

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

DANIEL P. SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN

MINUTES

January 10, 2011

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance

Acting Chairman, Morris County Freeholder Gene Feyl (NJTPA First Vice Chair), opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Beverly Morris, Central Staff, reported that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of this meeting had been forwarded to the Star Ledger, the Jersey Journal, the Record, the Courier News, the Asbury Park Press, and the New Jersey Herald News and posted in the Essex County Administration Building, Newark, New Jersey, and on the bulletin board of the Lieutenant Governor, Trenton, New Jersey.

B. Salute to the Flag

Acting Chairman Feyl led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Following the salute to the flag, Ms. Morris called the roll. Fourteen voting members were present. Four more arrived after approval of the minutes (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 8th meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Jersey City and carried with 11 affirmative votes. Bergen, Warren and Monmouth counties abstained.

E. Acting Chairman's Remarks

Acting Chairman Feyl welcomed three new members to the NJTPA Board of Trustees: Warren County Freeholder Jason Sarnoski, Monmouth County Freeholder Thomas Amone, and Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan.

The Acting Chairman said the NJTPA looks forward to working with NJDOT and NJ Transit to determine the projects and programs to be funded under the Governor's recently announced five-year funding plan for the renewal of the Transportation Trust Fund. He said that in 2010, through updates of the Strategic Business Plan and Plan 2035, the NJTPA has positioned itself well to meet the various challenges of the coming year. He pointed out the emphasis on using technology to make the transportation system "smarter" and more efficient.

Freeholder Feyl announced that Morris County will be driving the final spike for the stimulus-funded, newly rehabilitated Chester Branch Railroad, a project he said was made possible through the good work of the NJTPA Board and staff, as well as the staff and elected officials in Morris County. He said this short-line railroad will help spur economic development and create jobs in the area and is one example of many achievements in 2010.

Next, the Acting Chairman bid farewell to two Board members who served the region with distinction over the years:

- Former Board Chairman Dennis McNerney of Bergen County, who sat on the Board for nearly a decade, including two years as Chairman of the Project Prioritization Committee.
- John D'Amico of Monmouth County, who served on the NJTPA in recent years and also was a member of the Board of the NJTPA's predecessor organization the North Jersey Transportation Coordination Council during previous service as a Monmouth County Freeholder.

Resolutions had been prepared thanking them for their service and dedication. A motion to approve the two resolutions was made by Jersey City, seconded by Sussex County and carried with unanimous verbal affirmation.

F. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mary K. Murphy welcomed the new members of the Board and said she planned to visit them in the near future.

Ms. Murphy said that, with the Governor's announcement of a five year funding plan, the NJTPA will begin working on the next state capital plan in cooperation with NJDOT and NJ Transit, for submission to the Legislature this spring, to be followed by development of the federally required Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She said Board members and subregional staff will be involved throughout the process. David Kuhn, NJDOT and Richard Roberts, NJ Transit both said their agencies are happy that a state transportation funding plan has been proposed, and they look forward to working with the NJTPA on moving projects forward.

Ms. Murphy noted the recent Port Authority of New York & New Jersey announcement of the preferred solution for increasing clearance of the Bayonne Bridge—the road deck will be raised 65 feet to allow the largest container ships to reach the port unimpeded. She said this project is vital to the future of the freight sector, which provides support for jobs and commerce throughout the region. Ms. Murphy said this announcement signals the nation and world that the region will do what it takes to remain the East Coast's premier port.

Ms. Murphy said NJTPA's own planning work will include many initiatives that follow up on the Strategic Business Plan and are included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2012, which commences on July 1st. She explained that the UPWP guides the planning work of both Central Staff and the subregions. (A UPWP Q&A workshop was conducted for the subregions after the meeting.)

Ms. Murphy noted that a summary of recent NJTPA Central Staff activities since the last Board meeting was distributed to the Trustees, and she highlighted a few:

- Solicitations were issued for applications for the Local Safety and High Risk Rural Roads Programs; the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs; and the new Traffic Sign Inventory and Assessment Program.
- Coordination on emergency management issues with other agencies continues.
- New Local Capital Project Delivery Program website was launched.
- New Technology Working Group was formed.
- Training and site visits for Geographic Information Systems are planned.

- Progress is being made on the Partial Interchange Study and the Performance Results Study.

Ms. Murphy said the NJTPA will need to prepare an addendum to the Plan 2035, the Regional Transportation Plan to reflect the cancellation of the ARC project. She said cooperation continues with NJDOT and NJ Transit in exploring options for addressing trans-Hudson commuting needs in light of the cancellation. She reported that some initial staff level meetings were held and more are planned that will include participation by representatives of the Port Authority and New York agencies. She said the focus for now is on a variety of incremental measures involving rail, bus and ferry. Ms. Murphy pointed out that exploring more far-reaching proposals such as the extension of the Number 7 subway line to New Jersey may take considerably more time and require high-level discussions by officials of the two states and the federal government.

Ms. Murphy announced that, in the interests of making the NJTPA an information resource on all things transportation for the region, an NJTPA Twitter feed was implemented, in addition to the agency's Facebook page, and she welcomed Board members to submit any articles or news items they think deserve wider distribution through social media and the agency's website.

G. Presentation: Update on New Jersey's 511 Program and the SWIFT (State Wide Information for Travelers) Database

Jim Hadden, NJDOT Statewide Traffic Operations, provided an overview of New Jersey's SWIFT and "511" programs. He explained that the SWIFT database helps populate web- and telephone-based roadway traffic alert systems. Mr. Hadden highlighted recent enhancements, such as voice command recognition and applications for customizing access. He said that statistics show a significant increase in calls, alert subscriptions and visitors to 511NJ.org. Future enhancements of applications for mobile devices are under development. Freeholder Feyl and other Board members praised the 511 system, and Ms. Murphy suggested that the NJTPA could help serve as an "ambassador" for the program, spreading the word about its utility.

H. Committee Reports/Action Items

◆ Project Prioritization – Freeholder Gene Feyl, Chairman

Freeholder Feyl reported that the Committee considered two action items since the November Board meeting, one of which was on the day's agenda. First, at the December joint meeting, the Committee recommended approval of six amendments to the FY 2010-2013 TIP. Freeholder Feyl explained that the action would add two projects funded through USDOT's TIGER II program. The first was a \$10 million grant received by the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission for development of a "smart," self-adaptive network of traffic signals throughout the Meadowlands to improve traffic flow. The Freeholder said the second TIGER II grant in the amount of \$1.9 million would go to the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency to fund planning and infrastructure design for a transit-oriented community development in Jersey City. (These funds would be combined with a \$308,000 HUD Community Challenge grant.)

Freeholder Feyl said the four other projects, totaling approximately \$11 million, had graduated from the NJTPA Local Scoping Program. They include turning lanes and sidewalk improvements on Clove Road and Long Hill Road in Passaic County; replacement of the Waterloo Road Bridge over Musconetcong River in Morris and Sussex counties; safety

improvements on Route 515 in Sussex County; and mitigation of severe vertical and horizontal geometry problems on a portion of Route 517 in Sussex County.

Freeholder Feyl said all six amendments have undergone a 30-day public comment period.

Freeholder Feyl also reported that, since the last Board meeting, the Committee approved a set three transit-related TIP modifications by fax ballot, and no further action is needed. They include:

- \$2.48 million for the NJ Transit Switch Heater program in the NJTPA region, which is funded through the federal Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (or TIGGER) grant program;
- \$22 million for the purchase of new, cleaner compressed natural gas buses to replace those being retired from the fleet, which is also funded through a federal grant; and
- \$75 million for replacement of rail rolling stock, including purchases of new multi-level coaches, which is funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds previously allocated to the ARC project.

Freeholder Feyl also noted that at the meeting Central Staff informed the committees of the next steps subregions can take to apply for funding to assist in implementing federally mandated rules for traffic sign reflectivity.

ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF SIX AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2010-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (Attachment 2)

There were no comments from the public on the action item. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Jersey City, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

◆ **Planning and Economic Development – Freeholder Matthew Holt, Chairman**

Freeholder Holt welcomed the new Trustees and noted that increased activity on the part of Board Trustees is a core element of the Strategic Business Plan.

The Freeholder reported that, also at the joint meeting, Central Staff provided the Committees with a comprehensive briefing on the draft FY 2012 UPWP. He elaborated on the Plan's structure explaining that Volume I of the UPWP outlines Central Staff initiatives, while Volume II includes the federally funded transportation planning activities of the 15 NJTPA subregions. Volume III includes new subregional studies that have been recommended by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) selection committee. The Freeholder said 11 studies are recommended that examine a wide range of transportation issues throughout the region, including travel on key corridors, transit needs, pedestrian safety, livable communities and other critical concerns. He said the document is still a draft, and it will be considered by the Committee in February for final review and endorsement before coming to Board for approval in March. He said the draft was posted to the NJTPA website, and all members were notified by e-mail. Freeholder Holt encouraged all Board members and their staffs to provide comments to Karen Shannon by January 14th so that any revisions may be incorporated.

Freeholder Holt said that, at the meeting, Central Staff updated the Committees on the status of the next Federal Surface Transportation Authorization and changes expected in the upcoming 112th Congress, specifically the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

◆ **Freight Initiatives – Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman**

Freeholder Palmer reported that the December meeting of the Freight Initiatives Committee focused on the region's drayage industry, and two speakers were invited to provide presentations on trends and issues affecting this element of the freight sector. The Freeholder said a healthy drayage industry, which includes trucking companies as well as independent owner/operators, is vital to the Port area and therefore the region's economy. He said the industry is facing many challenges, especially the aggressive negotiation of lower shipping rates by "big box" shippers, like Wal-Mart. He said other pressing challenges include competition from other ports to the south, the recent decision by the steamship lines to stop supplying the chassis used to move intermodal containers (placing the burden on the motor carriers), the call for environmentally friendly vehicles, and a new Federal motor carrier safety rating system. Freeholder Palmer noted that industry stakeholders are finding ways to meet these challenges and even turn some of them into opportunities to reduce emissions and improve service.

I) Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Chairman of the Board for 2011

Freeholder Feyl explained that the Board's bylaws call for two-year terms for its officers, but recent elections resulted in a vacancy for Chairman in 2011. He said the nominating committee, which consisted of himself, Freeholder Holt, and Hudson County Executive Thomas DeGise determined to continue the unwritten tradition of rotating the two-year terms between Republican and Democratic party representatives. Freeholder Feyl and County Executive DeGise said this practice has worked extremely well over the years to the benefit of the region and the state, and the Committee agreed to nominate Union County Freeholder Daniel P. Sullivan as Chairman of the Board for the remainder of the current two-year term.

A motion to appoint Freeholder Sullivan as Chairman of the Board for 2011 was made by Somerset County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

Chairman Sullivan expressed his appreciation for the Board's confidence in him. He welcomed the new members and wished them well in their new positions. He said the NJTPA is well prepared to meet the challenges ahead, fortified by its Strategic Business Plan as well as its long-range plan. The Chairman reiterated the emphases on using technology to make the transportation network more efficient; addressing the growing need for more transit access to New York; and utilizing social media and the website to better inform the public about the NJTPA in particular and transportation in general.

J) Public Participation

Stewart Weiss, Chairman of the Inman Railroad Committee: Mr. Weiss inquired about the status of a feasibility study of the potential for a high speed freight rail system for the state. Freeholder Palmer said an update on the issue will be provided at the next Freight Initiatives Committee meeting in February.

K) Time and Place of Next Meeting

Chairman Sullivan announced that the next meeting of the NJTPA will be held on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., at the NJTPA offices at One Newark Center, Newark, NJ.

L) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by unanimous verbal affirmation.

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

Attendance Record: January 10, 2011

The following people were present:

VOTING MEMBERS/ALTERNATES

STAFF & OTHERS

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Ms. Johanna Barba Jones

NJDOT

David Kuhn

NJ TRANSIT

Richard Roberts

PANYNJ

Not represented

Lou Venech

CITIZEN'S REPRESENTATIVE

Not Represented

BERGEN COUNTY

Hon. Kathleen Donovan

Donna Orbach
Ken Aloisio

ESSEX COUNTY

Hon. Joseph DiVincenzo

Sanjeev Varghese
David Antonio

NEWARK

Mehdi Mohammadish

Michael Gelin

HUDSON COUNTY

Hon. Thomas DeGise

John Lane

HUNTERDON COUNTY

VOTING MEMBERS/ALTERNATES (Cont'd)

STAFF & OTHERS

JERSEY CITY

Hon. Michael Sottolano

Doug Greenfeld
Naomi Hsu

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

George Ververides

Tony Gambilonghi

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Hon. Tom Arnone

Joe Ettore
Nora Shepard

MORRIS COUNTY

Hon. Gene Feyl

Gerald Rohsler
Deena Cybulski
John Hayes

OCEAN COUNTY

Mr. Frank Scarantino

PASSAIC COUNTY

Michael LaPlace

Michael Lysicatos

SOMERSET COUNTY

Hon. Peter Palmer

Walt Lane
Matt Loper

SUSSEX COUNTY

Hon Susan Zellman

Tom Drabic

UNION COUNTY

Hon. Daniel Sullivan

Al Faella
Liza Betz

WARREN COUNTY

Hon.. Jason Sarnoski

David Dech
Brian Appezatto

OTHER AFFILIATE AGENCIES (NON-VOTING)

NJTA

Rich Brundage

OTHER ATTENDEES

Glenn Scotland, NJTPA Legal Counsel
Vincent Cassari, Jacobs
Denise Chaplick, Baker Corp
Jenn Gienier, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Charles McManus, Stantec Consultants
Tom Pagani, Parsons Brinckerhoff
Ronnie Piccolo, Hatch Mott McDonald
Don Kuser, Roe & Associates
Jon Livingston, Jacobs
Tara Shepherd, HART TMA/TMAC
Stewart Weiss, Inman RR Committee
Jim Yeager, Baker

PHOTOGRAPHER

Stuart Ramson

NJTPA CENTRAL STAFF

Mary K. Murphy

Cliff Sobel
Karen Shannon
Martin Hofler
Mary Ameen
Marie Della Pelle
Elizabeth Johnson
Beverly Morris
Mark Solof
Amy Magnuson
Eve Chamberlain
Angellita Young
Ann Ludwig
Ted Ritter
Dave Colon
Chris Roche
John Shote
Sara Diaz
Scott Rowe
Jeffrey Perlman
Lois Goldman

**RESOLUTION # A-583: SIX AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2010 - 2013
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Inc. is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for updating the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the northern part of New Jersey as required by 23 CFR 450; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA formally adopted the FY 2010 – 2013 TIP on August 24, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA on October 18, 1999 approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the NJTPA and NJDOT/NJ Transit on procedures to amend and modify the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the NJTPA TIP; and

WHEREAS, the TIP may be revised any time; and

WHEREAS, the NJTPA has recommended six projects to be amended into the TIP because they are ready to advance in FY 2011: *Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System (MASSTR)*, Bergen and Hudson Counties; *Canal Crossing Infrastructure Planning Project*, Hudson County; *CR 620, Clove Road/Long Hill Road Improvements*, Passaic County; *Waterloo Road over Musconetcong River*, Morris and Sussex Counties; *CR 515, Vernon Township, Phases II, III, IV*, Sussex County; *CR 517, Route 23 to Route 94*, Sussex County; and

WHEREAS, funding is available for the Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System (MASSTR) and the Canal Crossing Infrastructure Planning Project through USDOT TIGER II grants; and

WHEREAS, funding is available for the remaining four projects through the Local Scoping Program, of which they are graduates; and

WHEREAS, these amendments are exempt from an air quality conformity determination and the modifications do not impact the current conformity determination; and

WHEREAS, Congestion Management Process (CMP) requirements do not apply to these projects; and

WHEREAS, consistent with NJTPA public participation procedures, the NJTPA has provided the public with opportunities for input into the amendments via widely distributed documentation and a 30-day comment period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA) hereby approves the attached six amendments to the FY 2010 – 2013 TIP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is forwarded to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for official submission to the Federal Highway Administration.

This resolution shall take effect this January 10, 2011.