

# **NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.**

## **PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE**

*FREEHOLDER SUSAN ZELLMAN, CHAIRMAN  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DENNIS MCNERNEY, VICE CHAIRMAN*

### **MINUTES**

**January 9, 2006**

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#### **I. Roll Call of Members**

Committee Chairman Susan Zellman called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. There were 12 voting members present.

#### **II. Action Items**

1. Approval of a Modification to Add Funding to the Safe Streets to School Program in the FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Martin Hofler, Central Staff, explained that NJDOT received an appropriation of \$3.4 million for the federally mandated Safe Routes to School program and wanted to add the funding to an existing line item in the TIP. This agenda item was discussed at the December 19<sup>th</sup> joint committee meeting, and a vote was taken contingent upon NJDOT clarification of how the funds would be used. Mr. Hofler introduced Elise Bremer-Nei of NJDOT, Coordinator of the program, who was asked to provide the necessary clarification.

Ms. Bremer-Nei reported that the federal government will provide \$15 million to the state over the next five years for its Safe Routes to School program. She said the three goals of the program are to:

1. Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
2. Make walking and bicycling to school safer and more appealing as a transportation alternative; and
3. Facilitate the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that improve safety and reduce traffic congestion and air pollution near schools.

Chairman Zellman noted that she was aware that Morris County was interested in applying for funding and was already moving forward with plans. Ms. Bremer-Nei said that NJDOT would spend \$1 million in the first year on projects that are ready to go. She said that a portion of those funds could possibly be used to support projects other than the three demonstration programs underway. This would depend on agreement by the program's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which had yet to be formed. She said that if Morris County's project is ready for design or construction, it could be considered when the TAC is formed. In answer to questions from Chairman Zellman, Ms. Bremer-Nei said that Central Staff and members of the PPC would serve

on the TAC, which will develop the scoring criteria and application guidelines. A general discussion ensued.

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

## 2. Approval of Procedures to Address NJDOT Project Bid Overruns

Martin Hofler, Central Staff introduced this subject by noting that, at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PPC, the committee was asked to approve a series of modifications that would facilitate advancement of the Route 70 Manasquan River Bridge project, which needed additional funding because of bids exceeding TIP estimates due to increases costs for concrete, steel and fuel. Tom Wospil, NJDOT reported that projects now are consistently receiving bids well beyond their original estimates. In order to meet time constraints created by the fact that NJDOT has only 30 business days to approve a bid, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allowed a letter from the NJTPA stating that formal Board approval of the modifications was reasonably assured. Mr. Hofler reported that the FHWA and NJDOT agreed that a procedure for addressing cost overruns needed to be put in place in January so that the NJTPA would be prepared to address future bid overruns.

After considerable discussion of different scenarios suggested by Central Staff and committee members, the Committee voted to recommend a proposed set of draft procedures that would allow construction-ready projects with bid overruns to proceed without delay. Under the proposal, the Board of Trustees would approve a “donor” project list, which is ranked by authorization date. The Executive Director would select from this list projects with the last implementation date first, until the bid overrun is covered. The Committee added two elements to the procedures. First, it required that the Executive Director’s selections be made in consultation with the Executive Committee. Second, it added that the procedures would expire on September 30, 2006, at the end of the federal fiscal year. By that time, the Memorandum of Understanding between NJDOT and the NJTPA will have been revised to include a formal, long-term procedure for dealing with bid overruns.

A motion was made by Middlesex County to recommend approval of the procedures outlined above. The motion was seconded by Ocean County and carried unanimously.

## III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

**Project Prioritization Committee  
ATTENDANCE  
Special Meeting  
January 9, 2006**

<b>V O T I N G M E M B E R S</b>	
Hon. Susan Zellman	Sussex County
Hon. Thomas DeGise	Hudson County
Hon. Nancy Palladino	Hunterdon County
Hon. Theodore Narozanick	Monmouth County
Farouk Ahmad	Bergen County
Peter Palmer	Somerset County
Phil LiVecchi	Essex County
Keith Barrack	Governor's Representative
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Jerome Lutin	NJ Transit
Dennis Keck	NJDOT
Richard Lane	Ocean County
<b>O T H E R S</b>	
James Adams	City of Newark
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Jim Berzok	NJDOT
Patrick Franco	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
Jerry Amalfitano	Maser P.A.
Fernando Rubio	City of Newark
Jim Bartell	Essex County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Steve Decker	NJDOT
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Doug Greenfeld	Jersey City
Sue Dziamara	Hunterdon County
Denise David	Hunterdon County
Brent Barnes	NJDOT
Elise Bremer-Nei	NJDOT
E. Wesley Day	Union County
Liza Betz	Union County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Christopher Helms	Bergen County
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
James DiDomenico	Hudson County
Hon. John DiMaio	Warren County
Martin Bierbaum	Municipal Land Use Center
John A. Araneo, P.E.	French & Parrello Associates, P.A.
John Lane	Hudson County

Art Vatsky	Future Fuels Consulting
Mary K. Murphy	New Jersey Turnpike
Herman Volk	Office of Smart Growth
Joel Weiner	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Deva Deka	Central Staff
David Stein	Central Staff
Kevin Twine	Central Staff
Eve Chamberlain	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Ron Tindall	Central Staff
Hamilton Meghdir	Central Staff
Dave Behrend	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
Brian Fineman	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
Tracy Lockhart	Central Staff
Ted Ritter	Central Staff
Sean Vroom	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff