

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

SUSAN M. ZELLMAN, CHAIRMAN

MINUTES January 14, 2008

The NJTPA Office
One Newark Center, 17th floor
Newark, NJ 07102
10:00 A.M.

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance - Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan opened the meeting and advised 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 Jersey Journal, the Record, the Courier News, the Asbury Park Press, the New Jersey Herald News, and the Times Observer and posted in the Essex County Administration Building, Newark, New Jersey, and on the bulletin board of the Secretary of State, Trenton, New Jersey.

B. Salute to the Flag

Chairman Sullivan led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Following the salute to the flag, Marie Della Pelle called the roll. Eighteen voting members were present. (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 19th meeting was made by Monmouth County, seconded by Ocean County, and approved with 16 affirmatives votes. Passaic and Somerset Counties abstained.

E. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Sullivan, whose two-year term as Chairman concluded that day, said he was proud of the NJTPA's accomplishments through its planning and investment decisions. He presented the report "Planning in Progress," which provides an overview of the work done by the agency to advance the core principles of the Regional Transportation Plan over the last two years. Chairman Sullivan pointed out a few highlights from the report. He said that in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 the NJTPA:

- Invested nearly \$2.2 billion for bridge work, road preservation and transit maintenance, in keeping with the plan's "fix it first" principle;
- Funded a wide range of affordable quick-fix, high-impact safety improvements through the Local Safety Program;

- Approved and funded major transit expansions, including that of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail, the Newark City Subway and the new Mount Arlington transit hub station;
- Helped the state and region demonstrate a strong local commitment to the Access to the Region's Core project by endorsing a plan to "flex" a billion dollars in federal highway funds over ten years for a new passenger rail tunnel under the Hudson;
- Funded half a billion dollars of highway improvements, including extensive work at the confluence of major routes known as "the Spaghetti Bowl" in Passaic and Essex Counties;
- Worked with the office of Senator Robert Menendez, the state and NJIT to move forward a \$100 million package of Liberty Corridor Projects that will fuel economic development and improve the flow of goods in the region;
- Forged a stronger link between regional transportation planning and land use through Strategy Evaluation, the technical analysis of transportation needs in the region; and
- Conducted workshops to help towns identify ways to improve safety and mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Chairman Sullivan thanked the Trustees, NJTPA Central Staff and the representatives of the state agencies, counties and municipalities that he worked with during his time as Chairman, and he said he looked forward to continuing his service as a regular member of the Board.

The Chairman conveyed his thanks and well wishes to Executive Director Joel Weiner, who would retire at the end of the month. He said Mr. Weiner served the Board and the region with distinction for more than twenty-five years and had been a dedicated and tireless professional who helped the region's counties and cities meet their transportation needs while always keeping the bigger regional picture in mind.

F. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Weiner said his 25 years of service as Executive Director of the NJTPA had been a rewarding experience. He pointed out that parochial interests have given way to regionalism; party politics have not been reflected in the decisions made; and all have put the public good first. He noted that during his tenure there have been five governors, two acting governors, 10 transportation commissioners and 12 Board Chairmen. He said that each change of administration brought new policy directives and shifts in regional priorities, but the one constant has been a collective response on the part of the Board's 20 Trustees to improve the quality of life for the people they serve.

Mr. Weiner thanked several individuals for their leadership, partnership, support, guidance and friendship. He also thanked NJTPA Central Staff, saying the agency had a "talent pool second to none." He said they worked long and hard to research facts, provide data, and offer options so that the Trustees could make informed decisions. Mr. Weiner concluded his remarks by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve as executive director of what he considers to be "the finest MPO in the country."

G. Other

Following Mr. Weiner's farewell speech, Chairman Sullivan presented him with a resolution and plaque recognizing his years of service to the NJTPA and the region.

Chairman Sullivan then introduced new representatives to the Board of Trustees:

- Freeholder Matthew Holt - Trustee, and his alternate William Mennen, of Hunterdon County
- Freeholder John D'Amico, Jr., alternate to Freeholder William Barham, Trustee from Monmouth County
- Freeholder Pasquale Lepore of Passaic County, new Trustee, former alternate.

After the introductions, Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy spoke of the diminishing availability of private bus services in the city, which relies heavily on bus transport. He asked for assistance in helping to increase bus service and suggested that a study of the problem be conducted. The Mayor stressed the urgency of the problem for the residents of Jersey City. He submitted a letter to the Board detailing his concerns about bus service and funding.

H. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers for 2008 and 2009

Chairman Sullivan reported the that nominating committee, consisting of himself, Freeholder David Crabel and Freeholder Peter Palmer, recommended the following slate of Executive Committee officers for calendar years 2008 and 2009 by unanimous decision:

Chairman.....Freeholder Susan Zellman, Sussex County
 First Vice Chairman.....County Executive Dennis McNerney, Bergen County
 Second Vice ChairmanFreeholder John DiMaio, Warren County
 SecretaryFreeholder Gene Feyl, Morris County

The Chairman said that, in accordance with the bylaws, the new chairman will appoint the Third Vice President. Freeholder Zellman then accepted the nomination.

In the absence of other nominations from the floor a motion to close the nominations was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Jersey City, and carried unanimously.

A motion to elect the slate of officers was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Passaic County, and carried unanimously.

Following the election, Chairman Zellman presented Freeholder Sullivan with a parting gift on behalf of the Board and Central Staff. Next, she appointed Hudson County Executive Thomas DeGise as third Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee, and he accepted.

Chairman Zellman said she is honored to assume the role, and she reiterated the NJTPA mission to be the transportation planning leader and technical resource for Northern New Jersey, as well as a source of solutions for the larger tri-state region. She announced that this spring a strategic planning session is planned with a goal to involve all trustees. She encouraged commitment on the part of every trustee as well as each member of the RTAC. She also encouraged participation

in meetings and on sub-committees on a regular basis. Chairman Zellman said the Board can start this visioning and strategic planning process by communicating with each other, the subregions, and partner agencies. She also stressed a greater role in educating the public about transportation opportunities.

Chairman Zellman then announced the 2008 and 2009 leadership roster of the NJTPA standing committees:

Project Prioritization Committee

Chairman.....County Executive Dennis McNerney, Bergen County
Vice ChairmanFreeholder Gene Feyl, Morris County

Planning and Economic Development Committee

Chairman.....Freeholder John DiMaio, Warren County
Vice ChairmanCounty Executive Thomas DeGise, Hudson County

Freight Initiatives Committee

Chairman.....Freeholder Peter Palmer, Somerset County
Vice ChairmanFreeholder Daniel Sullivan, Union County

Chairman Zellman said that committee memberships would be announced in the next few weeks. She asked any interested Trustees to contact her about particular Committee assignments. She also said that candidates for the Executive Director position were being interviewed and information regarding the process and recommendations of the Executive Committee would be forthcoming within the next two weeks.

The Chairman thanked several family members, colleagues and friends for their encouragement and cooperation in her efforts.

Chairman Zellman noted her excitement and satisfaction about being part of the NJTPA because of the fact that elected officials from both political parties work side by side for common initiatives, principles and goals for the good of the residents of the region and the state. She thanked all for their vote of confidence in her.

I. Key Discussion Issue – NJTPA Truck Rest Stop Study: The Findings and Recommendations

Project consultants Keith Chase and Patrick Anater of Gannett Fleming reported on the final report of the North Jersey Truck Rest Stop Study. The report had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. The purposes of the study are to determine the extent of the truck parking problem, identify potential sites for new or expanded truck parking facilities to meet regional demand, and offer other recommendations.

Mr. Chase discussed the ongoing increase of truck parking on highway shoulders in the region, noting that this stems from both the growth of truck traffic and the recently enacted federal hours of service regulations. He said that current rest facilities for truck drivers in the region are insufficient and the need for more is increasing. He pointed out that regional truck traffic trends

indicate that truck vehicle miles traveled will grow by three percent annually through 2030. He also said that trends indicate the number of trucks on the region's roads will increase 80 percent over that period.

With the aid of a slide presentation, Mr. Chase and Mr. Anater outlined the variety of truck parking issues facing the region and the criteria used for evaluation of potential parking sites. They also discussed recommendations generated by the report, suggestions for implementing them, and other strategic actions. Recommendations included policy options, as well as two suggested sites for truck parking in the region: the Vince Lombardi Service Area on the New Jersey Turnpike and a site near the Molly Pitcher service area, also on the Turnpike.

Mr. Chase said that the consultant team, which also included Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates and Future Fuels Consulting appreciated the efforts of Freight Initiatives Committee Chairman Freeholder Peter Palmer, the NJTPA Staff, the Technical Advisory Committee for the project, NJDOT, and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

The North Jersey Truck Rest Stop Study report is available on the Internet at:
<http://njrest.org/documents/truckstop.pdf>

J. Committee Reports/Action Items

- **Freight Initiatives – Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman**

Freeholder Palmer reported that the Committee met December 20th to consider one action item – Board authorization of the submission of the North Jersey Truck Rest Stop Study report to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority for review and follow-up in order to initiate the next steps required to advance the report's two recommended sites.

The Freeholder pointed out that the report and supporting resolution had been revised to reflect the elimination of the Motiva/Hess site in Newark, which is unavailable because of development plans. He said that this is the only change to the report that was unanimously endorsed by the Committee. Also, he said that additional collaboration is needed to identify a suitable site in the I-78 and I-95 area in and around Elizabeth and Newark.

The Freeholder stressed that a goods movement system requires truck parking. He said that a key issue is money, from the perspective of communities that might host truck parking facilities. He gave the example that a distribution center will produce more revenue than a privately run truck stop on the same piece of land. He also stressed the importance of finding parking sites closer to the Port to reduce traffic and fuel consumption.

Freeholder Palmer thanked the project's Advisory Committee and acknowledged the hard work of staff and the consulting team.

The Freeholder also reported that Central Staff provided an overview of new freight related activities for the FY 2009 Work Program at the meeting. These include:

- Enhanced outreach to stakeholders,

- Updating the freight component of the next Regional Transportation Plan,
- Identifying locations for “way-finding” signage at the region’s 27 general aviation airports in collaboration with DOT,
- Exploring the potential for waterborne freight services to relieve truck traffic, and
- Advancing improvement plans from the current Rail Freight Grade Crossing Assessment Study.

Freeholder Palmer said staff provided a status report on the Grade Crossing Study, which is expected to conclude in April. The study focuses on grade crossing safety and other issues of concern in affected communities. He said an interactive website will be used for the study to solicit input from the public and implementing agencies.

The Freeholder then directed attention to a CD prepared by NJDOT entitled “New Jersey County Freight Profiles,” which presents county-to-county freight flows for all modes. He concluded by announcing that Nation’s Port will hold its annual meeting here on January 22nd at 9:30 a.m., and he encouraged all to attend.

Action Item 1: Approval of the Submission of the North Jersey Truck Rest Stop Study to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to Initiate the Next Steps at the Recommended Sites
(Attachment 2)

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

Before voting on behalf of Middlesex County, George Ververides urged continued meetings and collaboration between Cranbury Township and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority regarding the township’s concerns about the recommended rest stop at the Molly Pitcher Service Area.

- **Project Prioritization – Freeholder Susan Zellman, Chairman**

Chairman Zellman reported that the Committee considered three action items at last month’s meeting. The first was a modification to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which was requested by Warren County. She explained that, as a result of increased construction costs, an additional \$958,000 is required for completing the bridge over Pohatcong Creek on County Route 623/Brass Castle Road. She said funding for this increase is available in the Project Development line item. The Committee approved the modification, and no further action is required.

The Chairman said the Committee also considered a series of TIP modifications requested by NJDOT to address the changing requirements of eight projects in various counties. To meet the projects’ escalating costs, the proposed modifications would use reprogrammed funding from two other projects that were advanced and funded in FY 2007, leaving \$30 million available for the current fiscal year. She said the Committee voted to approve the modifications. She noted that no project will be adversely affected, and no further action is required.

Chairman Zellman reported that the Committee considered one item that requires Board action. It concerns the FY 2009 Project Pool, which NJDOT provided to the NJTPA in December. She said the resolution asks the Board to approve the prioritization scores for the projects in the pool, to authorize the Committee to enter into negotiations with NJDOT and NJ Transit regarding the FY 2009 Capital Construction Program, and to use the project scores in those negotiations. The Committee recommended Board approval of the resolution.

The Chairman also reported that the Committee was notified of a significant reallocation by NJDOT of non-federal funds involving several projects. She said this was the result of a determination by the Federal Highway Administration that funds programmed by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to the I-78/Garden State Parkway Interchange 142 project cannot be considered "available and committed." Therefore to ensure that the project would go forward, NJDOT replaced this funding with \$70 million in state funds previously allocated to seven other projects. Chairman Zellman said the Turnpike Authority is expected to replace those funds in the future. She noted that, while the NJTPA has no authority over state funds, Committee members were concerned that these funds be returned to the region and that no project be adversely affected. She said a letter from the Committee expressing these concerns was sent to Commissioner Kolluri.

Action Item 3: Approval of the FY 2009 Project Pool/Project Ranking and Scoring
(Attachment 4)

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

- **Planning and Economic Development – Freeholder John DiMaio, Chairman**

Freeholder DiMaio reported that the Committee considered one action item at its December meeting, which involved a Multi-Party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among five Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the greater New York-North Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan region. He said that, following the last federal certification review of the NJTPA and the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), USDOT recommended that the five metro area MPOs formalize their current coordination activities, namely the development of transportation planning documents and the attainment of air quality conformity.

The Freeholder said the five MPOs include the NJTPA, the NYMTC, and three Connecticut MPOs covering the Southwestern Region, the Housatonic Valley, and the Greater Bridgeport Valley. He said the MOU seeks to ensure that the planning products of each MPO take into account the impacts of the plans developed by the others. He noted that the MPOs have been doing this to a great extent on an informal basis, and the MOU serves to formalize the process.

Freeholder DiMaio also reported that Central Staff provided the Committee with a briefing on the draft FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program. He said also that staff outlined the basic steps and elements anticipated for the update of the Regional Transportation Plan as well as the schedule for the development of the draft 2009 Project Development Work Program. The Freeholder said that that the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan is proceeding rapidly, and should be ready for Board review and approval in May.

He concluded his report by congratulating Freeholder Sullivan, Mr. Weiner and Chairman Zellman for their accomplishments and contributions to the NJTPA.

Action Item 3: Approval of the Multi-Party Planning Coordination Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment 4)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Warren County, seconded by Jersey City, and carried unanimously.

J) Public Participation

Art Vatsky, Future Fuels Consultants, pointed out that electricity is emerging as an alternate fuel that will be increasingly used at truck stops and vehicle refueling facilities. He suggested that future work generated by the North Jersey Truck Stop Study should involve garnering the support of the region's energy utilities. Freeholder Palmer noted that the use of electricity at truck stops is considered in the study report.

K) Time and place of next meeting

Chairman Zellman announced that the next meeting of the NJTPA will be held on Monday, March 10th at 10:00 a.m., at the NJTPA offices at One Newark Center, Newark, NJ. She said that three dates are being considered for a meeting to affirm a new NJTPA Executive Director. She reiterated her thanks to Mr. Weiner for his service, noting that he was always willing to help. She said the State of New Jersey is a much better place as a result of his service as Executive Director of the NJTPA.

L) Adjournment

On behalf of staff, the subregions and municipalities, Mr. Ververides extended appreciation to Mr. Weiner for his technical support to the Board. He said it has been a pleasure to work with Central Staff with Mr. Weiner as their leader. He also extended best wishes for Mr. Weiner and his family during his retirement.

At 12:20 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Ocean County and approved by unanimous verbal acclaim.