

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

**PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE**

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

**Teleconference Minutes**

**April 16, 2007**

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I. Roll Call of Members

Chairman Zellman called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. There were nine voting members present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried with six affirmative votes. Essex and Ocean Counties and NJDOT abstained.

III. RTAC Comments on Action Item

RTAC Chairman Kamal Saleh said the Committee reviewed the action item and was in favor of it.

IV. Action Item

Approval of a Recommended Increase in Future Local Aid for County and Municipal Road and Bridge Improvements.

Mary Ameen, Central Staff, introduced the action item, which addressed a request by the New Jersey Association of County Engineers for NJTPA support of an increase in future local aid for counties and municipalities for purposes of road and bridge improvements. She reported that the current level of state funding for local aid is \$175 million per year, with a 50/50 split between the counties and municipalities. She noted that this level of funding falls well below the \$300 million per year recommended by the Blue Ribbon Commission. The resolution recommends a future increase in annual local aid to the previously recommended level of \$300 million in annual local aid, with 55.5 percent for counties and 44.5 percent for municipalities.

Joseph Ettore, Vice President of the Association, said that system preservation needs are becoming increasingly urgent. He reported that a list of county bridge needs for all 21 of the state's counties was being compiled to provide a snapshot of bridge rehabilitation/replacement needs over the next 10 years. He said that although five counties (three from the NJTPA region) have not yet submitted their list of bridge needs, there is indication that the necessary funding

amount will match the original \$1.7 billion over the next 10 years as stated in the Blue Ribbon report. He noted that while several bridges have been repaired or replaced since the report, several new potential bridge projects have been identified. Mr. Ettore said the Association hoped to produce the complete list by the May 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Cliff Sobel, Central Staff pointed out that roadway rehabilitation is an important part of the issue and noted that the Association's initiative is focused on bridge needs as the highest priority. In response to a request for clarification from Chairman Zellman as to whether or not the \$1.7 billion includes roadway rehabilitation, Dick Lane, Ocean County, pointed out that the report commissioned by the New Jersey Association of Counties identified an annual need of \$200 million for road resurfacing and over \$200 million for bridges. Mr. Lane explained that NJDOT bridge records indicate that 22 percent of the state bridges and 35 percent of county bridges fall into the category of structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridges. He said this is the reason for the County Engineers Association's emphasis on bridge needs. Mr. Lane also pointed out that details of roadway construction needs were included in the agenda package that was mailed to the Committee. Mr. Ettore pointed out that the resolution refers to two reports that were commissioned by the New Jersey Association of Counties, both of which contain data on bridge and roadway needs ("Local Aid Perspective of the Transportation Trust Fund," and its supplement "Discussion Document of Local Construction/Reconstruction Costs and Local Share of the Transportation Trust Fund").

Mr. Saleh expressed concern that an effort to identify funding sources for immediate bridge needs may carry the potential for reductions in funding of projects in the TIP.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried with nine votes. NJDOT abstained. Bergen County was not present and had provided an affirmative vote in advance of the teleconference.

## VI. Adjournment

At 11:53 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Ocean County and carried unanimously.

**PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE**

**TELECONFERENCE**

**APRIL 16, 2007**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
Hon. Susan Zellman, Chairman	Sussex County
Hon. George Muller	Hunterdon County
Hon. William Barham	Monmouth County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Kamal Saleh	Union County
David Antonio	Essex County
Richard Lane	Ocean County
Dr. Jerome Lutin	NJ Transit
Jerry Mooney	NJDOT
<b>O T H E R S</b>	
Ken Bogen	Hunterdon County
Brian Wahler	NJ Turnpike Authority
Yogesh Patel	Wilbur Smith Associates
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Dave Behrend	Central Staff
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff