

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

Joint Meeting

THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Freeholder Matthew Holt, Chairman
County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Vice Chairman

THE PROJECT PRIORITIZATION COMMITTEE

Freeholder Gene Feyl, Chairman
County Executive Thomas DeGise, Vice Chairman

**Minutes
March 7, 2011**

I. Roll Call of Members

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. The roll was called after the Pledge of Allegiance. Ten members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) and 11 members of the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2010 joint PEDC/PPC meeting was made by Jersey City, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried with 18 affirmative votes. Bergen, Somerset and Warren Counties abstained.

III. Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) Report

RTAC Chairman Michael Lysicatos reported that various members of the Committee provided comments on the 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at the February RTAC meeting. He said the Committee discussed developing more agenda items concerning regional issues that can be vetted by RTAC. Also discussed was the possibility of TMA representation on the RTAC.

PPC Chairman, Morris County Freeholder Gene Feyl suggested that the RTAC provide the Trustees with a presentation about their functions and process. Mr. Lysicatos agreed to provide a presentation at the March 14th Board meeting.

IV. Action Items:

PEDC Action Item 1: Approval of Year Two of the FY 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

PEDC Chairman Freeholder Matthew Holt pointed out paragraphs seven and eight of the revised resolution for the 2012 UPWP. The paragraphs indicate that the allocation of costs contained in the current budget will be adjusted "according to the final resolution of administrative and indirect cost rates currently under discussion among FHWA, NJDOT, NJIT and the NJTPA." The Freeholder said the final adjusted budget will be reviewed by the NJTPA Executive Committee and distributed to all Trustees. He said that if the Program is not "budget

neutral” by the March 14th Board meeting, approval of the UPWP may have to be postponed. (The March 14th Board meeting was subsequently cancelled.)

Beth Johnson, Central Staff, reported that two drafts of the UPWP were vetted by the Trustees and RTAC. She said an RTAC work session was conducted in October; a Q&A session was held after the January Board meeting; and there was an open comment period for all to provide input and feedback into the work program. She said all comments were reviewed, responded to, and incorporated into the draft UPWP where appropriate. Ms. Johnson said comments from the Federal Transit Administration were still to come. She said all programmatic comments from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had been reviewed, addressed and incorporated into the March 11th draft, which was available on NJTPA website.

Ms. Johnson distributed the revised draft resolution and executive summary, a summary of all comments received and the NJTPA responses, a letter of comments from the FHWA, and a summary of those comments along with NJTPA responses to each. She said the primary change made to the December draft as a result of the comment period was the addition of the Northeast New Jersey Metro Mobility Study, a joint consulting effort of the NJTPA and NJ Transit, which was extended from 2011 to 2012.

Karen Shannon, Central Staff, provided details concerning comments from the FHWA and the NJTPA responses. She highlighted three primary categories:

1. One of the FHWA’s primary comments was that of the designation of the MPO. The correspondence indicated that NJTPA’s host agency, NJIT, would have to be designated as the MPO and recipient of federal PL funds. Ms. Shannon explained that most of the nation’s MPOs have host agencies, and this issue is believed to be resolved. Ms. Shannon said an agreement between NJDOT and NJIT and a separate agreement between NJIT and the NJTPA will lay out the responsibilities of each party and the manner in which funds will flow among the three entities. Ms. Shannon indicated that FHWA verbally agreed that the NJTPA would retain its designation as the region’s MPO.
2. The second issue had to do with the fee NJIT recoups for administrative services on behalf of the NJTPA. FHWA indicated that the NJIT administrative fee should be replaced by an indirect cost rate, and that NJTPA administrative salaries cannot be charged as direct costs. Ms. Shannon said the NJTPA believes that application of an existing NJIT off-campus rate and reallocating administrative salaries from the direct to indirect line item will serve to resolve the issue with no significant effect on the overall FY 2012 UPWP budget.
3. Programmatic comments from FHWA were addressed, including clarification on task write-ups and the incorporation of the Transportation Management Association (TMA) program.

Freeholder Holt emphasized that work on finalizing the FY 2012 UPWP is still ongoing, and some issues might not be resolved to the satisfaction of all by the March 14th Board meeting.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Warren County, seconded by Jersey City, and carried unanimously. (The March 14th Board meeting was subsequently cancelled.)

PPC Action Item 2: Approval of three modifications to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Eve Chamberlain, Central Staff, reported that NJDOT requested three modifications to the FY 2010-2012 TIP that involve changes in funding sources. She said state funding will be replaced by federal funding for two multi-county programs and one project:

- Design and Emerging Projects Program – The state requests replacement of \$2.6 million in federal funding with state funding.
- Intersection Improvement Program – \$1 million in previously programmed state funds will be replaced and augmented with \$2 million in federal HSIP¹ funds.
- Ocean County's Route 35 Mantoloking to Point Pleasant Restoration Project - \$13.6 million in state funds will be replaced with \$15.7 million in NHS² federal funds and \$.59 million in HPP³ federal funds.

A motion to approve the modifications was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by NJDOT, and carried unanimously. This action does not require further approval by the full Board.

PPC Action Item 3: Approval of the funding allocation for the MUTCD Traffic Sign Inventory and Assessment Program

Christine Mittman, Central Staff, reported that all fifteen subregions applied for funding under this NJTPA program, and the technical review committee that reviewed the applications recommended an equal distribution of the funds—\$133,300 per subregion. The new program, which will use \$2 million in federal funds from the Local Preliminary Engineering program, will support the subregions in meeting the requirements of new federal standards for roadway signage. In answer to questions, Ms. Mittman said the subregions can begin working on their inventories and issuing requests for proposals immediately. Ms. Johnson said letters to incur costs dated July 1, 2011 will be issued two weeks after the veto period of the NJTPA Board minutes by the Governor's office. She said separate quarterly reporting will be required for the program and the same guidelines as those for reporting under the Subregional Transportation Program will apply.

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

V. Information Items

1. Status of the FY 2112 Transportation Capital Program (TCP)

David Kuhn, NJDOT, said the agency is working diligently to issue the program as soon as possible. He reported that a request for a 30-day extension from the March 1st due date for submission of the program to the state Legislature was denied. He said NJDOT is working closely with the Governor's office and hopeful that the program will be released shortly. He said scheduling of TCP negotiation meetings with the subregions was in progress.

¹ Highway Safety Improvement Program

² National Highway System

³ High Priority Projects

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff said that upon receipt of the FY 2012 TCP from NJDOT, Central Staff will compare the program to the current FY 2010 TIP (as revised) and will prepare and distribute a report of projects and programs in the TCP that are new, deleted, or continuing. She requested that the subregions submit questions and concerns about the program prior to March 22nd, when representatives from NJDOT and NJ Transit are expected to be available at NJTPA to answer questions. (That date was subsequently postponed due to delays in the release of the TCP.)

Ms. Murphy noted that when the TCP is issued, the subregions will be asked to analyze it and respond to it as quickly as possible.

2. Status of the amendment to Plan 2035 to remove the ARC tunnel project

Cliff Sobel, Central Staff, reported that the federally mandated removal of the cancelled ARC Tunnel project from the long-range plan will take the form of an addendum that will remove the project from the project index and discuss the continuing need to address future trans-Hudson capacity and rail system growth. He said the addendum will go before the Board later this year, in conjunction with approval of the TIP and its accompanying Air Quality Conformity Determination. The addendum will undergo a 30-day public comment period.

George Ververides, Middlesex County, stressed the need to incorporate into Plan 2035 alternative strategies for meeting the needs the ARC tunnel would have addressed. Somerset County Freeholder Peter Palmer stressed the importance of receiving frequent updates on the developments of the Amtrak Gateway Tunnel and #7 Subway Extension proposals.

VI. Other

- Ms. Murphy mentioned the upcoming NJTPA symposium scheduled March 25th, “Planning for Operations: Advancing New Jersey's ITS Initiatives.”
- The updated NJTPA Strategic Business Plan was being printed.
- Information for Board members will be organized in binders for each member at subsequent board meetings.

VII. Comments from the public

James Raleigh, President of Friends of Monmouth Battlefield, stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement process for the proposed Monmouth-Ocean-Middlesex rail project has gone on for too long. He suggested that specific mitigation measures should begin being developed for key needs identified thus far so that the project can move forward. Also Mr. Raleigh encouraged streamlining the scope of work for the proposed Amtrak Gateway tunnel project.

VII. Adjournment

At 11:00 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Jersey City, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried unanimously.

**JOINT COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE
March 7, 2011**

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Matthew Holt (Chairman)	Hunterdon County
Councilman Michael Sottolano	City of Jersey City
Freeholder Pat Lepore	Passaic County
Freeholder Peter Palmer	Somerset County
Freeholder Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
David Antonio	Essex County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
David Kuhn	NJDOT
Rich Roberts	NJ Transit
Lou Venech	Port Authority of NY & NJ

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Gene Feyl (Chairman)	Morris County
County Executive Thomas DeGise	Hudson County
Freeholder Matthew Holt	Hunterdon County
Freeholder Thomas Arnone	Monmouth County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Robert S. Garrison	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Frank Scarantino	Ocean County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
David Kuhn	NJDOT
Rich Roberts	NJ Transit

OTHERS	
Doug Greenfeld	City of Jersey City
John Ciaffone	TransOptions
Dave Wagner	Greenman-Pederson
Lou Millan	NJ Transit
Walt Lane	Somerset County
J. T. Raleigh	Friends of Monmouth Battlefield
Naomi Hsu	City of Jersey City
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Ron Mieszkowski	T&M Associates
John Lane	Hudson County

Tom Pagani	PB Americas
Diana Saltel	H2M
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Jenn Grenier	PB World
Denise Chaplick	Baker Corp.
Sue Dziamara	Hunterdon County
Suzanne Mack	Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Beth Johnson	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Amy Magnuson	Central Staff
Eve Chamberlain	Central Staff
Rich Stoolman	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff