



Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

KATHRYN A. DeFILLIPPO, CHAIR

Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2020

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

Chair Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Beverly Morris 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

Beverly Morris called the roll. Eighteen voting members were present. (Attachment 1).

C. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July13, 2020 meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

D. Chairman's Remarks

Chair DeFillippo recognized former NJTPA Chair Angel Estrada, who recently retired from the Union County Board of Freeholders, and she welcomed Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, the county's alternate NJTPA Board member.

The Chair said NJTPA staff are getting a lot done while working remotely. The NJTPA hosted a virtual meeting of the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum's Multi-State Freight Working Group on September 10. The MAP Forum consists of 10 metropolitan planning organizations from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. She said the workshop focused on truck parking and featured private and public sector panel discussions, as well as an overview of emergency truck parking that was implemented during the pandemic.

Chair DeFillippo said she participated in a New York Shipping Association event in August to announce the findings of the 2020 Report on the Economic Value of the New York-New Jersey Port Industry. The NJTPA conducted the economic analysis and compiled the report. She noted that the port plays a crucial role in supporting the region's economy.

The Chair announced several new studies that are underway, including five Local Programs Concept Development studies:

- Oradell Avenue Bridge in Bergen County;
- Old Bridge - Matawan Road Bridge in Middlesex and Monmouth Counties;
- Corlies Avenue Bridge in Monmouth County;
- Great Road Bridge in Somerset county; and
- East Main Street Bridge in Morris County.

She said consultants are working on five subregional studies:

- Hudson County Ferry Service Expansion Study;
- Monmouth County Tourism and Event Travel Demand Management Study;
- Somerset County Roadway Corridor Safety Analysis Study;
- Union County Truck Mobility Study; and
- Warren County Transportation Plan.

The Chair said Passaic County and Jersey City will be issuing requests for proposals for two other Subregional Studies: the Passaic County Bicycle Master Plan and the Jersey City Alternative Transportation Modes Assessments.

Chair DeFillippo noted that, for the October virtual TransAction conference, the NJTPA is organizing panels on Road Safety Audits, Goods Movement and Freight Planning at the NJTPA, and Virtual Public Engagement and will host a virtual exhibit booth on October 20.

Mike Russo, NJDOT, reported that the agency received an additional \$150 million in obligated federal funding through the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) August redistribution, which will result in additional work being obligated this fiscal year. Mr. Russo commended the NJTPA and Monmouth County for their work to advance the Bridge S-32 replacement project.

Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, NJ TRANSIT, congratulated Freeholder Estrada on his retirement. He said that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for the agency, which continues to provide full level service across all their modes. He noted that ridership monitoring is showing that different markets are returning to the system in different ways.

E. Executive Director's Report

NJTPA Executive Director Mary D. Ameen said that despite pandemic-related challenges, the NJTPA continues to fulfill its responsibilities and make progress in many areas. She said an extensive public outreach campaign is in progress for Plan 2050: Transportation, People, Opportunity, the latest update of the long range transportation plan. NJTPA staff and consultants assembled an outreach advisory committee comprised of organizations representing the region's diverse population. The group met in August and provided valuable input on outreach plans, including suggestions for making the initial online survey more accessible to the visually impaired and limited-English speaking residents.

Ms. Ameen said the NJTPA will conduct a series of six Plan 2050 virtual public meetings, including one in Spanish, beginning September 29. The meetings will allow the public to learn about the plan and provide input. Also, the NJTPA will host the first of three Plan 2050 symposiums on October 6 focusing on Adapting to Change. She said there will be extensive social media messaging, including short videos, and she asked the Board to help get the word out to get residents thinking about transportation, people, and opportunity.

Ms. Ameen said the plan update will encourage greater equity in the region, focusing on the needs of minority, low-income, and other traditionally underserved communities. As recipients of federal funding, the NJTPA must comply with civil right statutes, executive orders, and regulations that work to ensure everyone is included in the planning process. She said these efforts are guided by the NJTPA Title VI Implementation Plan that the Board adopted a year ago. This plan is being updated to incorporate feedback from the FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and is expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year. Guidelines were distributed recently to the subregions to encourage inclusive public involvement in their work.

Ms. Ameen said the NJTPA is making progress in other key programs:

- NJTPA staff has reviewed fourteen proposals for the Transportation Clean Air Measures (TCAMs) Program using Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ) funding. The proposals, totaling more than \$17 million in requests, include ITS signal upgrades, trail projects, electric vehicle charging stations, vehicle idle reduction, and more.
- NJTPA and NJ TRANSIT staff reviewed seven proposals, totaling \$3.35 million, for the Local Mobility Initiatives Program, which provides support for transit shuttles and related activities. The NJTPA will finalize and recommend funding awards for both programs to the Board at its November 9 meeting.
- The solicitation for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023 Subregional Studies Program was issued in June, and full proposals were received by September 4. The proposal selection committee, which includes representatives of NJDOT, NJ TRANSIT, RTAC, and Central Staff, will score proposals and conduct interviews. The successful proposals will be included in next year's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Ameen said the response this year has been very strong, making this program very competitive.

Ms. Ameen said work on the next UPWP will begin soon. The program details the planning tasks Central Staff, the subregions, and TMAs will perform beginning July 2021. She encouraged all to start thinking about new directions and new initiatives for FY 2022.

Ms. Ameen noted another grant opportunity, the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. She said the NJTPA works with NJDOT on this program to fund community based non-traditional transportation projects, such as on- and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities; scenic overlooks; preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities; environmental mitigation related to highway runoff, and many other topics. She said the grant criteria were expanded this year to factor in projects that provide additional benefits to vulnerable populations, including low-income residents, minorities, those with limited English

proficiency, persons with disabilities, children, and older adults. Applications are due November 24, and informational meetings will be held on September 17 and 30. More information is available on the NJTPA website.

F. Committee Reports/Action Items

Project Prioritization – Freeholder John W. Bartlett, Chair

Freeholder Bartlett said the Committee considered three action items at the Joint Committee meeting in August. The first was Approval of the Initial Financial Plan for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on Monmouth County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River. He said federal regulations require that projects with a total cost between \$100 million and \$500 million have a financial plan in place that covers various elements, such as cost estimates, implementation plans, financing, revenue, cash flow, and public private partnerships. The Freeholder said the Committee will be asked to approve annual updates to the financial plan over the course of the \$116 million local project, which will replace the bridge with a new adjacent parallel structure. The five-stage construction project began in February and is expected to conclude in October 2024. He recalled that, in May, the Board approved a minor amendment adding \$31 million in federal funds to the construction phase. Freeholder Bartlett noted that NJTPA staff assisted the Monmouth County engineering department in preparing the financial plan.

Freeholder Bartlett said The Committee also approved the following modifications to the current TIP, and no further action is needed:

- Modifications to the FY 2020 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program to Modify Five Projects as Requested by the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Freeholder Bartlett said federal funds are available for these increases from previous project and program releases. The modifications are as follows:
 - ADA Central, Contract 2 project in Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset Counties. This contract will bring projects into compliance with current Americans for Disabilities Act design requirements. The right of way phase of the project is ahead of schedule and needs increased funding in FY 2020. This modification will advance \$1.3 million from FY 2021 to 2020 and add an additional \$6.3 million for a total of \$7.6 million.
 - Route 29, Alexauken Creek Road to Washington Street project in Hunterdon County. This modification will increase federal funds by \$1.2 million for Preliminary Engineering due to an updated cost estimate for the FY 2020 authorization, bringing the total for 2020 to \$2.5 million.
 - Route 71, Bridge over NJ TRANSIT (North Jersey Coast Line) project in Monmouth County. This modification will increase funds needed for Preliminary Engineering by \$1.25 million for a total of \$2.25 million in FY 2020, due to an updated cost estimate.
 - Route 80, Route 15 Interchange project in Morris County. This modification will increase funds for Design in FY 2020 by \$7.5 million due to an advance construction contract for the replacement of the Route 15 northbound bridge over the former Mount Hope Mineral Railroad. This increase brings the total to \$14 million.

- Route 206, Doctors Way to Valley Road project in Somerset County. This modification will increase funds for construction by \$12.25 million for a total of \$61 million due to an updated cost estimate. The increases are project refinements developed during Final Design. They address duration of construction, additional utility work, storm water management, and landscaping.
- Modification to the FY 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to add Federal Funds to the Restriping Program and Line Reflectivity Management System as requested by NJDOT. The Freeholder said this modification adds \$23.2 million to the system, bringing total funding for the program to \$43.2 million. This program funds the application of long-life pavement markings and raised pavement markers on the state highway system. This amount includes \$21.5 million in new long life pavement work to be authorized in August of this year and \$1.7 million for the balance outstanding for previous work.

Action Item 1: Approval of the Initial Financial Plan for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on Monmouth County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River.
(Attachment 2)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Monmouth County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

Planning and Economic Development – Freeholder John P. Kelly, Chair

On behalf of Freeholder Kelly, NJTPA Deputy Executive Director David Behrend read the report on the activities of the Planning and Economic Development Committee. He said the Committee considered one action item at the August joint meeting, approval of the Henry Hudson Trail Extension to the Matawan/Aberdeen Train Station in Monmouth County. The Freeholder said endorsement of this project comes after NJ TRANSIT requested a reallocation of approximately \$940,000 of FY 2010 unobligated CMAQ funds to support a paved, mixed-use trail extension that would connect the Henry Hudson Trail to the train station. It is anticipated that the nearly half-mile trail connection will encourage improved bicycle and pedestrian access to the train station, which is one of the busiest on the North Jersey Coast Line. It would also facilitate transit access to the recreational trail.

Mr. Behrend said these CMAQ funds were originally allocated through the NJTPA's Local Mobility Initiatives program, which is reviewed and endorsed by the Planning and Economic Development Committee. He said the Committee approved NJ TRANSIT's request, and no further action is required.

Mr. Behrend said that, also, at the meeting, Central Staff provided updates on recent activities, including Plan 2050 outreach and Title VI planning. The Committee was also informed that the Demarest Place Community Vision Plan for Hackensack, Bergen County has been completed with the assistance of the Voorhees Transportation Center as part of the Together North Jersey Local Technical Program. The program provides technical assistance to municipalities, non-profits, and community-based organizations. The Vision Plan, available on the Together North Jersey website, includes recommendations to transform Demarest Place, a pedestrian walkway in

the heart of downtown Hackensack, into an arts destination that reflects the character of the local community.

Mr. Behrend said a new solicitation for the Technical Assistance program is now underway. The application deadline is October 15. The assistance is available for small-scale projects that can be completed in three to five months and help advance the goals of the Together North Jersey plan. Further information is available on the Together North Jersey website.

Freight Initiatives – Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair

Freeholder Kenny congratulated Freeholder Estrada on his retirement and thanked him for the way he welcomed him to the Board and helped guide him through the NJTPA process over the years.

The Freeholder said the August 17 Freight Initiatives Committee meeting focused on efforts to analyze and better understand key supply chains, which have been particularly important in supporting the region during the pandemic. He said, first, NJTPA staff announced completion of freight industry-level forecasts out to the year 2050 and noted that the forecasts are already being put to good use by the subregions. Chris Lamm of Cambridge Systematics, the study consultant, then discussed the forecasts and related products, including a new Freight Forecasting Tool; a regional freight profile that highlights the region's economic and freight data for 2020 to 2050; 15 subregional freight profiles--one for each NJTPA subregion; and 12 regional top commodity bundle profiles. The profiles and study final report are available on the NJTPA website.

Freeholder Kenny said that, next, Chandra Bondzie, FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations, introduced a mapping and visualization tool developed under the FHWA Freight Fluidity Program to enable users to assess supply chain performance and identify critical flows, connections, and opportunities for improvement. The NJTPA previously hosted one of the regional workshops held by FHWA as part of the Fluidity Program.

The Freeholder said the final presenter was Benjamin Ruddell, Northern Arizona University, who introduced the committee to FEWSION, an online tool that planners and communities can use to visualize local supply chains. Mr. Ruddell noted that the tool has been used as part of FEMA disaster simulations and planning. The tool incorporates national data to shed light on supply chain dynamics and can be used at the local level.

Freeholder Kenny said that, also at the meeting committee members provided brief updates on freight-related activities: NJDOT is now accepting grant applications for the Rail Freight Assistance Program; traffic on Trans-Hudson crossings has rebounded, particularly truck volumes; Morris County's High Bridge Railroad branch rehabilitation project, funded through the Rail Freight Assistance Program, has been completed; and Sussex County is seeing renewed interest in warehousing projects as the state continues to reopen.

The Freeholder noted that he also attended the MAP Forum truck parking forum, and he thanked the forum organizers. He said the five-hour event went fast, and the information was useful and

informative. He said it is just the start of the conversation on how to address the problem of truck parking along major highways.

G) Public Participation

Tim Sevener, New Jersey Association of Rail Passengers, advocated for using solar renewable energy to power the rail system and preserving rail rights-of-way for future restoration or extension of service instead of converting them into trails, which he said can run alongside rail.

Neile Weissman, Complete George, said the increasing popularity of SUVs is contributing significantly to the global rise in carbon dioxide emissions. Also, he said the pandemic has caused increases in walking, biking and al fresco dining and provides a glimpse of how livable urban centers could be if street space is reclaimed for these activities.

H) Other

Ms. Ameen recognized planning representatives Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA New Jersey Division Office, and Ray Tomczak, FTA. She said she looks forward to their greater participation in future NJTPA Board meetings.

Chair DeFillippo noted that participation in the NJTPA virtual meetings has been very good. She reminded all to consult the NJTPA website for the Plan 2050 survey and various other information.

The Chair wished Freeholder Estrada well in his retirement and presented him with an electronic resolution acknowledging and thanking him for his dedicated service, including his work with partner agencies and subregions on freight and other issues, and his graciousness in welcoming new Board members.

NJTPA Alternate Union County Trustee, Bette Jane Kowalski, thanked Freeholder Estrada for his many years of public service to the County, the NJTPA and the state. She said his cheerful attention and intelligent analysis brought valuable contributions to every issue he addressed.

Mr. Colangelo-Bryan wished Freeholder Estrada the best and said he appreciates his efforts during his tenure as Chair and the way he always treated staff with respect and integrity.

Mr. Russo thanked him for his years of service and the assistance he offered as Chair. He wished him the best for retirement.

Lauren LaRusso, Governor's Authorities Unit, congratulated him on behalf of the Administration and noted how he welcomed her to the Board.

Ms. Ameen thanked Freeholder Estrada for his tireless contributions as leader, humanitarian and role model for everyone, especially those who had to work extra hard "just to get seat at table." She said he more than earned a happy, healthy and long retirement, and he made a lasting

difference in the lives of many people. She said he changed the region's transportation and the NJTPA for the better and thanked him for his guidance and friendship.

Freeholder Estrada thanked everyone and said, in the many years he served as a Board alternate and Chair he always found individuals whose main goal was to make life easier for the region's residents, something that is very critical. He said no matter Board members' political differences, when it came to the NJTPA it was just about service to the communities they serve--something he always admired. He said the MAP forum provides a greater understanding of neighboring regions. The Freeholder said he enjoyed all the years of participating and thanked colleagues who had supported him in his position. He said they helped him to understand how the MPO process can and does work. He thanked Ms. Ameen and the organization's professionals.

I) Time and Place of Next Meeting

Chair DeFillippo announced that the next virtual meeting of the NJTPA will be held on Monday, November 9, at 10:30 a.m.

J) Adjournment

At 11:30 a.m., motion to adjourn was made by Freeholder Kelly, seconded by Freeholder Bartlett and carried unanimously.

Attachment 1

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

Subregion/Agency	Voting Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Bergen County		Joseph Baladi Peter Kortright
Essex County		
Hudson County	Byron Nicholas	
Hunterdon County	Hon. Zach Rich	
Jersey City	Barkha Patel	Elias Guseman
Middlesex County	Hon. Charles Kenny	Tony Gambilonghi
Monmouth County	Teri O'Connor	Joseph Ettore
Morris County	Hon. Kathy DeFillippo John Hayes	
Newark	Phillip Scott	Trevor Howard
Ocean County	Hon. John Kelly John Ernst	
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	Mike Lysicatos Sal Presti
Somerset County	Walt Lane	Ken Wedeen
Sussex County	Tom Drabic	
Union County	Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Liza Betz
Warren County	David Dech	
Governor's Office	Lauren LaRusso	
NJDOT	Michael Russo	Andrew Swords
NJ TRANSIT	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan	
Port Authority of NY & NJ	Steve Brown	Jay Shuffield
Citizen's Representative	Jared Rodriguez	

Other Attendees	
Anna Aleynick	AECOM
Neile Weissman	Complete George
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay	FHWA
Ray Tomczak	FTA
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Leslie London	McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA

Andras Holzmann	Somerset County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Mitch Erickson	
Richard Hamm	

**DRAFT RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE INITIAL FINANCIAL PLAN FOR
THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE S-32 ON COUNTY
ROUTE 520 (RUMSON ROAD) OVER THE SHREWSBURY
RIVER**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Inc. is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the northern part of New Jersey as required by 23 CFR 450 and CFR 613 B; and

WHEREAS, under federal law, recipients of federal financial assistance for projects with a total cost between \$100 million and \$500 million are required to prepare a financial plan; and

WHEREAS, a Financial Plan addresses the following elements:

- **Project Description:** A detailed description that presents the scope of the project. A graphic depicting the project location is recommended.
- **Cost Estimate:** The total cost and cost-to-complete for major project elements are presented in year of expenditure dollars.
- **Implementation Plan:** The project schedule is presented and the cost-to-complete is presented in annual increments in year of expenditure dollars.
- **Financing and Revenues:** Presented by funding source as annual elements available for project obligations.
- **Cash Flow:** An annualized presentation of cash income and outgo to illustrate how periodic bills will be paid.
- **Risk Identification and Mitigation Factors:** Identification of the likelihood of issues affecting project completion and sufficiency of revenues – such as cost escalation, construction schedules, and dependencies on future legislation – and strategies and actions to address these risks.
- **Phasing Plan:** Identification of fundable improvements that will address the short-term purpose and need of the project in the event there are insufficient financial resources to complete the entire project.
- **Public Private Partnership (P3):** Assessment of appropriateness of a public-private partnership to deliver the project.
- **Annual Update Cycle:** The submission dates and reporting periods should be proposed in the Initial Financial Plan and annual updated plans; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the financial plan, annual updates are required in order to provide information on actual cost, expenditure and revenue performance; and

WHEREAS, the Bridge S-32 project (DB# NS9706) involves the bridge replacement with a new parallel structure adjacent to the existing bridge, the reconfiguration of the intersections at both ends of the bridge, and the construction of new bulkhead walls; and

WHEREAS, Monmouth County Department of Engineering has submitted an Initial Financial Plan for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River, with total costs of approximately \$115.978 million; and

WHEREAS, NJTPA Central Staff has reviewed the Initial Financial Plan and has found the elements listed above to be consistent with federal guidance; and

WHEREAS, NJTPA Central Staff has reviewed the Initial Financial Plan and has found the project to be consistent with the fiscal constraint requirements of the Long Range Transportation Plan and the FY 2020 – FY 2023 TIP as revised; 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 Initial Financial Plan for the Replacement of Bridge S-32 on County Route 520 (Rumson Road) over the Shrewsbury River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution and attachments be forwarded to Monmouth County and the New Jersey Department of Transportation for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.