

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Walter Lane, Chairman
Kamal Saleh, Vice Chairman

Minutes

February 16, 2007

I. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. There were 12 voting members present. Three more arrived later.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18th and December 13th meetings was made by Union County, seconded by Hudson County and carried with 11 affirmative votes. Bergen County abstained.

III. Action Items

1. Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Walter Lane opened up the floor for nominations for RTAC Vice Chairman. Kamal Saleh nominated Deena Cybulski of Morris County. Ms. Cybulski was elected Vice Chairman by a unanimous vote.

2. Approval of a Resolution in Recognition of Walter Lane

On behalf of the RTAC, ascending Chairman Saleh expressed gratitude to Mr. Lane for his involvement and contributions during his tenure as Chairman and noted his assistance and guidance through the revision of the bylaws and the refocus on the RTAC as an integral part of the NJTPA process.

A motion to approve a resolution to recognize Mr. Lane's accomplishments and contributions over the two years he served as Chairman of the Committee was made by Ms. Cybulski, seconded by Mr. Saleh and carried unanimously.

3. Selection of a Review Committee for the JARC Program 2008-2009 Cycle

Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff, asked for four or five volunteers to serve on the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) review committee, which would hold one meeting to consider proposals for the program. She said the recommendations of the committee would be presented to the Planning and Economic Development Committee and then to the Board for approval. Ms. DeRuchie announced that the solicitation cycle for the program has been changed from one year to two. She said a simplified form would be distributed, and the letter of intent will be issued in the spring of 2007. She noted the program would be operating with reduced funding beginning in FY 2008, so that more emphasis would be placed on prioritizing projects proposed for the program. She said existing JARC services would be maintained, and no new services would be added at this time. Ms. DeRuchie noted that, under the new federal funding mechanism for the program, some of the lost funds could be recovered in the next year or two. In answer to a question from the floor, Ms. DeRuchie said that 12 of the 13 counties in the region participate in the program.

Mr. Saleh asked for volunteers. Bob Bzik, Somerset County, said that one of his staff members, Ken Wedeen, would sit on the review committee. John Lane, Hudson County, volunteered, and Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County, said one of his staff members would also serve. Mr. Saleh said other members of the committee would be contacted about filling the fourth slot.

Ms. DeRuchie announced that the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan workshop, which had been postponed, would be held Friday, March 9th, at 1 p.m. in the NJTPA Board Room.

IV. Information Items

1. NJTPA Public Participation Plan

David Behrend, Central Staff, updated the committee on the progress of the development of the Public Participation Plan. The draft plan had been distributed to the RTAC earlier that week. He thanked the subregions for their participation thus far. Mr. Behrend noted that, under SAFETEA-LU, the plan must be in place by July 1, 2007. He also noted that the draft is still a work in progress and open to changes. He asked for any immediate, critical comments to be communicated to him by early the following week, as the public comment period would begin shortly. Mr. Behrend said the other products of the overall project will be an evaluation of current public participation efforts and specific recommendations from the consultant for achieving public participation goals.

Mr. Behrend specified the schedule of the project leading up to the July 1st deadline:

- 45-day comment period - February 23 to April 9
- Discussions on the Plan at the February meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee
- Consultant interviews with various stakeholders in March
- Roundtable for Hispanic stakeholders at La Casa de Don Pedro in Newark: March 13th

- Open house public meetings –Morris County, March 29th; and Jersey City, April 5th.
- Planning and Economic Development Committee recommendation: April 16th
- Board action: May

A brief general discussion ensued.

2. Highlands Council Draft Regional Master Plan

Mary Ameen, Central Staff, updated the committee on the progress of NJTPA comments on the draft Regional Master Plan. She said Central Staff had met with the Highlands Council staff. She also noted that NJTPA analysis of the draft plan yielded comments and suggested changes in the following areas:

- The need to enhance the NJTPA's role in consulting with the Highlands Council and providing input into the the council's review process
- The need to include explicit support of public transit options and operational improvements in the Highlands region
- The need to alter technical language used in the plan document concerning air quality and conformity.

Ms. Ameen distributed a summary of NJTPA comments. She noted that the Council had extended the public comment deadline to April 2, 2007.

During the ensuing discussion, there were suggestions from the floor for further analysis concerning issues such as the coordination of population and employment projections to be used for the plan, land use capability mapping, and the impact of the plan on transportation projects in the pipeline. Ms. Ameen noted that the extension of the public comment period allows more time to work with the Highlands Council to address more issues. She said that the issue of coordinating data and forecasts was discussed, and the NJTPA had not been advised specifically that the Highlands Council forecasts would supersede those of other entities. She said that the meeting was characterized by an understanding that differences would arise and would be worked out. Cliff Sobel, Central Staff, said that the land use capability mapping is a first step toward producing a technical overlay for analysis of capital projects in relation to the Highlands coverage area. Ms. Ameen pointed out that the Highlands Act already provides for exemptions and waivers, which may apply to a number of projects, including those that are safety or transit-related. She distributed copies of the "Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Exemptions and Waivers." Bob Bzik, suggested analysis of the implementation conformance guidelines released by the Highlands Council in January.

3. Further Discussions with Representatives from NJDOT and NJ Transit Regarding the Draft Capital Construction Program (CCP)

Prior to the meeting RTAC members had the opportunity to meet with teams from NJDOT and NJ Transit to discuss specific concerns about portions of the Draft Capital Construction Program affecting their particular subregions.

Thomas Wospil, NJDOT, and Rich Roberts, NJ Transit, summarized the process and challenges of drafting the CCP and took questions from the floor. Committee members who had not met with the NJDOT and NJ Transit teams were offered the opportunity to meet with them that afternoon. Mr. Wospil noted that NJDOT and NJ Transit had requested a 30-day extension of the March 1st deadline for submitting the CCP to the state Legislature in order to allow sufficient time for negotiation of the program. The request had not been answered at the time of the meeting.

V. Other Items

Concerning clarification of a portion of the committee's bylaws, it was agreed that designated alternates for voting members were permitted to vote in the absence of the voting member.

It was suggested that the agenda for the next meeting include discussions on further RTAC involvement in the NJTPA planning process.

Karen Shannon, Central Staff, said that funds were set aside for subregional training in FY 2008, and she asked the committee members to determine the type of training they would like to receive. Ms. Shannon also reported that requests for internships were coming in from students around the nation. She asked that the subregions submit information on available internships so that it could be posted on the NJTPA web site.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the RTAC was set for Wednesday, April 4th at 10:30 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

R-TAC MEETING ATTENDANCE
February 16, 2007

V O T I N G M E M B E R S / A L T E R N A T E S	
Walter Lane, Chairman	Somerset County
Kamal Saleh, Vice Chairman	Union County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
John Lane	Hudson County
Anthony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Tiffany Robinson	Ocean County
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Peter Vaughan	Warren County
Fernando Rubio	City of Newark
Doug Greenfeld	Jersey City
Jerry Mooney	NJDOT
Jennifer Friedberg	PANYNJ
Sharon MacLean	Hunterdon County
O T H E R S	
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Jim Yeager	Michael Baker Jr. Inc.
Cheryl Brennan	NJDOT
Howard Immordino	NJDOT
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Brian Wahler	New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Christopher Helms	Bergen County
Tom Davis	Passaic County Planning Dept.
Bob Bzik	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Richard Roberts	NJ Transit
Rich Stoolman	NJ Transit
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Hamilton Meghdir	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Brian Fineman	Central Staff
Zhen Liu	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff

