

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

## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Kamal Saleh, Chairman  
Deena Cybulski, Vice Chairman

### **Minutes**

**August 15, 2007**

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#### **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 June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Passaic County, seconded by Warren County and carried with 11 affirmative votes. Bergen County and the City of Newark abstained.

#### **III. Discussion/Information Items**

##### **1. Discussion of Technical Studies Funds Forfeited by the City of Newark**

Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff, reported that the subregions were asked to resubmit proposals for the Subregional Studies Program (SSP). The action was made necessary by the City of Newark's forfeiture of FY 2008 SSP funding. The forfeiture was due to an extension of time granted the City to complete its FY 2006 Right of Way Management, Assessment and Priority System study. The extension precluded the funding of another Newark study programmed in FY 2008, thereby releasing \$225,000 in SSP funds for reallocation to other subregions by the Board.

Ms. DeRuchie said that it was not anticipated that new studies would be funded with the reallocation, but rather funding for existing studies would be supplemented. She noted that the selection process might involve prioritization.

##### **2. Discussion of Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) Core Program**

Ms. DeRuchie reported that the RTAC STP Review Subcommittee had met earlier that morning and elected Mike Lysicatos, Passaic County, as Chairman. Mr. Lysicatos reported that during a wide ranging discussion the subcommittee proposed developing the STP in Volumes I and II of the UPWP sequentially instead of concurrently so that Volume II would be informed by Volume I. Also, the subcommittee proposed support for the review of three important functions:

1. Capital programming,
2. Public participation, and
3. Local planning and expertise that will inform the RTP.

Another idea that was discussed is providing the subregions with an array of options to select from in developing their own STP initiatives to support regional planning.

Mr. Lysicatos said that Central Staff would contact the subregions for their feedback by email within two weeks, and the subcommittee would meet again by the end of September.

### 3. Subregional Training Requests Results

David Colón, Central Staff, distributed a summary sheet of RTAC members' suggestions for training topics, listed by subregion. Interested RTAC members were asked to provide their suggestions at the June 20<sup>th</sup> RTAC meeting.

Mr. Colón said that a request for proposals would be necessary for any training package costing over \$21,500. He pointed out that training courses could be efficiently conducted at the NJIT training lab.

It was agreed that GIS training (beginner, intermediate, advanced) was the first choice of the Committee. Any remaining funds in the UPWP training budget would be used for Microsoft Access and Network Analyst training, respectively.

Mr. Colón announced that requests for Technical Library resources, at \$4,000 per subregion, were being accepted until December 31, 2007. He also announced that he would visit the subregions shortly to tag computer equipment provided in FY 2007. Mr. Colón noted that during these visits he will pick up any old equipment that needs to be returned.

It was agreed that Mr. Colón would report further on the training costs and options for beginner GIS training at the next RTAC meeting.

### 4. Subregional Cost Tracking System

Igor Sorin, Central Staff reported that Central Staff is updating and improving the subregional Cost Tracking System. He said a survey was sent to the subregions and the comments were being reviewed. He asked for close participation on the part of RTAC members and proposed to organize a committee that will take part in the process of redesigning and improving the Cost Tracking System. Members of the committee will be able to participate in the final determination of the requirements for the new program. Mr. Sorin said that an invitation to serve on the committee would be sent via e-mail to all subregions.

## 5. Freight Rail Crossing and Safety Assessment Study Update

Ted Matthews, Central Staff, reported that the study effort will produce a database of at-grade rail crossings along with a detailed analysis of four rail lines: Lehigh Valley, Chemical Coast, Port Reading Secondary and the West Trenton. Mr. Matthews said a prioritized listing of rail crossings showing greatest impact and need will be developed for crossings on these four lines, and a range of mitigating strategies will be evaluated.

Mr. Matthews reported that a Request for Proposals was issued in June and seven responses were received. A selection committee consisting of staff from the NJTPA, the subregions, NJDOT, NJ Transit and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey evaluated the proposals. Negotiations with the preferred consultant were in progress.

Mr. Matthews said it was expected that a Notice to Incur Cost would be issued by the end of August, and the work would start in September. He asked for the Committee's help in the collection phase of the study as well as the public outreach component. It was noted that the selection of the four lines to be studied was guided in part by the findings of the 2006 NJTPA Freight Assessment Study.

## 6. Transportation Clean Air Measures Update (TCAM)

In her third TCAM update, Megan Schuster, Central Staff, reminded the Committee that the purpose of the TCAM project is to develop eight action plans for projects or programs that will benefit air quality in the NJTPA region. She said that 20 candidate measures were analyzed. Public health impacts were researched, and studies indicate that PM<sub>2.5</sub> reductions have more positive impact on public health than other reductions in ozone precursors. Ms. Schuster said that in addition to quantitative estimates of emissions reductions and projected costs, qualitative factors such as NJTPA jurisdictional capacity and social and political feasibility were considered in the analysis.

Ms. Schuster distributed a list of eight measures that have been preliminarily recommended for the development of action plans and noted that the list was developed with input from a working group consisting of staff from the NJTPA, NJDOT, Department of Environmental Protection, NJ Transit and TMAs.

Ms. Schuster said that the project consultant and NJTPA staff will reach out to possible implementation agencies for input. The finalized action plans and report are expected to be presented for Board approval by the end of the year.

#### IV. Presentation: Incident Management Planning

Dennis Motiani and David MacInnes of NJDOT and John Ward of DVRPC spoke at length about the Incident Management Task Force (covering the I-295/I-76/NJ42 corridor). The task force is a coalition of stakeholders from regional agencies, county agencies, local police, and fire/rescue/EMS teams. The purpose of the task force is to improve coordinated limited access highway response, identify and resolve incident management need, and share resources and experience. The regional task force emphasizes communication, cooperation and coordination among the various entities called upon to respond to highway incidents. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the RTAC about the benefits of the program and encourage the establishment of an incident management task force in the NJTPA region.

#### V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

## RTAC MEETING ATTENDANCE

August 15, 2007

<b>VOTING MEMBERS / ALTERNATES</b>	
Kamal Saleh, Chairman	Union County
Deena Cybulski, Vice Chairman	Morris County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Shakirah Harper	City of Newark
Peter Vaughan	Warren County
Jeremy Colangelo	NJ Transit
John Lane	Hudson County
Sharon MacLean	Hunterdon County
David Antonio	Essex County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Mike Lysicatos	Passaic County
<b>OTHERS</b>	
Brian Wahler	NJ Turnpike Authority
Steve Noonan	Michael Baker Jr. Inc.
Dennis Motiani	NJDOT
David MacInnes	NJDOT
John Ward	DVRPC
Christopher Helms	Bergen County
Shawn Alsop	NJ Meadowlands Commission
Gene Wilk	NJ Turnpike Authority
John Ciaffone	TransOptions
Yogesh Patel	Wilbur Smith Associates
Krishna Murthy	Meadowlink
Bill Neary	Keep Middlesex Moving
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Tracy Lockhart	Central Staff
Angelitta Young	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
Hamilton Meghdir	Central Staff
Igor Sorin	Central Staff
David Colón	Central Staff
Dave Dawson	Central Staff
Ted Matthews	Central Staff
Liz DeRuchie	Central Staff
Keith Miller	Central Staff
Brian Fineman	Central Staff
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Eve Chamberlain	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff