

**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  
June 20, 2011**

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I. Roll call

Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) Chairman Gene Feyl, Freeholder, Morris County, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., and the roll was called. Twelve members of the PPC and 10 members of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) were present.

II. Approval of minutes

Lou Venech, Port Authority of NY and NJ (PANYNJ), pointed out that the minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> special PPC meeting were revised to reflect that, concerning funding for the Route 7, Hackensack River Bridge (Wittpenn Bridge) project in Hudson County, the "Port Authority Board of Commissioners took action in March to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with NJDOT for PANYNJ participation in the projects." Hudson County Board Alternate, John Lane concurred with the revision. Michael LaPlace, Passaic County, asked that the minutes reflect that he and Michael Lysicatos, Passaic County, attended the meeting.

A motion to approve the revised minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> PPC meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried with nine affirmative votes. Bergen County and NJ Transit abstained.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18<sup>th</sup> Joint PPC/PEDC minutes was made by Hunterdon County, seconded by Hudson County and carried unanimously.

III. RTAC report

RTAC Chairman Michael Lysicatos reported on the activities of the June 15<sup>th</sup> RTAC meeting. He said that Central Staff updated members about several items, including a presentation on the Performance Results study, the status of the FY 2012 Project Development Work Program and an NJTPA hosted online sign management system. He noted that RTAC recommended creation of a working group to develop a strategy to improve the movement of projects through the design phase of project development. Mr. Lysicatos also suggested implementation of a tracking system for problem statements that are generated by the subregions.

IV. Action items:

**PPC Action Item 1: Approval of the FY 2012 Local Safety/High Risk Rural Roads Programs Projects**

Christine Mittman, Central Staff, reported that 14 applications were received for the Local Safety Program (LSP) and four for the High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP). She said a technical review committee recommended a primary funding list of seven projects totaling \$3,000,023 for the LSP and four projects totaling \$1,236,000 for the HRRRP. She said the committee also recommended a secondary funding list of five LSP projects totaling \$2,058,000, should additional funding become available during the course of FY 2012.

David Dech, Warren County, pointed out that the county route number of the recommended HRRRP project in Warren County should be 632 and not 519.

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

Freeholder Feyl turned the meeting over to PEDC Chair, Freeholder Director Matthew Holt, Hunterdon County.

**PEDC Action Item 2: Approval of the FY 2012 Project Development Work Program**

Rich Stoolman, Central Staff, thanked RTAC members who participated in the draft FY 2012 Project Development Work Program (PDWP) process. He reported that, at a meeting in June, the subregions had an opportunity to provide comments on the draft. Mr. Stoolman noted that one third of the 82 programs in the draft PDWP emerged from the NJTPA regional planning process. He distributed an addendum that reflected changes made to the NJDOT portion of the draft program since it was issued in May and changes made to the NJ Transit portion since June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Donna Orbach, Bergen County, pointed out that textual corrections should be made to some of the descriptions in the NJ Transit work program, and she noted that the draft program was distributed on June 15<sup>th</sup>, which allowed little time for review before the June 20<sup>th</sup> joint meeting.

Freeholder James Lacey, Ocean County, questioned why the Monmouth-Ocean-Middlesex (MOM) transit project is not advancing in the FY 2012 PDWP and suggested that its status be reviewed. Freeholder Lacey and Joseph Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer, emphasized the local need for the service. Lou Millan, NJ Transit, said that a locally preferred alternative (LPA) could not be agreed upon. It was suggested that the three counties discuss how an LPA might be selected.

Tom Drabic, Sussex County, and Michael LaPlace, Passaic County, asked why the Passaic Bergen NYS&W project was not being advanced in the PDWP. Mr. Millan said he would make inquiries at NJ Transit concerning the project.

Mr. Drabic also asked how the overall NJ Transit program will address the cancellation of the ARC trans-Hudson tunnel project. Mr. Millan said NJ Transit is cooperating with the sponsors of

proposed trans-Hudson projects such as New York City's extension of the #7 subway line to Secaucus and Amtrak's Gateway initiative. He said other solutions for increasing capacity on the existing trans-Hudson train fleet are being explored, including using multi-level cars and longer trains, as well as increasing capacity at the Port Authority Bus Terminal. Freeholder Peter Palmer, Somerset County, suggested that a general discussion of all commuter rail lines in the region that are affected by the ARC cancellation should take place.

NJTPA Executive Director Mary K. Murphy suggested tabling the action item, at the will of the committee, pending revision of language in the project descriptions and further review and discussions with NJ Transit. She said the committee could reconsider the action during the next round of committee meetings proposed for August.

A motion to table approval of the FY 2012 PDWP until the August meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

Freeholder Holt reiterated Freeholder Palmer's suggestion for a review of the region's transit projects that are affected by the ARC cancellation.

#### V. Information items

##### 1. FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update

Ann Ludwig reported that staff received the draft FY 2012 TIP from NJDOT and NJ Transit and wanted to alert the Committee that there were changes since the Board endorsed the FY 2012 Transportation Capital Program. She said the Air Quality Conformity coding was completed and the model was expected to be run that week. Ms. Ludwig said printing of the TIP document is anticipated early in July, and public comment meetings will be held July 19 through August 18. PPC endorsement and Board approval are slated for late August.

##### 2. Plan 2035 amendment update

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, reported that staff is currently drafting the RTP amendment that will account for the cancellation of the ARC project, including updating the plan tables, explanatory text, and project index. She said the amendment will also add the locally preferred alternative for the Hudson Light Rail extension across Route 440. The amendment will be submitted for public comment and Board approval concurrently with the FY 2012 TIP and accompanying air quality conformity.

In response to a question from Mr. Ververides concerning including trans-Hudson capacity alternatives in the Plan, Ms. Goldman explained that federal regulations require an amendment of the plan when a major project is cancelled, and alternative solutions for trans-Hudson capacity will be addressed in greater detail in the next plan update.

##### 3. TIP Modifications

Martin Hofler, Central Staff, announced that there may be a need for a special PPC meeting to consider modifications to the TIP requested by NJ Transit and NJDOT. Ms. Murphy offered to schedule a teleconference for the Committee's convenience. Mr. Wospil explained that NJDOT and NJ Transit are "rebalancing the books" to allocate residual 2011 federal funding, which must be used by September 2011.

## VI. Presentation: State Strategic Planning Process

Dan Kennedy, Deputy Director, Office for Planning Advocacy, New Jersey Business Center, Department of State, provided an overview of the action plan for updating the State Strategic Plan. He said tools intended to bring statewide vision to local implementation are being developed to position the state and its administration to be a better partner in a planning process that maintains statewide perspective while respecting regional diversity. Mr. Kennedy said the work plan includes identifying growth sectors of statewide importance and adjusting the way land is regulated to accommodate them.

Mr. Kennedy said that the identification of growth sectors has generated a list of issues and enables critical examination of the current state planning framework. He said the Office of Planning Advocacy will provide the Governor with a well-developed concept that will set the stage for broader public discussion of what the Strategic Plan will be in the future.

During a wide ranging discussion, Mr. Ververides pointed out that the counties are often assigned responsibilities that exceed their resources. He also noted a need for horizontal coordination among the state's agencies.

In answer to a question from David Dech, Warren County, Mr. Kennedy said the Strategic Plan is expected to be released to the public by late summer. He said some actions recommended in the Plan may be implemented with executive branch leadership; some may require further public discussion; and some may require dialog with the legislature.

Freeholder Feyl asked if the plan will include plans for facilities, open spaces, parks, and transportation that can be linked to the county level.

Mr. Kennedy said there will be further dialog on the implementation of the plan's action items. He said he looks forward to continuing dialog with the MPOs and the New Jersey County Planners Association. Ms. Murphy noted that New Jersey's planning organizations, including the MPOs, want to work synergistically within the state planning process. Mr. Kennedy said that state engagement with MPOs has been lacking in past and he looks forward to rebuilding the relationship and opening the dialog.

## VII. Other

Ms. Murphy announced that the July Board meeting will be rescheduled. The August meeting schedule is revised as follows: RTAC meeting, August 17<sup>th</sup>; PPC and PEDC joint meeting, August 22<sup>nd</sup>; and Board meeting, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## VIII Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

**JOINT COMMITTEE  
ATTENDANCE  
June 20, 2011**

**Project Prioritization Committee**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Gene Feyl (Chairman)	Morris County
Freeholder Director Matthew Holt	Hunterdon County
Freeholder Director James Lacey	Ocean County
Freeholder Angel Estrada	Union County
Donna Orbach	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
John Lane	Hudson County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ Transit

**Planning and Economic Development Committee**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Director Matthew Holt (Chairman)	Hunterdon County
Freeholder Peter Palmer	Somerset County
Freeholder Angel Estrada	Union County
David Antonio	Essex County
Mike Gelin	Newark
Michael LaPlace	Passaic County
David Dech	Warren County
Thomas A. Wospil	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ Transit
Lou Venech	Port Authority of NY and NJ

OTHERS	
Dan Kennedy	NJ Business Action Center
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Frank Scarantino	Ocean County
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Deena Cybulski	Morris County
Andrew Kay	Morris County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
John F. Ciaffone	TransOptions (TMA)
Liza Betz	Union County

Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Rich Stoolman	Central Staff
Christine Mittman	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff