

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Lysicatos, Chairman
Brian Appezzato, Vice Chairman

Minutes

April 13, 2011

I. Roll call

Chairman Lysicatos called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., and the roll was called. There were 16 voting members present.

II. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16th meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

III. Review of standing committee action items

Concerning approval of the latest rounds of the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and the New Freedom Grant Programs, Lois Goldman, Central Staff reported that all applications that were submitted to the programs were recommended for funding by the review committee (15 for JARC and nine for New Freedom).

IV. Information items

1. FY 2012 Transportation Capital Program (TCP) update

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, reported that TCP negotiations were conducted by teleconference on April 11th and discussion continues on some issues. Tom Wospil, NJDOT said that most subregions were satisfied, and decisions concerning large ticket projects were still to be made. He said the TCP database was slated for delivery to the Legislature by April 30. It was noted that the NJTPA share of the proposed statewide program is estimated at 75 percent.

Martin Hofler, Central Staff, distributed a comparison of the FY 2011 Capital Construction Program and FY 2012 Transportation Capital Program, noting that the region would receive \$200 million more than the previous year.

2. Status of NJDOT Partial Interchange Study

Jeffery Vernick, Central Staff, report that NJDOT is working on a statewide study to identify and analyze partial interchanges in response to an emphasis area designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Mr. Vernick reported that NJDOT engaged Rutgers University

and NJIT as consultants on the study and invited the state's MPOs to offer input to the ranking and selection process used to develop a list of 10 locations for further modeling analysis. He distributed a summary of 52 partial interchanges on the interstate system in the NJTPA region and asked RTAC members to review it for major omissions or concerns. He noted that interchanges on the list are not guaranteed to see implementation of improvements and that locations not modeled in study still might qualify for advancement through other processes.

Mr. Vernick suggested that, after RTAC review and barring any major concerns, a response to NJDOT concerning the list be prepared stating the following opinions: NJDOT should proceed with modeling efforts at the interchanges identified in North Jersey; appropriate prioritization should continue as the study proceeds; alternate avenues for unique I-280 locations (partial vs. complete) should be explored; improvement strategies short of full completion of partial interchanges should be considered; and consultation among stakeholders should continue.

It was agreed that RTAC members would respond to Mr. Vernick by April 22nd. Walt Lane, who attended a recent study TAC meeting, said that he had suggested that the modeler for the project examine adjacent interchanges to determine if completing one interchange would improve the operations of another, thereby justifying a higher rank on the list. He also suggested consideration of the local networks that support interstate improvements.

3. Initiation of Planning Visualization Tools Project

Brian Fineman, Central Staff, said the participation of engaged stakeholders, planning partners and the public will be enhanced by development of visualization tools that will promote better understanding of the often-technical information generated by planning processes.

Zenobia Fields, Central Staff, distributed a summary of a 12 month consultant-supported effort that will produce a set of web based interactive tools to help illustrate a wide range of regional planning factors. She said the first meeting of the project Technical Advisory Committee is planned for May.

4. Demographics and employment forecasting model update

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, said he will soon email to the subregions the draft NYMTC employment forecasts for most counties in the NYMTC model, which includes the NJTPA region. He asked RTAC members to call him with any questions. He noted that adjustments will take county specific features into account. He said that, once the employment forecasts are complete, the population piece of the project will commence using 2010 census data as a theoretical base for projecting population figures. He pointed out that some areas are challenging the Census data, and he asked the counties to inform him of any such plans, so that he could use their numbers as a base.

5. Update on Performance Results Study

Dr. Fineman reported that Cambridge Systematics has continued its consultant effort to assess the impact of implemented projects in the region. The study is examining specific projects and data to develop methodologies for future use in performance assessment.

Project Manager Anson Gock, Central Staff, distributed a chart listing performance measures by project category and NJTPA goal. He explained that the study developed 38 performance measures that address six goals areas designated in the NJTPA Regional Transportation Plan.

The goal areas on the chart are cross-referenced against 10 project types that are based on Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) categories. Mr. Gock said the goal of this analysis is to act as a guidebook to conduct before-and-after performance measures analyses according to project type.

Mr. Gock said a meeting of the project Technical Advisory Committee will be held within a few weeks, and RTAC members will be invited to attend.

6. Results of the Second Solicitation of the Subregional Support Program

Amy Magnuson, Central Staff, reported that 12 of the 15 subregions responded to the second solicitation, and program funding was fully allocated. Mr. Lysicatos said there was some agreement among RTAC members that a first solicitation should be issued early in the next quarter and a second early in the next fiscal year.

7. FY 2012 UPWP update

Karen Shannon, Central Staff reported that discussions continue concerning the NJIT indirect cost fee, and NJDOT staff were doing an extraordinary job in assisting the NJTPA staff in pursuing solutions that FHWA might find acceptable. She acknowledged the kindness shown by NJIT staff during the process as they continue to assist on trying to find a solution. She said the NJTPA Executive Committee is following the issue closely, and Freeholder Holt has been assuming responsibility for day-to-day contact with Central Staff on these matters. She said a meeting with FHWA was scheduled for April 27, and she hoped the budget deliberations could be resolved.

Ms. Shannon reported two changes made to the UPWP since the March draft. First, NJDOT has asked the NJTPA to assume management of the Route 66 Operational and Capacity Improvements project, along with Monmouth County. Also, the Governor's Authorities Unit has asked the NJTPA to take a second look at the part-time hourly line item in the budget, and that amount has since been reduced from \$600,000 \$470,000. Ms. Shannon said this may not have a negative impact on the subregional internship program.

8. TMA program

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, said plans are underway for upgrading the Rideshare software program (hosted on an NJDOT server) used by the TMAs to match up car and van poolers. John Ciaffone, TransOptions, reported that NJDOT indicated that the system can be moved to another server at NJDOT for now. He said the most immediate issue is renewal of a two-year maintenance contract with an outside provider to keep the system running. Ms. Goldman said options for replacing the system are being considered in anticipation of a possible RFP. She said the TMAs will be surveyed concerning their needs, and more conversations will ensue. Mr. Lysicatos suggested that there may be an opportunity to migrate the program to an Enterprise GIS system application that incorporates data sharing.

Ms. Goldman said a TMA working group meeting to begin discussions of the FY 2013 TMA program and an online reporting system was planned for April 28th.

Mr. Ciaffone said at least one TMA executive director will be present at all RTAC meetings, and he encouraged contact between the groups between meetings. He introduced Bill Ragozine, of

Cross County Connection, the TMA for Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties.

9. MUTCD program

Christine Mittman, Central Staff, reported that staff is examining the feasibility of an NJTPA-hosted, web-based traffic sign management system. The subregions were surveyed in this regard and she will report back to the RTAC after analysis of the results. She said a working group meeting with RTAC members was held recently to discuss the program. Mr. Lysicatos reported that standardizing the GIS input interface was discussed at the meeting.

V. Other items

Ms. Shannon said a retirement celebration for Cliff Sobel is being planned for late May or early June.

VI. Next meeting – June 15, 2011

VII. Adjournment

At 12:00 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by Passaic County and carried unanimously.

**Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
April 13, 2011**

Voting Members	
Michael Lysicatos (Chairman)	Passaic County
Brian Appezzato (Vice Chairman)	Warren County
Anthony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
John Lane	Hudson County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Ken Aloisio	Bergen County
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
Liza Betz	Union County
Crystal Barnes	Hunterdon County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Lou Venech	Port Authority of NY and NJ
Louis Millan	NJ Transit
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Others	
John Ciaffone	TransOptions (TMA)
Krishna Murthy	Meadowlark (TMA)
William Ragozine	Cross County Connection (TMA)
Tara Shepherd	HART TMA
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Andy Kaplan	TSRC, Rutgers
Susan Pigula	NJDOT
Stacy Perrine	Ocean County
Denise Chaplick	Baker
Brian C. Wahler	New Brunswick Parking Authority
Kyle Winslow	P.B.
Melody Bundy	NJTIP
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff

Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Brian Fineman	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Jeffery Vernick	Central Staff
Zenobia Fields	Central Staff
Amy Magnuson	Central Staff
Anson Gock	Central Staff
Bob Diogo	Central Staff
Christine Mittman	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff