

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Lysicatos, Chairman
Brian Appezzato, Vice Chairman

Minutes

February 16, 2011

I. Roll call

Chairman Lysicatos called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., and the roll was called. There were 15 voting members present. Two more arrived after approval of the minutes.

II. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 8th meeting was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by Warren County and carried with 14 affirmative votes. Somerset County abstained.

III. Review of standing committee action items on February 22nd agenda

Concerning the Project Prioritization Committee meeting action item: "Approval of three modifications to the FY 2010-2013 TIP," which would change funding to programs, Mr. Lysicatos requested that NJDOT provide additional information on what projects were likely to be affected by the change. Tom Wospil, NJDOT, said further information would be provided.

IV. Discussion items

- Amy Magnuson, Central Staff, reported that \$96,000 remained in the FY 2011 UPWP Subregional Support Program (SSP). It was agreed that a second solicitation would be issued shortly for the residual SSP funds, which must be allocated by June 30, 2011.
- Mr. Lysicatos announced that, beginning with the April meeting, agenda items would be solicited from the committee members, as well as from Central Staff. There was a brief discussion about determining TMA participation in the RTAC, and it was agreed that discussion of TMA involvement with the Committee should be on the April agenda.
- Mr. Lysicatos announced that Beverly Morris, Central Staff, would track member's questions and requests for information from Central Staff, compile the responses, and email them to the full membership.

V. Information items

1. Summary of comments and revisions to the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Volumes I-VIII and Budget

Elizabeth Johnson, Central Staff, reported that a summary of comments received to-date, responses, and revisions to the December 2010 draft UPWP had been distributed to the Trustees and RTAC members in the agenda package for the February 22nd joint PEDC/PPC meeting. She noted that no substantial changes had been made to the draft, and comments will be accepted until March 14th, the date the Board is slated to approve the Program.

2. Update on status of the FY 2012 Transportation Capital Program (TCP)

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said a revenue assumptions meeting was held January 20th, and it was agreed that projected revenue levels would be held flat for the 10-year FY 2012 TCP program. Tom Wospil, NJDOT, reported that development of the project database was in progress, and the TCP would be issued sometime after the Governor's February 22nd budget address. He said negotiations of the TCP with the subregions will begin in March.

3. Status of the amendment to Plan 2035 to remove the ARC Tunnel Project

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said federal regulations require the amendment of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to remove the cancelled ARC tunnel project from the document, and the action will be take the form of an "addendum."

George Ververides, Middlesex County, noted that the planning process for the ARC project had been a key component of the RTP, and elimination of its textual presence in Plan 2035 did not do justice to the need for trans-Hudson capacity. Mr. Ververides and Tom Drabic, Sussex County, stressed the need to incorporate into the Plan a positive indicator of efforts to address this need.

Ms. Goldman noted that the addendum to Plan 2035 would include discussion of the need to address trans-Hudson transit capacity and potential strategies for addressing this need.

Louis Milan, NJ Transit, said that the agency is cooperating with other agencies and sharing information concerning trans-Hudson capacity. He pointed out that there are currently two proposals for increasing trans-Hudson capacity: An extension of the #7 NYC subway line to Secaucus and the Amtrak Gateway tunnel to the vicinity of New York Penn Station. He said NJ Transit is currently not in a position to endorse or not endorse the proposals. Lou Venich, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, said his agency is currently taking the same approach to this issue.

An RTAC resolution in support of Amtrak's proposed Gateway Project was initially suggested, However, it was agreed that more information on the proposal would be needed before any action could be considered.

Gary Johnson, a citizen of Newark, recommended that NJTPA, NJ Transit and Port Authority of NY & NJ pursue federal funding designated for high-speed rail to be used for trans-Hudson improvements.

4. MUTCD Traffic Sign Retro-reflectivity Inventory & Assessment Program update

Christine Mittman, Central Staff, reported that all 15 subregions submitted applications for the program and a technical review committee comprised of Central Staff and two county engineers

reviewed them. She said various funding scenarios were explored, and it was determined that an equitable distribution of funds (\$133,333 per member subregion) will be recommended to the PPC.

5. Travel demand model (NJRTM-E) availability on CITRIX Server

Bob Diogo and Chris Roche, Central Staff, distributed instructions for accessing CUBE and running the NJRTM-E model on CITRIX Server. Mr. Diogo instructed the Committee members to call him before performing the process so he could gauge interest and set up scenarios. There will be no formal training, but users can contact Mr. Diogo or Mr. Roche with any questions. It was agreed that Central Staff will update the subregions with their CITRIX user names and passwords.

6. Update on developing regional and county-level demographic forecasts with NYMTC

Mr. Diogo reported that NYMTC and NJTPA are jointly preparing regional and county-level demographic forecasts for the entire NY/NJ/CT region (including the NJTPA region) and that preliminary employment results are anticipated to be available in March (before the next RTAC meeting in April). He pointed out that the numbers will be preliminary and the subregions, along with other regional agencies, such as NJ Transit, will have an opportunity to provide feedback. He noted that the initial numbers will not take land-use restraints into account, and the collaboration of Central staff and RTAC members will be necessary to produce reasonable forecast results.

7. Upcoming Census data and boundary delineations

Keith Miller, Central Staff, distributed a Census Data Release and Delineation Schedule and provided an overview of its contents, noting that he will be looking for input on PUMA¹ boundaries from the subregions in the upcoming months.

8. EGIS updates and rollout

Zenobia Fields, Central Staff, distributed a handout that included instructions for subregions on how to access an FTP site in order to contribute data updates to the EGIS² database every fiscal quarter.

9. Update on the Pedestrian Safety at and Near Bus Stops Study

Elizabeth Thompson, Central Staff, reported that the education awareness campaign component of the study was progressing, and three draft ideas were developed that will be presented to motorists and bus rider focus groups in March at NJ Transit headquarters. In addition, a toolbox of bus stop policy resources and suggestions for design and locations is being developed as a resource for counties, municipalities, and the public stakeholders seeking to improve pedestrian safety and access to bus stops. Ms. Thompson said a survey had been distributed recently to RTAC members, and she said the survey data will help inform the toolbox.

¹ Public Use Microdata Areas

² Enterprise Geographic Information System

10. Establishment of TMA Working Group

David Schmetterer, Central Staff, reported that a TMA working group is being formed, and members will include representatives from RTAC, NJDOT, NJ Transit and the TMA Council. He said the first meeting is expected to be held in March, and the group's first task is to develop TMA program guidelines for the FY 2013 UPWP.

11. Update on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Web-based Tool

Jeffrey Perlman, Central Staff, reported that the project is close to completion. He said three TAC meetings and two workshops had been conducted during the project. The draft results of the inventory and forecast were issued, and participants received training on the GHG web tool. Mr. Perlman said the consultant's final draft report was in review. He noted that a user's guide for the web tool is in development.

12. Consultant study highlights

Ms. Magnuson noted that a new report, Consultant Activity Highlights, had been distributed previously as part of the Unified Planning Work Program FY 2011 Second Quarter Report Highlights. During a brief discussion it was agreed that this report will be distributed to the RTAC when NJTPA's quarterly reports are submitted to the federal partners. During a brief discussion, it was agreed that ongoing updates will be provided at subsequent meetings, and RTAC members are invited to report back on relevant issues they would like to share with the Committee.

13. STP online reporting system

Sara Diaz, Central Staff, provided a brief overview of the new system, which is expected to be implemented at the start of the next fiscal year. The system will allow the subregions to input and submit their STP reporting online. Ms. Diaz said the system will include online training and a users' guide. She thanked RTAC members for their help during the system's development.

VI. Other items

Martin Hofler, Central Staff, announced that NJDOT Local Aid Office and FHWA will sponsor a training session at the NJTPA on April 5, 2011, 10:00 a.m. regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance requirements for projects. He urged all subregional engineers to participate. He said additional training sessions are scheduled for March 22nd in Mt. Arlington and April 12th in Freehold.

VII. Next meeting, April 13, 2011

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
February 16, 2011**

Voting Members	
Michael Lysicatos, Chairman	Passaic County
Brian Appezzato, Vice Chairman	Warren County
George M. Ververides	Middlesex County
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Ken Aloisio	Bergen County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Lou Millan	NJ Transit
Lou Venech	Port Authority of NY and NJ
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
John Lane	Hudson County
Crystal Barnes	Hunterdon County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
Liza Betz	Union County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Others	
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Susan Pigula	NJDOT
Denise Chaplick	M. Baker Corp.
Bill Neary	Keep Middlesex Moving
Tara Shepherd	HART TMA
Gary Johnson	Citizen of Newark
Anthony Gamallo	Monmouth County PB
Kyle B. Winslow	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Karen Rouse	The Record
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Amy Magnuson	Central Staff
Beth Johnson	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff

Solomon Caviness	Central Staff
Bob Diogo	Central Staff
Chris Roche	Central Staff
Keith Miller	Central Staff
Zenobia Fields	Central Staff
Elizabeth Thompson	Central Staff
David Schmetterer	Central Staff
Jeffrey Perlman	Central Staff
Igor Sorin	Central Staff
Sara Diaz	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff