



Board Meeting Minutes November 10, 2025

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

First Vice Chair Charles Kenny, Middlesex County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. Denise Truvillion, Central Staff, reported that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of the meeting was forwarded to the *Star Ledger*, the *Asbury Park Press*, the *Courier News*, the *Daily Record*, the *Home News Tribune*, the *Jersey Journal*, the *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 led the room in a salute to the Flag.

C. Roll Call

Ms. Truvillion called the roll, and 20 voting members were in attendance. (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

Morris County made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, meeting, Union County seconded, and the motion carried with one abstention from Ocean County.

E. Chair Remarks

First Vice Chair Kenny welcomed everyone to the NJTPA Board meeting and noted that this is the final session for Chair John P. Kelly and Third Vice Chair Bette Jane Kowalski, who are departing the Board after choosing not to seek re-election. The Board thanked them for their dedicated service and collaborative leadership.

Outgoing Chair Kelly will convene a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of candidates for the new Executive Committee officers. Monmouth County Commissioner Tom Arone and Commissioner Kowalski will serve on the committee. The committee will meet in the coming weeks and announce nominations at the January meeting. Additional nominations will be taken before the vote. Members interested in submitting a nomination should contact Chair Kelly or David Behrend. The new officers will serve two-year terms beginning with the January 2026 meeting.

First Vice Chair Kenny reviewed the NJTPA's accomplishments under Chairman Kelly's leadership. This includes the adoption of the updated Long Range Transportation Plan, *Connecting Communities*, emphasizing safety, resilience, and state of good repair. The plan reflects input from more than 4,000 people across 13 counties. The Board also adopted the FY 2024–2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which commits more than \$16 billion for regional projects over the next four years. The NJTPA also achieved 20 years of attainment status for carbon monoxide, resulting in the lifting of the federal monitoring requirement.

Among accomplishments during the last fiscal year, eight counties completed Local Safety Action Plans and Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, and Somerset counties recently completed Local Concept Development Studies for county-owned roads and bridges.

Agency remarks followed. Eric Powers, NJDOT, reported that the next Target Zero Commission public meeting will be held in December. The Commission continues its work toward zero fatalities and will release a report soon. Meeting details, including streaming options, will be available on the website.

Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan, NJ TRANSIT, thanked the NJTPA and partner agencies for their support in developing a program to deliver electric vehicles to local transit providers. Middlesex, Essex, and Union counties will receive vehicles, and NJ TRANSIT will also deploy several internally.

Jay Shuffield, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, announced that Mary K. Murphy, Director of Planning, will retire in January. Seth Mayer will serve as her successor, and the department will be renamed the Planning and Innovation Department.

F. Executive Director’s Report

NJTPA Executive Director David Behrend recognized and thanked Chairman Kelly and Commissioner Kowalski for their service on the Board. He expressed his appreciation for their leadership and partnership over the years.

Mr. Behrend provided a brief recap of 2025. He reported that the Local Safety Program authorized a total of \$37.76 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2025 for design and construction activities. Seven projects advanced from preliminary engineering to final design; two were authorized for construction, and five are under construction. Essex County will begin work this month at seven intersections along Springfield Avenue, and Jersey City has been awarded a contract for safety improvements at 12 intersections on Communipaw Avenue.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency endorsed the Air Quality Conformity Determination for *Connecting Communities* and the TIP approved by the Board in September. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration are completing their final reviews, with full federal approval expected soon.

He reported that the Board will consider awarding funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. Forty-five applications were received; 36 were deemed eligible, and staff recommend approving 29 projects totaling \$29.3 million.

Mr. Behrend said 29 projects have been completed to date through the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program, including five finalized in June. Applications for the next round closed earlier this month and are under review. He added that the Complete Streets Demonstration Library has completed 26 demonstration projects, including a recent installation in Teaneck that complements the township’s ongoing Street Smart NJ campaign.

He said the Local Capital Project Delivery Program authorized \$54.5 million in 2025, with two projects advancing to preliminary engineering, four to final design, and one under construction, including key bridge replacement and improvement projects. He noted that the Local Capital Project Delivery, Local Safety, and Transportation Alternatives programs together represent more than \$120 million in planning, design, and construction investments across the region.

Mr. Behrend reported that NJTPA continues to support important local and regional studies through the Subregional Studies Program, including the Hunterdon County Bicycle Plan, the Jersey City Transportation Plan, and the Somerset County Electric Vehicle Charging and Suitability Analysis. He added that UpNext North Jersey, the young adult advisory group, remains active and is recruiting new members.

In conclusion, he said all 15 subregions have submitted draft work programs and budgets for the upcoming Unified Planning Work Program. Central Staff are reviewing the submissions, and the draft plan will be shared with the Board and committees later this year.

G. Featured Speaker: Kris Kolluri, President and CEO, NJ TRANSIT

Kris Kolluri, President and CEO of NJ TRANSIT, congratulated the Board on adopting the TIP. He said the TIP reflects not only the work of the NJTPA but also the principle that these projects come together deliberately and with intention. He emphasized that the NJTPA works each day to ensure that projects designed to improve residents' lives remain central to the mission of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Mr. Kolluri reported that the TIP includes approximately \$5 billion in NJ TRANSIT capital projects, including \$1.74 billion dollars in fiscal year 2026. He said this represents a strong capital program and described NJ TRANSIT's structure as a three-legged stool consisting of funding, infrastructure and rolling stock, and human capital.

He highlighted NJ TRANSIT's commitment to modernization, including replacing all rail cars with multilevel equipment and all 2,400 buses by 2031 at an investment of nearly \$3 billion. He stated that reliability, safety, and security require decisive action, not aspiration.

Mr. Kolluri said the region cannot rely on infrastructure that is 150 years old and expects it to function without issues. As the former Chief Executive Officer of the Gateway Development Commission overseeing the Hudson Tunnel Project, he noted that the project is advancing along with other major initiatives, including the Portal North Bridge Project, which is nearly 80 percent complete, and construction of a new Raritan River Bridge on the North Jersey Coast Line.

Addressing workforce challenges, Mr. Kolluri said NJ TRANSIT cannot compete with private sector salaries, contributing to a public sector brain drain that must be addressed. He said the corporate transit tax has been essential because it provides predictable operational funding for the next five years.

He outlined NJ TRANSIT's efforts to expand revenue beyond fares and taxes through The LAND Plan: Leveraging Assets for Non farebox Dollars, introduced at Metropark Station in the Iselin section of Woodbridge. Mixed use development is underway around the Middlesex County transit hub, which includes an Amtrak Northeast Corridor stop, and Hackensack Meridian Health plans to relocate its headquarters there. Mr. Kolluri said the LAND Plan is expected to generate \$1.9 billion for NJ TRANSIT over 30 years, in addition to \$14 billion for the state and \$3 to \$4 billion for municipalities. He said this approach represents the path forward and depends on strong partnerships with counties and municipalities.

He also discussed efforts to reduce unpaid fares, which he estimated result in about \$80 million in lost revenue annually. New fare gates have been piloted at Secaucus and Newark Airport stations. The agency has increased roving patrols and is exploring technology to ensure riders pay before boarding, similar to practices on the Long Island Rail Road.

In conclusion, Mr. Kolluri said automation is expected within the next decade and that the transit system will change significantly as a result. Preparing for this shift will require protecting the workforce and securing meaningful financial investment. He said the recently enacted budget provides a solid foundation, but organizations must be prepared to adapt or risk operating an analog system in a digital world, which he said is not sustainable.

The presentation, along with a question-and-answer session with President and CEO Kolluri, can be found on the NJTPA [website](#).

H. Committee Reports/Action Items

- **Project Prioritization Committee**

Hunterdon County Commissioner Susan Soloway, gave the report on behalf of Committee Chair Kenny. She said the committee reviewed one action item before the Board for a vote today, recommending approval of the Fiscal Year 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Projects. This program provides federal funding for community-based, non-traditional projects that enhance the cultural and environmental aspects of the nation’s intermodal transportation system. The NJTPA received 45 applications, of which 36 met eligibility requirements. NJDOT approved funding for 29 projects, totaling \$29.3 million. All selected projects align with TASA Program goals, and Central Staff recommended approval of this action.

She said Central Staff also shared an update on the Route 1 Northbound Bridge project in Middlesex County. NJDOT prepared a financial plan for the project, which is required for those with total costs between \$100 million and \$500 million. This project will rehabilitate the Morrison Goodkind Bridge connecting New Brunswick and Edison and is estimated to cost \$161 million. Construction is expected to begin next fall and be completed in 2030.

Action Item 1: Approval of the FY 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Projects (Attachment H.1) [Details here on page 20.](#)

Sussex County moved the item, Union County seconded, and the First Vice Chair Kenny opened the floor to questions on the action item.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, asked what the grant requirements were for the TASA Program and how the grantees were selected. He also asked if there were problems or issues with applications, how can the NJTPA and NJDOT provide clarity in the future. NJTPA Executive Director Behrend said staff would follow up with him to answer his questions.

The item carried with one abstention from City of Newark.

- **Planning and Economic Development Committee**

Warren County Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Committee Chair, said the meeting featured a presentation from Central Staff on the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program. The NJTPA funds this program, and Sustainable Jersey and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University provide assistance. Projects have included corridor assessments, bicycle network plans, and assistance with Compete Streets policy development. The NJTPA recently solicited projects for the next round, which is scheduled to begin in Spring and Summer 2026. At the League of Municipalities conference in November, NJTPA staff will have a booth showcasing this and other municipal assistance programs.

He said the committee has one action item before the Board today and recommends Endorsement of the NJDOT Updated Roadway Functional Classification System. The Roadway Functional Classification System groups roads by the type of service provided. FHWA requires states, metropolitan planning organizations, and counties to update their urban area boundaries and corresponding functional classifications after each census. The next step in this process is for our Board to endorse the final classifications before NJDOT submits them to the FHWA.

Action Item 2: Endorsement of NJDOT Updated Roadway Functional Classification System (Attachment H.2) [Details here on page 26.](#)

Morris County moved the item, City of Jersey City seconded, and it carried unanimously.

- **Freight Initiatives Committee**

Morris County Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Committee Chair, said the meeting presentations centered on the strategic and economic benefits of automation, reducing operational costs, and improving logistical efficiency.

He said Matt Soule of Parallel Systems and Daniel Smith of the Tioga Group presented a vision for transforming long-haul logistics using autonomous, battery-operated rail vehicles that operate without a locomotive.

He said the discussion also covered the limitations of current automation technology (autonomous vehicles, robots, drones) in terms of range and speed, noting that they are most effective within predictable infrastructure.

A pilot program for the autonomous rail system in Georgia has received Federal Railroad Administration approval and is moving forward to validate safety controls.

During reports from committee members, NJDOT reported the completion of phase one of its truck parking study and committed to providing freight management system input for all active NJDOT projects.

I. Public Participation

There were no comments from the public.

Presentation of Plaques to Outgoing Board Members

NJTPA Executive Director Behrend presented plaques for Chairman John P. Kelly and Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski. Although Chairman Kelly was unable to attend the meeting, Mr. Behrend read part of the plaque's inscription saying the Chair oversaw increased federal investment in the region, guiding the adoption of a \$16 billion Transportation Improvement Program. Under his leadership, he oversaw the adoption of *Connecting Communities* and has been a vocal advocate for improving safety, addressing congestion, and maintaining transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair, particularly along Route 9 and Ocean County's many bridges.

Mr. Behrend thanked Commissioner Kowalski for her dedicated service to the people of our region during five years on the Board and wished her well in her retirement from elected office. He said Commissioner Kowalski was a strong supporter of the Street Smart NJ pedestrian safety program, participating in numerous campaigns in Union County and has advocated for improving rail service through her active participation in the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, as well as her support for prioritized Hudson Tunnel Project funding.

Commissioner Kowalski said she was honored to serve on the Board and thanked her colleagues, all the staff and the partner agencies for the work that they do.

First Vice Chair Kenny thanked her for always putting the residents of the region first in her work, a sentiment Commissioner Shaw echoed.

J. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is Monday, January 12, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at NJTPA, One Newark Center, (1085 Raymond Blvd.), Newark, NJ 07102.

K. Adjournment

Warren County made a motion to adjourn at 11:58 a.m., Morris County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Attendance Record: November 10, 2025

Subregion/Agency	Voting Board Members/Alternates	Staff & Others
Bergen County	Peter Kortright	
Essex County	David Antonio	
Hudson County	Mark Kataryniak	Tanner Thul
Hunterdon County	Hon. Susan Soloway	Alan Hunt Bob Hornby
Jersey City	Michael Manzella	
Middlesex County	Hon. Charles Kenny	
Monmouth County	Joseph Ettore	
Morris County	Hon. Stephen Shaw	John Hayes
Newark	Dolores Martinez-Wooden	Trevor Howard
Ocean County	Mark Jehnke	Gregory Smith
Passaic County	Hon. John Bartlett	Adam Bradford
Somerset County	Hon. Sara Sooy	
Sussex County	Tom Drabic	
Union County	Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	
Warren County	Hon. Jason Sarnoski	Ryan Conklin
Office of the Governor	Dorian Smith	
NJDOT	Eric Powers	
NJ TRANSIT	Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan	Kris Kolluri Anthony Greico
PANYNJ	Jay Shuffield	
Citizens Representative	Charles Burton	

Other Attendees	
Ted Del Guercio, III	McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Andrew Lappitt	Michael Baker International
Edward Murray	
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
William Dungo Joe Koy Shawn Tepper	UHB

Approved November 10, 2025

DRAFT RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF PROJECTS FOR THE 2025 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE 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, the Transportation Alternates Set-aside Program (TASA) is supported in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 with a set-aside of funds under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP); and

WHEREAS, the TASA Program provides an opportunity for eligible applicants to apply for federal funding for the construction of community based “non-traditional” projects designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation’s intermodal system; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) conducted a solicitation for the program in December 2024 inviting eligible applicants to apply; and

WHEREAS, NJDOT received 45 applications in the NJTPA region, 36 of which were eligible; and

WHEREAS, a Technical Review Committee comprised of NJTPA Central Staff, the NJDOT Division of Local Aid, Division of Traffic Engineering and Safety and the Bureau of Environmental Program Resources reviewed the applications; and

WHEREAS, within the NJTPA region, the NJDOT has agreed to fund the top-scoring TASA projects with a combined funding total of \$29.3 million; and

WHEREAS, the recommended projects address the goals of the programs as defined; 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 attached list of projects for the Transportation Alternatives Set-aside Program.

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 and to the counties of the selected applicants.

Approved November 10, 2025

DRAFT RESOLUTION: ENDORSEMENT OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UPDATED ROADWAY FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

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 Federal Highway Administration requires that states, in consultation with MPOs, classify all roadways by their functional classification based on a map of adjusted urban area boundaries completed every 10 years after each decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA endorsed New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT's) adjusted urban boundary map on November 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOT has subsequently prepared, in consultation with NJTPA and its subregions, an updated roadway functional classification system based on the adjusted urban boundary map; 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 NJTPA hereby endorses the attached map of adjusted roadway functional classification map; 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.