

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kamal Saleh, Chairman
Deena Cybulski, Vice Chairman

Minutes

April 16, 2008

I. Roll Call

Chairman Saleh called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. There were 13 voting members present. One more arrived after the approval of the minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th meeting was made by Passaic County, seconded by Somerset County and carried with 10 affirmative votes. There were three abstentions.

III. Presentations

1. The Pulaski Skyway

With the aid of a slide presentation, Laine Rankin and Jay Jayamohan, NJDOT, presented an overview of the rehabilitation needs of the Pulaski Skyway. Ms. Rankin noted that the bridge is a registered historic structure. She said that NJDOT conducted study and development to determine how to address the needs of a series of high-cost bridges throughout the state. Mr. Jayamohan said that the overall condition of the Pulaski Skyway was rated as “poor.” He said that current repairs costing \$41 million will end in October. He said also that rehabilitation of the bridge’s deck, removal of lead paint and a new coat of paint will cost about \$700 million, and rehabilitation of the entire bridge will cost \$1.25 billion.

2. NJDOT Drainage Management System

Susan Gresavage, NJDOT, provided an overview of the department’s Drainage Management System (DMS). She said an evaluation of the DMS focused on three key areas: prioritization philosophy, problem identification, and ranking methodology. Ms. Gresavage noted that flooding is New Jersey’s number one natural hazard, and the DMS’s first priority is mobility on the state highway system during flood events.

Ms. Gresavage said that the evaluation indicated a reactive rather than proactive approach that is not comprehensive; a complex ranking model with unreliable results; and static, outdated

rankings. Ms. Gresavage reported that recommendations for mitigation include: implementation of annual system reviews and inclusion of problem locations in the DMS; simplification of the ranking model, and updated rankings based on the most current data. She said that a new ranking system is now in use.

Ms. Gresavage said a 10-year program of objectives would require \$50 million per year to eliminate a backlog of 124 areas of concern and complete the cleaning, inspection and repair of the state's entire drainage system. She noted that NJDOT's draft 10-year, constrained Capital Construction Program provides for \$10 million a year for drainage projects.

IV. Information Items

1. State Data Center Network Meeting

Keith Miller, Central Staff, recommended that committee members attend one session ("On the Map") of State Data Center 2008 Annual Network Meeting on June 11, 2008, which coincides with the next scheduled RTAC meeting. It was agreed that the RTAC meeting would be moved to another date.

2. GIS and Travel Demand Model Training Schedules

David Colón, Central Staff, provided tentative dates for beginner and advanced GIS training in May and June. In light of the June 11 State Data Center meeting discussed earlier, and the May schedule of dates for travel demand modeling training, it was agreed that GIS training would be scheduled in late September. Mr. Colón was asked to research the possibility of holding the GIS training at Rutgers University facilities in New Brunswick, rather than at the ESRI facility in New York City.

Mr. Colón reported that about \$22,000 remained in the FY 2008 Technical Library, because some subregions did not participate in the program. It was agreed that the funds would be used to purchase Cube Avenue and Cube Dynasim software and install them on the NJTPA server for use by all the subregions.

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, reported that the travel demand model training will be conducted at the NJTPA and NJIT computer lab. The schedule:

- May 19 – Morning executive session (NJTPA board room) – unconstrained
- May 19 – Afternoon expert session (NJTPA board room) – unconstrained
- May 20, 21, 22 – Three-day hands-on training (NJIT computer lab) – constrained to 25 students

During a wide-ranging discussion, it was agreed that options for the FY 2009 training program, and the disposition of excess FY 2009 Technical Library funds would be discussed at a later meeting.

4. Strategy Evaluation Update

Brian Fineman, Central Staff, reported that Central Staff's Kevin Twine was appointed to the position of Manager, Systems Analysis. Dr. Fineman distributed and discussed a handout summarizing the progress of Strategy Evaluation to date and next steps. Mr. Diogo supplemented the summary with a description and map covering the transit side of the study. It was agreed that a workshop would be scheduled within two months to gather RTAC input concerning refinement of the selection of potential locations for implementing Strategy Evaluation strategies. A brief general discussion ensued.

5. First Draft County Profile Distribution

Zenobia Fields, Central Staff, reported that staff was developing county transportation profiles for future use in a pamphlet designed for distribution to the Trustees, the RTAC, and the general public. She said the profiles will highlight public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and congestion information. The information will also include general land use and demographic data. Ms. Fields said that she will send individual draft county profiles to the subregions for review in about a month. She asked that the subregions review the draft profiles for errors and any major omissions. Doug Greenfeld, Jersey City, requested that profiles be prepared for Jersey City and the City of Newark also. Karen Shannon and Keith Miller, Central Staff, said that could be worked out.

6. NJTPA Data Resources

Ms. Fields reported that, in response to the results of the recent data survey, NJTPA staff will present a "Data Connection" series to the subregions and their GIS personnel. She distributed a tentative agenda for the series, which will describe the NJTPA's and external data resources and services that are available to the subregions. The date for the series is to be determined.

7. Regional Safety Priority Update Study

Ron Tindall distributed the region's geocoded crash data, which was sorted by county. He reported that 25 preferred locations throughout the region were selected for site inspections, the results of which will be included in the study report in June. Mr. Tindall said he would call each subregion with sites on the list to schedule the visits.

8. TMA Development of FY 2009 Work Programs

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, reported that NJDOT is reviewing the region's proposed work programs of the Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) for FY 2009. She suggested that interested subregions contact their local TMA to request copies of the programs. She said that NJTPA staff members participated in the review, and recommend that anti-idling campaigns be added to the programs.

Bill Neary, Keep Middlesex Moving (a TMA), pointed out that the TMA provides funding through the TMA Municipal Grant Program for a variety of small campaigns, such as anti-

idling. Mr. Neary said the group has run into inter-jurisdictional restrictions, because of limitations on the use of federal funding that supports the grant program. He gave the example of Woodbridge Township. Mr. Neary said that restrictions on the grant program, in terms of capital spending, does not allow federal funding for the installation of “no idling” signs near schools in the town.

Donna Orbach suggested that the TMAs automatically submit their work programs to the counties. Ms. Goldman noted that the plans are submitted to the counties, but the recipients do not always circulate them. Karen Shannon, Central Staff, pointed out that the NJTPA does not fund the TMA programs, but does help review them. Mary Ameen, Central Staff, suggested adding an item to the agenda of the next TMA Council monthly meeting to the effect that the work plans be circulated more thoroughly and the county representatives who receive the plans be named.

9. Schedule for FY 2010 Subregional Programs

It was noted that there was a high concentration of NJTPA-related activities and deliverables for the subregions in May and June. It was agreed that the GIS training would be scheduled in September, the Subregional Transportation Program solicitation in June, and the Subregional Studies Program solicitation in the fall. It was also agreed that Central Staff would provide a three-month calendar of NJTPA-related subregional activities to the committee members.

VI. Other Items

In answer to a question from Donna Orbach, Bergen County, at the start of the meeting, Karen Shannon, Central Staff said that staff would meet with NJDOT concerning the Capital Construction Program Tier Two unfunded project list on Friday, April 18.

VII. Next Meeting

As previously noted, it was agreed that the June 11th meeting would be rescheduled. A new date was not set at that time. Ms. Shannon noted that the date for the June standing committee meetings would be changed to accommodate the TIP development schedule.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

R-TAC MEETING ATTENDANCE

April 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	
Kamal Saleh (Chairman)	Union County
Deena Cybulski (Vice Chairman)	Morris County
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
John Lane	Hudson County
Crystal Barnes	Hunterdon County
Anthony Gambolinghi	Middlesex County
Vicki Pecchioli	Ocean County
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Walter Lane	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Peter Vaughan	Warren County
Doug Greenfeld	Jersey City
Jerry Mooney	NJDOT
O T H E R S	
Jay Jeyamohan	NJDOT
Laine Rankin	NJDOT
Susan Gresavage	NJDOT
William Neary	Keep Middlesex Moving
Mauricio Cabrera	Morris County
Yogesh Patel	Wilbur Smith Associates
Nancy Dargis	Bergen County
Liza Betz	Union County
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
David Colón	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff