

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

*COUNTY EXECUTIVE DENNIS McNERNEY, CHAIRMAN
FREEHOLDER GENE FEYL, VICE CHAIRMAN*

Minutes

March 24, 2008

I. Roll Call of Members

Chairman McNerney called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. All 11 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25th meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by Hunterdon County, and carried unanimously.

III. Action Items

1. Endorsement of the FY 2009 10-Year Capital Construction Program

Martin Hofler, Central Staff, explained that changes to the Capital Construction Program were negotiated since the February PPC meeting. He said the current resolution addresses 37 unfunded projects by calling for their inclusion in an appendix to the version of the Program that will be submitted to the state legislature (the list has been reduced to 35 projects since the meeting). Some of the projects were funded in prior TIPs but not included in the draft FY 2009 CCP. The resolution also addresses the decrease in the NJTPA region's share of highway and bridge funding ("equity") and NJDOT's agreement to increase it. Mr. Hofler reported also that the resolution rescinds the 2004 resolution restricting final design projects to the first year of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Because of the 10-year span of the CCP and TIP, projects in final design phase of work must be shown after the first year for planning purposes.

With the aid of a printed summary Mr. Hofler highlighted changes that were made to the CCP since February. He said that six new projects were added, five local lead projects were deleted (due to lack of readiness), three phases of work were advanced, 17 projects were delayed, and a few projects were negotiated back into the program. Also, 11 congressionally earmarked NJ Transit projects were added.

Freeholder David Crabiel, Middlesex County, asked why the NJDOT Commissioner extended the Capital Program to 10 years. Tom Wospil, NJDOT, explained that it is believed that there is too great a gap between the Regional Transportation Plan and the shorter range four-year TIP. He said that the CCP reflects a longer period so that a clear picture of the long range fiscal

problem would be evident for planning purposes. Mr. Wospil explained that improvement in state and federal funding is unknown, and future funding levels are shown as flat—resulting in a funding squeeze in the outer years of the Plan. He stressed that the Committee should focus on FY 2009, which is more accurate than the following nine years. Mr. Wospil also stressed that the Board has the opportunity and time to review those outer years prior to the adoption of the TIP.

Mr. Hofler reported that the negotiation of the draft plan was extensive and the databases arrived at the NJTPA too late to distribute to the Committee well before the meeting (the information was distributed at the meeting). Robert Bzik expressed disappointment with the process as it was unfolding and was very critical of the lack of time the subregions had to review the draft plan. Freeholder Zellman noted that staff had three business days to review, analyze and produce the 10-year program. Mr. Hofler said that, given the circumstances, staff did the best they could do.

Returning to discussion of the unfunded project list, Mr. Hofler noted that at least a third of the projects on it are not ready for design or construction. Referring to the list as the “Tier Two” list, Mr. Wospil said that “‘Unfunded’ is a temporary situation.” He said the list is not prioritized, and projects in the draft program and on the Tier Two List could be swapped for various reasons over the next weeks, months, or the life of the program. He referred to the draft program as “just a snapshot at this point in time.” Mr. Hofler pointed out that there were 90 days to prepare the TIP, and endorsement of this program is not the final phase of the effort but rather the beginning.

Executive Director Mary K. Murphy said that staff suggests that the Committee move the program forward—with the Tier Two List appendix, so that the unfunded projects will remain highlighted and will not disappear. She noted that this is the first time the Capital Program will be submitted to the legislature with such an appendix, which she described as a place in the constrained program in which put the unfunded projects. Mr. Hofler suggested working with the Committee to prepare a prioritized listing.

Bob Bzik, Somerset County, pointed out that he would be more comfortable if Mr. Wospil’s statements were embedded in the resolution. It was agreed that the resolution would be more accurate with a few changes. The CCP would be referred to as “**Draft** Capital Construction Program” in the title. Added to the first “be it resolved” is the statement that the program “includes the FY 2009-2018 Tier Two Unfunded Project List.” An additional “be it resolved” was inserted as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NJTPA directs Central Staff to continue negotiations with NJDOT regarding the status of projects in the FY 2009-2018 Tier 2 Project list of priority unfunded projects as the development of the Draft FY 2009 Transportation Improvement Program proceeds. The attached list of projects is a Tier 2 list. However, availability of more state or federal funds could bring them in the ambit of the capital program. In addition, a further refinement of the 10 year capital program could lead to a greater flexibility and accommodation of more projects into the funded capital program

A wide-ranging discussion ensued while the resolution was being revised and redistributed. During that discussion Mr. Wospil distributed a version of the Tier Two List that showed unfunded projects for the entire state. A cover page had been added to the list. The text of the cover page states: “The attached list of projects is a Tier Two list. However, availability of more

state or federal funds could bring them into the ambit of the capital program. In addition a further refinement of the 10 year capital program could lead to greater flexibility and accommodation of more projects into the funded capital program.”

In response to a question from Freeholder Zellman, Mr. Wospil said that the gap between the region’s equity of 71.3 percent and the goal increase to 73 percent amounts to \$400 million.

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

Freeholder Zellman’s affirmative vote included a stipulation that the cover page text for the new Tier Two List would be included in the Capital Program when it is submitted to the legislature.

2. Approval of a Series of Modifications to the FY 2008–2011 TIP Concerning the Pulaski Skyway Project

This action was considered at the February 25th meeting and was tabled pending further consideration. All modifications—to benefit rehabilitation of the severely deteriorating deck of the Pulaski Skyway—remained the same. There were no questions. Mr. Hofler pointed out that some of the changes made to the draft CCP resulted from this series of modifications.

In response to a question from Freeholder Crabel, Mr. Wospil said that rehabilitation of the Skyway would cost \$1 billion and replacement about \$4.6 billion.

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

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Project Prioritization Committee
ATTENDANCE
March 24, 2008

VOTING MEMBERS	
County Executive Dennis McNerney, Chairman	Bergen County
Freeholder Gene Feyl, Vice Chairman	Morris County
Freeholder Susan Zellman	Sussex County
Freeholder David B. Crabiel	Middlesex County
Freeholder Matthew Holt	Hunterdon County
Freeholder William Barham	Monmouth County
Richard Lane	Ocean County
David Antonio	Essex County
Thomas Wospil	NJDOT
Richard Roberts	NJ Transit
Sonia Frontera	Governor's Representative
O T H E R S	
Hon. Michael Sottolano	Jersey City
George Ververides	Middlesex County
John Lane	Hudson County
James Geller	Hudson County
Farouk Ahmad	Bergen County
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
Brian Hague	Bergen County
Douglas Greenfeld	Jersey City
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
G. Sue Dziamara	Hunterdon County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
Robert Bzik	Somerset County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Liza Betz	Union County
Perris Straughter	City of Newark
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Stacy Perrine	Ocean County
Howard Immordino	NJDOT
Amit Bose	NJDOT
Frank Marsella	PANYNJ
Brian Wahler	NJ Turnpike Authority
Dennis Keck	Jacobs Engineering
Jon Livingston	Jacobs Engineering
Jim Yeager	Baker Corp.

Kirk Weaver	Baker Corp.
James T. Raleigh	Citizen
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
Dave Behrend	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff
Kevin Twine	Central Staff
Brian Fineman	Central Staff
Eve Chamberlain	Central Staff
Zhen Liu	Central Staff
Sangeeta Noby	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff