

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Freeholder John DiMaio, Chairman
Freeholder Thomas DeGise, Vice Chairman

PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

County Executive Dennis McNerney, Chairman
Freeholder Gene Feyl, Vice Chairman

Joint Meeting
Minutes
December 15, 2008

Planning & Economic Development Committee Chairman John DiMaio, Warren County Freeholder, asked for a moment of silence in memory of Middlesex County Freeholder Director and NJTPA Trustee David Crabiel, who passed away on December 1st.

I. Roll Call of Members

Project Prioritization Committee Chairman Dennis McNerney, Bergen County Executive, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Nine members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and 10 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 20th PPC and PEDC meetings were approved unanimously.

III. Presentation: Draft FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Cliff Sobel, Central Staff, highlighted several new Central Staff initiatives in Volume I of the proposed FY 2010 UPWP. These included:

- Implementing the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan;
- Validation of the Enhanced North Jersey Regional Transportation Model;
- Inventory of greenhouse gas emissions under a new work area, Environment and Climate Change;
- Continuation and completion of bus studies;
- Initiation of Elizabeth Multimodal Transportation Study;
- Collaboration with NJDOT Division of Highway Traffic Safety to study pedestrian safety issues surrounding bus stops;
- Support of Freight Initiatives Committee activities related to the Liberty Corridor program and other freight system issues;

- Evaluation of partial interchanges on the interstate highway system in collaboration with NJDOT;
- Continuation of training, including credit bearing professional development for subregional staff, Central Staff, and partner agencies;
- Implementation of direct NJTPA internet service, independent of NJIT; and
- Update of the NJTPA Strategic Business Plan.

Amy Magnuson, Central Staff, reported on Volume II of the draft UPWP, the Subregional Transportation Program. She that there is an additional elective task in the plan—Climate Change activities. She also reported that financial support for the technical library and internship programs continue.

Jeffery Vernick, Central Staff reported on Volume III of the UPWP, the Subregional Studies Program (SSP). He said that nine subregions submitted 11 proposals, two of which are joint efforts. Mr. Vernick thanked the SSP Review Committee, which was comprised of staff from the subregions, NJ Transit, and NJDOT and led by Michael Lysicatos of Passaic County.

Karen Shannon, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the draft budget for the FY 2010 UPWP. She explained that funding for the \$16 million budget comes from appropriations under SAFETEA-LU,^{*} mainly through Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formulas. Ms. Shannon guided the Committee members through a breakdown of the data covering FY 2010 revenues and expenditures and the subregional support budget.

Ms. Shannon pointed out that the UPWP document is still a draft, and any revisions to the program will be distributed prior to the February standing committee meetings in anticipation of Board adoption in March. She asked that any comments or questions be sent to her by mid-January.

V. RTAC Comments on Action Items

Deena Cybulski, Vice Chair of the RTAC, noted that, at its December meeting, the Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion with Joseph Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer and President of the New Jersey Association of County Engineers, about the potential federal economic recovery package. They discussed how the counties can best work with municipalities to develop lists of construction-ready, high-priority projects for consideration by the NJTPA and the state for funding when stimulus funding becomes available.

Mary K. Murphy, Central Staff, announced that, in response to the RTAC's request for a "point person" from Central Staff, Ms. Magnuson will serve as Central Staff liaison to the RTAC and Board members.

^{*} Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users

V. Action Items (Project Prioritization Committee)

1. Approval of an Amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan Project Index and the Transportation Improvement Program to Include the “Enhancement of Greenville Yard/Brooklyn Railcar Float System” Project

Martin Hofler, Central Staff, explained that, as part of the congressionally designated Cross Harbor Freight Movement Project, the Greenville Yard/Brooklyn Railcar Float System Project will bring the existing facilities on both the New Jersey and New York sides of the system to a state of good repair. He explained that the amendments are required in order to allow the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), the project sponsor, to seek federal authorization to draw down a total of \$100 million for work in both states.

Mr. Hofler said that, at the request of Jersey City, the resolution had been revised to include an additional paragraph concerning service parameters established by prior action of the Board of Trustees of the PANYNJ.

David Behrend, Central Staff, reported that the amendments were subject to a public comment period ending on December 31, 2008. He said that any additional comments received by the deadline will be forwarded to the NJTPA Board by its January meeting. Mr. Behrend said that two comments in support of the action were received from the Environmental Defense Fund and the New York Shipping Association.

In answer to a question from George Ververides, Middlesex County, Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman of the Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) said that, although the FIC has taken no action on this specific resolution, improving the rail float operation has been discussed by the Committee and represents the sort of project it supports as an alternative to the expense of building a separate trans-Hudson freight rail tunnel.

Freeholder Palmer asked if both the Port Authority and Jersey City agreed to the revision of the resolution, and Mr. Hofler replied that they did.

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

2. Approval of a Series of Amendments to the FY 2009 TIP/STIP to Add Four Congressionally Earmarked Projects

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, explained that the amendments would add the following congressionally earmarked projects to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

- Hackensack River Walkway, Bergen County
- Castle Point Walkway, Phase 2 – Stevens Institute, Hudson County
- Traffic Calming Project in Plainsboro, Middlesex County
- Pedestrian Bridge, Teaneck, Bergen County

Ms. Ludwig said that the NJTPA worked with the local project sponsors as well as the NJDOT to ready the projects for federal authorization.

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

3. Approval of One Amendment and Two Modifications to the FY 2009 TIP Affecting Local Lead Projects

Ms. Ludwig noted that the resolution had changed since it was distributed to the committee prior to the meeting because one of the two proposed amendments was no longer needed. She said that authorization for the Central Avenue Roadway Resurfacing and Improvements project in Essex County was completed and thus it was deleted from the TIP, freeing up \$6 million in FY 2009 funds. Ms. Ludwig said that \$3.1 million will be programmed for the Garden State Parkway Interchange 91 project in Ocean County, and \$2.9 million will be moved to the NJTPA Future Projects program for emerging needs.

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

4. Approval of a Series of Modifications to the FY 2009-2012 TIP Affecting Routes 10, 37, 287, and 78 by Request of NJDOT

Ms. Ludwig reported that the changing needs of three projects require more funding in FY 2009:

- Route 10, Commerce Boulevard, Improvements, Morris County. Need: \$1.70 million.
- Route 37, Mathis Bridge Eastbound over Barnegat Bay, Ocean County. Need: \$6 million.
- Route 287, North of Ramapo River to the Vicinity of Franklin Avenue, Resurfacing, Bergen County. Need: \$5.70 million.

She said that FY 2009 funds can be reprogrammed from two other projects because their work was funded in FY 2008, thereby freeing up FY 2009 funding for reprogramming:

- Route 78, Garden State Parkway, Interchange 142, Union County. Resource: \$7.4 million.
- Route 78, East of Tunnel Road to East of Beaver Brook, Resurfacing. Resource: \$6 million.

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

5. Approval of a Series of Modifications to the FY 2009 TIP Affecting Routes 3, 46, 18, and 9

Ms. Ludwig reported that two more projects require additional funding in FY 2009:

- Routes 3/46, Valley Road and Notch/Rifle Camp Road Interchange, Passaic County. Need: \$12.5 million.
- Route 46, Main Street, Lodi, Bergen County. Need: \$7 million.

She said that funding can be provided from three projects:

- Route 18, Interchange of CRs 516/527, Middlesex County. Resource: \$10 million.
- Route 18, Hoes Lane Extension to I-287, Middlesex County. Resource: \$3 million.
- Route 9, Pohatcong Lake Dam, Ocean County. Resource: \$10.8 million.

In response to a question from Mr. Ververides about the reason for the reduction in funding for the Route 18 Interchange, CRs 516/527 project, Tom Wospil, NJDOT, indicated that it had been analyzed with the state's "Smart Solution" approach. Mr. Wospil explained that in the Smart Solution process the agency reviews large and costly projects to determine how the scopes of work can be adjusted to drive down costs and improve schedules.

Mr. Ververides asked also if the municipalities affected by the series of modifications were aware of the adjustments. Mr. Hofler said he would contact the project managers to confirm this.

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

6. Approval of the Scores of New Projects in the FY 2010 Project Pool and Authorization for the Project Prioritization Committee to Enter into Negotiations on the Development of the Capital Construction Program

Mr. Hofler reported that the fiscally unconstrained Project Pool consists of 423 projects and programs: 48 from NJ Transit and 375 from NJDOT, which include 24 Congressional earmark projects, and 13 NJTPA Local Lead projects. Mr. Hofler said that seven unfunded projects on the Tier Two list are also included. He noted that Central Staff had scored 16 new projects for the pool this year.

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

7. Approval of an NJDOT Modification to the FY 2009 TIP Affecting One Project

Mr. Wospil explained that the modification would provide an additional \$8.2 million needed for the Route 80, Eastbound Resurfacing project in Warren, Sussex and Morris counties. He said that funds became available through the recent close-out of two large projects.

Mr. Wospil noted that the agency is preparing the slate for the potential infusion of resources from the economic stimulus package, and efforts are underway to accelerate the progress of projects in the FY 2009 Capital Program. He said that the Route 80 TIP modification is part of this effort, and more modifications of this type are to be expected in the near future. Mr. Wospil also noted that all agencies involved in processing projects, including the DEP and the FHWA, have been advised to cooperate, and that all federal regulations still apply.

During the wide-ranging general discussion that ensued, Ms. Murphy reported that a list of county and municipal level high priority projects was being compiled in cooperation with the region's county engineers, for submission to the state. She asked that NJDOT partner with the NJTPA and the subregions to see how the local projects can be incorporated into the stimulus-

related efforts. Mr. Wospil reported that his agency reached out to the MPOs to gather information, which was included in a package that was submitted to Washington the previous week. He said there will be opportunities to amend that submittal with additional information.

Referring to Mr. Wospil's announcement of several more modifications to come before the Committee for approval in the near future, Freeholder Susan Zellman said that the Committee will do what it can to expedite the modifications in a timely fashion, including holding teleconferences, where necessary.

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

VI. Information Items

1. Development of the FY 2010 Capital Construction Program

Mr. Wospil explained that NJDOT expects that preparations for the economic stimulus package will affect the agency's ability to deliver the Capital Program to the NJTPA and negotiate and improve it during the next several months. He reported that NJDOT Acting Commissioner Stephen Dilts will ask for a 30-day extension beyond March 1st for submittal of the Program to the state legislature. Mr. Wospil said that the draft Program will be provided to the NJTPA as soon as possible.

2. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, reported on the progress of the update of Plan 2035. She said that the plan will draw on a comprehensive range of demographic and travel data, as well as input from extensive outreach efforts. Ms. Goldman said that the new plan will feature a fiscally constrained scenario showing how regional transportation needs can best be addressed given a reasonably anticipated funding level. She said also that the plan will explore more extensive investment that could take place if significantly more transportation funding becomes available. Ms. Goldman said that the plan document will be submitted to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in June for Board endorsement in July.

VIII. Adjournment

At 12:15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by unanimous verbal acclaim.

**JOINT COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE
December 15, 2008**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
County Executive Dennis McNerney, Chairman	Bergen County
Freeholder Susan Zellman	Sussex County
Freeholder Matthew Holt	Hunterdon County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
David Antonio	Essex County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Richard Lane	Ocean County
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Pippa Woods	NJ Transit

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder John DiMaio, Chairman	Warren County
Freeholder Susan Zellman	Sussex County
Councilman Michael Sottolano	Jersey City
Freeholder Pasquale LePore	Passaic County
Freeholder Peter Palmer	Somerset County
John Lane	Hudson County
Fernando Rubio	Newark
Richard Roper	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ)
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Pippa Woods	NJ Transit

OTHERS	
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
John Forman	FHWA
Laura Shabe	PANYNJ
Frank J. Marsella	PANYNJ
Doug Greenfeld	Jersey City
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Desiree Ramos	PANYNJ
Yogesh Patel	Wilbur Smith Associates
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Lou Venech	PANYNJ
Liza Betz	Union County
Walt Lane	Somerset

David Dech	Warren County
Sue Dziamara	Hunterdon County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Brian Wahler	New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Christopher Helms	Bergen County Planning
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Brian Fineman	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
Beth Johnson	Central Staff
Ted Matthews	Central Staff
David Colón	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Angel Young	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff
Ted Ritter	Central Staff
Jacob Rowinski	Central Staff
Keith Miller	Central Staff
Sascha Frimpong	Central Staff
Jeffery Vernick	Central Staff
Sarbjit Kahlon	Central Staff
Amy Magnuson	Central Staff
Zhen Liu	Central Staff
Ying Xzu	Central Staff
Liz DeRuchie	Central Staff
Dave Dawson	Central Staff
Megan Kelly	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff