statewide Planning at the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), said that the NJDOT's Long-Range Transportation Plan is under development and has commenced public outreach, including engaging the NJTPA for input. She said she will keep the Board informed of progress on the plan.

F. Executive Director's Report

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend welcomed Ms. Fackler, NJDOT's alternate on the Board, to her first in-person meeting. He then highlighted staff activities and upcoming projects since the last Board meeting, noting a busy fall ahead for the NJTPA's planning work. He said several subregional studies concluded on June 30. Final reports are being posted online as they are completed. He said these include Somerset County's Master Plan Circulation Element, Jersey City's Traffic Calming Toolkit, and Monmouth County's Identification of Barriers to Mobility study.

Mr. Behrend then noted that two additional subregional studies were highlighted at the August committee meetings. He thanked Adam Bradford from Passaic County for presenting the county's Strategic Infrastructure Investment Plan and Delores Martinez Wooden from Newark for presenting BIKENewark, the city's new bicycle plan. He also noted three studies are underway in Hudson, Middlesex, and Warren counties and encouraged public engagement as these studies move forward.

Mr. Behrend also mentioned that three new studies in Hunterdon County, Jersey City, and Somerset County began with the new fiscal year and are now in the consultant procurement stage. He expressed appreciation to the subregional staff and Board members for their continued support of regional planning efforts.

Regarding the LRTP, Mr. Behrend noted that the plan's theme is *Connecting Communities*, and he shared the logo, which was displayed on screens around the room during his remarks. He said work on the plan will continue through adoption next fall. Consultants have been retained for the financial element and public engagement.

Also, key technical work is underway which includes taking advantage of a new, cutting-edge data source that uses anonymized cell phone data gathered and compiled by the company Replica. He said this data is also being used in a parallel effort to update the Congestion Management Process.

The upcoming Board visioning session, he said, will allow the members to weigh in on the plan, including the goals and vision that will guide the NJTPA's planning process and discuss potential strategies for meeting them

in the region's diverse communities. The moderator for the session will be Mike Russo, who previously represented NJDOT on the Board. He said additional information about the event would be distributed later this week. He encouraged all Board members to attend and to participate in planned public outreach, including a survey, virtual events, and pop-up events around the region between this fall and next spring.

Mr. Behrend also said late last month the NJTPA issued a solicitation for the Vibrant Places Program, in coordination with the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. This program provides technical assistance for a range of creative placemaking projects. It is open to municipal and county governments, as well as non-profit, community-based, and non-governmental organizations in the 13-county region. Applications are due September 30.

He noted that the Vibrant Places Program is one of several NJTPA programs offering planning support and assistance to municipalities, which are highlighted on a municipal programs page on the NJTPA website. The NJTPA also works with subregions to advance infrastructure improvements with federal funding. In addition to the Local Safety solicitation, there are four Local Concept Development studies being conducted: Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset counties are working on roadway corridors, while Morris County is doing a bridge project. Initial public meetings have been held for all four projects over the past two months. Once projects complete Concept Development, they can enter the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), where they are federally funded through construction.

Mr. Behrend announced two upcoming events that may be of interest: On September 17, Rutgers VTC is hosting a free webinar on "Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy" and on September 25 NJDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, through the New Jersey Local Technical Assistance Program, are hosting a workshop in Bordentown on Implementing a Toward Zero Deaths Strategy at the Local Level.

Finally, Mr. Behrend thanked Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, NJ TRANSIT, for being the feature presenter at the meeting.

G. Presentation: FIFA World Cup 2026 Planning Update – Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, Chief Planner, NJ TRANSIT

Mr. Colangelo-Bryan said the FIFA World Cup in 2026 will include a series of matches over 40 days at locations across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, which is different than prior World Cups which were held in one place. There are eight matches scheduled at MetLife Stadium, including the World Cup final.

Mr. Colangelo-Bryan said NJ TRANSIT will need to be flexible in accommodating travel for the events, including enhancements to schedules to and from MetLife Stadium, which will be called the New York/ New Jersey stadium for the purpose of the FIFA event. Enhancements are also needed for transit beyond the eight matches to include fan zones and local events.

He said a large component of the planning for the event will be focused on a large number of visitors who likely will not be familiar with the transit system. The recent successful Paris Olympics, he said, may provide insights regarding signage and other accommodations.

While the FIFA World Cup events are not until the summer of 2026, he said, NJ TRANSIT is now working with various agencies to prepare. A host committee is leading the effort and includes transportation, law enforcement and others. He noted there are opportunities at the county and municipal levels to participate in the planning.

He added NJ TRANSIT will continue to review best practices and draw lessons from past events at the stadium and elsewhere in the country. In conclusion, he said that although transportation is a big part of the planning, this

will be a new kind of event for the region and that everyone needs to come together to gather information and prepare.

NJTPA Secretary Stephen Shaw, Morris County, commented that NJ TRANSIT should consider that the event is equivalent in size to multiple Super Bowls taking place at one time. He noted that even though the event is in 2026, people are already planning for it, noting someone he met during a recent trip in Portugal mentioned the games planned for New Jersey. Commissioner Shaw noted that 2026 is also the nation's 250th anniversary with other events scheduled around the same time as the World Cup. Mr. Colangelo-Bryan mentioned that there will be anniversary celebrations in Philadelphia and the major league all-star game held there as well.

Passaic County Commissioner John Bartlett asked how counties and municipalities can get involved. Mr. Colangelo-Bryan said he would be happy to connect anyone interested with the host committee.

Ms. Martinez-Wooden asked if NJ TRANSIT is coordinating with ride-hailing or micro-transportation firms since many people will be using them, increasing congestion on the roads. Mr. Colangelo-Bryan said the topic has been raised along with other issues regarding modes of transportation and services at key transit hubs. The host committee has been discussing this and other related topics.

H. Committee Reports/Action Items

Project Prioritization – Hunterdon County Commissioner Susan Soloway, Vice Chair

Commissioner Kenny thanked Commissioner Soloway for chairing the Project Prioritization Committee meeting in his absence last month and called on her to give the committee report.

She said the committee considered one action item which does not require Board approval, a modification to the Fiscal Year 2024–2027 TIP to add federal funds to Monmouth County Bridge S-31, also known as the Oceanic Bridge, in Rumson and Middletown.

She said the committee approved the county's request to add \$3 million from the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant Program for Preliminary Engineering in the current fiscal year, increasing the total for this phase to \$7.5 million. The cost increase is based on a revised estimate the county received. Commissioner Soloway said funding is available in the NJTPA Future Projects Program line item to cover this increase.

The committee also heard an information item summarizing progress on our update to the Congestion Management Process, which is being called the "Accessibility and Mobility Regional Reassessment." She said that this effort looks at the region's complex travel patterns and searches for ways to improve the transportation system's performance across various modes, including roads, public transit, rideshare, walking, biking, and other micromobility. The NJTPA's partner agencies are participating in a working group for this effort. The findings will help inform the LRTP update.

Planning and Economic Development – Union County Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Vice Chair

Commissioner Kowalski said that at the August joint meeting, as Mr. Behrend mentioned in his remarks, the committee saw a presentation on Newark's bike plan, which was developed through a subregional study. The plan recommends expanding the city's biking network, including additional bike lanes and shared use paths. A survey for the study received 900 responses, showing the great support and interest in biking in Newark. She joined Dave in thanking Ms. Martinez Wooden for the presentation.

She said the committee also considered two action items, which require Board approval. The first is the modification of the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program, which the Board adopted on March 11, 2024. The modification is a budget increase of \$760,000 drawn from various federal program funds that have become available since the adoption. The changes include:

- \$25,000 for consultant assistance with NJTPA strategic planning.
- \$100,000 to coordinate planning and development of a new train station in Newark’s Dayton neighborhood connecting to Newark Liberty International Airport. This work will be completed through a subrecipient contract to NJIT’s Hillier School of Architecture.
- \$300,000 to upgrade the NJTPA’s website platform.
- \$10,000 for activities to support innovative public outreach for the LRTP.
- \$45,000 for Information Systems equipment upgrades.
- \$280,000 to support the Cross County Connection and Greater Mercer transportation management associations. This was requested by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, using funds available to their region, to complement similar increases the NJTPA previously made for the six other transportation management associations in the region.

Commissioner Kowalski said the second action item asks the Board to support adjusting the target for the percent of non-single occupant vehicle travel in the Philadelphia Urbanized Area, which covers a portion of the NJTPA region. This action is needed to meet federal performance management requirements. The NJTPA must agree on performance targets dealing with traffic congestion for each of the three large, urbanized areas that include parts of the NJTPA region.

She also added that the metropolitan planning organizations and state departments of transportation in these areas agreed to keep existing targets for the other two urbanized areas. This target is being adjusted to reflect travel changes during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. Today’s action will accomplish that change.

Action Item 1: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program Modification (Attachment 2)

A motion to approve the modification was made by Union County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

Action Item 2: Approval of the Adjusted Percent Non-Single Occupant Vehicle Travel Target for the Philadelphia Urbanized Area (Attachment 3)

A motion to approve the adjustment was made by Ocean County, seconded by Somerset County, and carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives

Commissioner Shaw said Central Staff updated the committee on the NJTPA’s 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts, which will be completed by June 2025. This work began approximately eight months ago and is being led by Cambridge Systematics.

He said the upcoming FY 2025 Freight Concept Development Program includes studies for the Southern Middlesex County North-South Truck Corridor Project in Cranbury and Monroe; and the East Hanover Avenue Bridge Catenary Rail Clearance Project in Morris Plains and Morris Township, Morris County. Consultant selection is underway.

The meeting featured three presentations on Marine Highway Initiatives. The Cross Harbor Carfloat at Greenville Yard in Jersey City uses two barges to float 18 railcars at a time to the 65th Street Terminal in Brooklyn. In 2023, 5,000 railcars were moved, with each trip carrying the equivalent of 72 truckloads, he said.

Commissioner Shaw said the second presentation focused on New York City's Blue Highways program to expand waterborne freight distribution. This program is part of a larger "Harbor of the Future" initiative from the mayor's office that includes economic development along the waterfront.

He said the final presentation focused on the efforts of UPS to explore transporting its packages from Bayonne to Brooklyn via barge. Additional information about these initiatives, he said, is available on the NJTPA's website.

Commissioner Shaw also provided an update on one of Morris County's freight railroad projects. This project is funded through NJDOT's Rail Freight Assistance Program to build a run-around track approximately 960 feet long along the Dover and Rockaway Railroad in Rockaway Township to improve railroad operations. Both turnouts are installed, and the project is expected to be completed in mid-September.

He also added that Somerset County noted that it was holding a public hearing in August on the adoption process for the circulation element of the county master plan. This plan includes recommendations to support goods movement and freight initiatives throughout the county.

I. Public Participation

There were no questions or comments from the public.

J. Time and Place of Next Meeting

First Vice Chair Kenny announced that the next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at the NJTPA offices in Newark.

K. Adjournment

At 11:12 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: September 9, 2024

Subregion/Agency	Voting Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Bergen County	Peter Botsolas	
Essex County	David Antonio	
Hudson County	Tom Malavasi	
Hunterdon County	Hon. Susan Soloway	Katherine Fullerton Bob Hornby
Middlesex County	Hon. Charles Kenny	
Monmouth County	Teri O'Connor	Joseph Ettore
Morris County	Hon. Stephen Shaw	John Hayes Kevin Stephens
Newark	Dolores Martinez Wooden	
Ocean County	Mark Jehnke	
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	Andras Holzmann
Somerset County	Walt Lane	
Sussex County	Hon. Tom Drabic	
Union County	Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Hon. Michele Delisfort
Warren County	David Dech	
Office of the Governor	Dorian Smith	
NJDOT	Megan Fackler	
NJ TRANSIT	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan	Jennifer Wong
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ)	Jay Shuffield	

Other Attendees	
Ted DelGuercio III	Legal Counsel
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Robert Werkmeister	GPI
James Yeager	Michael Baker International
Ed Murray	Photographer

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF MODIFICATION NO. 1 TO THE FY
2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM**

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, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 104 (f) et. seq. and 49 U.S.C. 1607 et. seq., the NJTPA is responsible for the development of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to guide the transportation planning process in northern New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) describes all urban transportation and transportation related planning activities to be undertaken by NJTPA Central Staff, the NJTPA Subregions, the Transportation Management Associations (TMAs), the New Jersey Department of Transportation, NJ TRANSIT, and other transportation agencies in the region; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2025 UPWP is fully consistent with the final United States Department of Transportation Metropolitan Planning Regulations (23 CFR part 450), as well as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA formally adopted the Fiscal Year 2025 UPWP on March 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS, task modifications, project additions, and funding adjustments have resulted in the need to modify the FY 2025 UPWP; and

WHEREAS, any modifications to the UPWP must be approved by the NJTPA Board of Trustees; 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 a modification to the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program, a total budget increase of \$760,000 to be funded with Federal Highway Administration Metropolitan Planning Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds, and Federal Transit Administration Section 5303\5305(d) Metropolitan Planning Program funds, for following additional initiatives:

1. The addition of \$25,000 for Central Staff Activities, Non-Personnel Expenditures' budget line-item Professional Service Agreements (Limited Scope) to hire a consultant to facilitate and assist in the update to the Strategic Business Plan.
2. The addition of \$280,000 for the TMA Work Program, which will be allocated to the pass-through grants to be authorized to the Cross County Connection TMA and Greater Mercer TMA.
3. The addition of \$100,000 for a subrecipient contract to support coordination of the ongoing planning and development surrounding the new train station at the Newark Liberty International Train Station in the Dayton Neighborhood in the City of Newark.
4. The addition of \$300,000 for a consultant effort to upgrade the NJTPA's website platform.
5. The addition of \$10,000 to provide additional funding to the subrecipient (Rutgers Voorhees Transportation Center) to update NJTPA's database of community organizations in its region, which would be used for outreach for the Long-Range Transportation Plan update.
6. The addition of \$45,000 for Central Staff Activities, Non-Personnel Expenditures' budget line-item Equipment to perform computer equipment upgrades: meeting room controllers, displays, and licensing; and SAP ERP System memory upgrade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program modifications include funds that have become available since the adoption of the FY 2025 Budget, and the FY 2025 Budget is hereby amended to incorporate the additional projects, budget adjustments and new funding resources associated with the approval of this resolution (see attached).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJ TRANSIT for submission to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: ADJUSTED PERCENT NON-SINGLE OCCUPANT
VEHICLE TRAVEL TARGET FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA URBANIZED AREA**

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, Title 23, Section 134 of the United States Code requires that each MPO undertake a transportation planning process that shall provide for the establishment and use of a performance-based approach to transportation decision-making to support national goals; and that each MPO shall establish performance targets that address the performance measures to use in tracking progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the region; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) rule on performance management related to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program requires that MPOs and State departments of transportation (DOTs) with National Highway System (NHS) facilities within certain urbanized areas coordinate and jointly set single performance targets for the two traffic congestion measures—percent non-single occupant vehicle travel (“non-SOV”) and peak hour excessive delay per capita (“PHED”); and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA is subject to these target-setting requirements for three large urbanized areas: the New York–Newark, NY–NJ–CT Urbanized Area (“New York–Newark UZA”), the Philadelphia, PA–NJ–DE–MD Urbanized Area (“Philadelphia UZA”), and the Allentown–Bethlehem–Easton, PA–NJ Urbanized Area (“Allentown UZA”); and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA, in coordination with the appropriate state DOTs and MPOs, adopted 2-year and 4-year targets for the second four-year performance period (2022-2025) for each UZA in September 2020; and

WHEREAS, FHWA regulations allow for (but do not require that) adjustments to 4-year targets at the midpoint of each performance period; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA coordinated on discussions analyzing trends and possible target adjustments within each UZA; and

WHEREAS, for all three UZAs, the current 2-year targets for both measures were achieved; and

WHEREAS, the consensus among the relevant parties within both the New York–Newark UZA and the Allentown UZA was to not adjust the 4-year targets for either measure; while the consensus within the Philadelphia UZA was to adjust only the non-SOV 4-year target, increasing it from 30.0% to 33.0%; and

WHEREAS, the agreed upon targets appropriately reflect and will serve as suitable benchmarks for the planning goals and desired outcomes for the projects and programs of the NJTPA Long Range Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); 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 NJTPA hereby endorses the agreed upon non-SOV target for the Philadelphia UZA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for submission to the Federal Highway Administration