

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

April 18, 2011

I. Roll Call of Members

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

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2010 joint PEDC/PPC meeting was made by Warren County, seconded by Jersey City and carried unanimously.

III. RTAC Report

RTAC Chairman Michael Lysicatos reported on the activities of the April 13th RTAC meeting. He said that Central Staff updated members about several items, including a study of the region's partial interchanges, the NYMTC/NJTPA demographics and employment forecasting model update, the initiation of the NJTPA Planning Visualization Tools Project, and the TMA program.

Tom Wospil, NJDOT, noted that, at the RTAC meeting, he announced that the Transit Village and Local Centers of Place programs would be merged and reinstated to the TCP. He said that, since then, the item has been challenged; it is now under review; and its inclusion in the TCP is yet to be determined.

IV. Action Items:

PPC Action Item 1: Endorsement of the FY 2012 Transportation Capital Program (TCP)

Mr. Wospil reported that FY 2012 TCP negotiations were conducted by teleconference on April 11th, and most of the subregions were satisfied, although a few large ticket projects had to be deferred. Mr. Wospil pointed out that the overall mission of NJDOT is to advance Fix-it-First and State-of-Good-Repair projects. He said that meeting major funding needs and the desires of the state's MPOs had been largely accomplished in crafting the working draft of the TCP, and he

noted that the NJTPA region was allocated 78 percent of federal funding for the state, a three percent increase over the anticipated share.

Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, distributed copies of an updated addendum to the TCP, and she highlighted the changes made to the draft since the addendum was first issued in April. Mr. Wospil noted that there will be an addition to the Addendum—design and right-of-way funding for the Route 31 Northbound, Minneakoning Road to Milepost 24.92 Project in Hunterdon County.

Bob Bzik, Somerset County, said for the record that Somerset County will not act favorably on the FY 2012 resolution at the May 9th Board meeting because the program reflects a deferral of Contract B of the Route 206 Bypass, Mountain View Road project to FY 2017. He said the County notified the Legislature and hopes for further discussion of the issue. Mr. Wospil acknowledged that the issue has been ongoing for years and pointed out that Contract A is under construction. He said NJDOT can offer to advance the Utilities phase of the Route 206 project in FY 2014, but construction cannot be funded at this time.

Frank Scarantino, Ocean County, said the County recognizes and embraces the state's Fix-it-First policy but cannot support the TCP without at least a placeholder for the locally supported widening of Route 9 (through Toms River and Lakewood Township). He asked that a nominal amount of design funding be reflected in future years of the program. Mr. Wospil said NJDOT regrets that, because of limited financial resources, it cannot honor a previous commitment to fund three large corridor improvement projects in the state, including Route 9. He noted that these projects will still appear in the Study and Development Program as placeholders to show that the Department has an opportunity to consider them still viable.

Rob Garrison, Bergen County, said the County will support the resolution but wants to make it known that it is disappointed that the Northern Branch Rail Service Restoration Project was not reflected in this year's program as a separate line item. He said that newly elected Bergen County Executive, Kathleen Donovan is looking forward to reinvigorating conversations about the project with NJDOT and Hudson County. Mr. Garrison noted that Northern Branch project is one of two that will be key to the Bergen County master plan update.

Chairman Feyl asked for a motion to endorse the resolution, with the amendments noted by staff and the comments of Somerset, Ocean, and Bergen counties as part of the record. The motion was moved by Hudson County, seconded by Jersey City and carried with 10 affirmative votes.

PEDC Action Item 2: Approval of Rounds 12 and 13 of the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and the FY 2011 New Freedom Grant Program

David Schmetterer, Central Staff, reported that the JARC/New Freedom Review Subcommittee reviewed 24 proposals from 12 counties and recommended all of them for funding under the Program. Fourteen of the JARC proposals are for the continuation and expansion of existing programs, and one is new. The JARC program has been providing transportation for low-income workers commuting from urban centers to jobs in the suburbs and other areas for almost 12 years. Nine projects in The New Freedom program will continue. Now in its second year, the New Freedom program addresses transportation and mobility needs of travelers with

disabilities. Mr. Schmetterer said that \$2,664,977 will be allocated to JARC, and \$2,183,381 will be allocated to New Freedom. Both programs require a 50 percent local match for operations and a 20 percent local match for capital purchases or mobility management.

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

PEDC Action Item 3: Approval of Allocation of FY 2011 CMAQ Funding to NJ Transit for Diesel Locomotive Retrofit Initiative

Liz DeRuchie, Central Staff, explained that during 2006-2007 the NJTPA conducted a study to identify projects and initiatives known as TCAM's (Transportation Clean Air Measures), and the Board has approved a variety of TCAM's over the past four years. Ms. DeRuchie said the action proposed the use of \$800,000 from the FY 2011 Local CMAQ Initiatives Program (matched with \$200,000 by NJ Transit) to retrofit the diesel locomotive engines of four passenger trains with UTEX rebuilt diesel engines and automatic start/stop systems, at a cost of \$250,000 per unit. She said the improvements will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, idling and noise, maintenance costs, and fuel consumption. Ms. DeRuchie introduced George Chipko, NJ Transit, who added that the agency's intends to retrofit up to 20 locomotives.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Jersey City, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

V. Information item: FY 2012 UPWP Update

Karen Shannon, Central Staff, reported that staff has responded to and incorporated additional comments received since the previous release of the draft FY 2012 UPWP. She said that discussions with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), NJDOT and NJIT continue concerning the NJIT indirect cost of the budget. Ms. Shannon expressed appreciation for NJDOT's creative collaboration and for input from the Governor's Authorities Unit. She said a meeting with FHWA is scheduled the following week and a positive resolution is hoped for.

Ms. Shannon reported that NJDOT has asked the NJTPA to assume management of the Route 66 Operational and Capacity Improvements project, along with Monmouth County. Also, the hourly part-time line item in the UPWP budget has been reduced to \$345,000. She indicated that support for the subregional internship program would be evaluated and that staff would work to maintain this program.

VI. Other items

PEDC Chairman Freeholder Matthew Holt asked for further comments.

- Executive Director Mary K. Murphy announced that the NJTPA received an official letter from the FHWA confirming the successful completion of its recent MPO certification. She thanked Board members for their active participation in the process. Freeholder Feyl thanked the NJTPA staff for their efforts to bring about the well-deserved outcome.

- Ms. Murphy said recruitment efforts to replace retired Deputy Executive Director Cliff Sobel are underway, and a celebration on his behalf is being planned for June.
- Mr. Bzik asked Ms. Shannon to report on the proceedings of the Office of Planning Advocacy's (OPA) State Strategic Planning Process meeting that was held the previous week. He explained that the initiative is an attempt to identify high growth economic sectors and priority growth areas and align them with the State's capital investments. Ms. Shannon said the meeting was attended by Barry Seymour of the DVRPC; Rich Roberts, NJ Transit; the project consultant; and Susan Weber, NJDOT. She indicated that the discussion revolved around the new state plan and how best to develop or update the plan. Ms. Shannon noted that the OPA was invited to make a presentation at an NJTPA committee or Board meeting.

VII. Adjournment

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

**JOINT COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE
April 18, 2011**

Project Prioritization Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Gene Feyl (Chairman)	Morris County
County Executive Thomas DeGise (Vice Chairman)	Hudson County
Freeholder Matthew Holt	Hunterdon County
Robert S. Garrison	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Anthony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Frank Scarantino	Ocean County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Johanna Barba Jones	Governor's Authorities Unit
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Rich Roberts	NJ Transit

Planning and Economic Development Committee

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Matthew Holt	Hunterdon County
Councilman Michael J. Sottolano	City of Jersey City
Freeholder Jason Sarnoski	Warren County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
David Antonio	Essex County
Michael LaPlace	Passaic County
Bob Bzik	Somerset County
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Rich Roberts	NJ Transit
Lou Venech	Port Authority of NY and NJ

OTHERS	
Tara Shepherd	HART TMA
John F. Ciaffone	TransOptions (TMA)
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Naomi Hsu	City of Jersey City
John Lane	Hudson County
Sue Dziamara	Hunterdon County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Kamal Saleh	Union County

Martin Willard	Union County
Liza Betz	Union County
Jan Marie McDyer	Warren County
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Lou Millan	NJ Transit
George A. Chipko	NJ Transit
Jennifer Ganley	Dewberry
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Amy Magnuson	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
David Schmetterer	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
Liz DeRuchie	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff