



Daniel P. Sullivan, Chairman
Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Lysicatos, Chairman
Brian Appezzato, Vice Chairman

Minutes

August 17, 2011

I. Roll call

Chairman Michael Lysicatos, Passaic County, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., and the roll was called. There were 12 voting members present. One more arrived after approval of the minutes.

II. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 15th meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Passaic County and carried with 11 affirmative votes. Morris County abstained.

III. Review of standing committee agendas

The agendas for the August 22nd standing committee meetings were distributed. Scheduled for that date are a joint meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC) and the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC) and a Freight Initiatives Committee meeting.

Members of Central Staff provided brief summaries of each agenda item. Concerning PEDC approval of the FY 2012 PDWP, Ann Ludwig said an addendum of changes to the PDWP based on comments from the subregions would be issued shortly. Sue Dziamara, Hunterdon County suggested that the project description for the Route 31 Interchange referring to the I-78 project be revisited and updated. Concerning PPC approval of the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Martin Hofler, Central Staff, noted that the four year, \$10 billion program contains \$2.7 billion for FY 2012, pending congressional legislation that may reduce the region's share federal funding by about one third.

IV. Action Items

1. Approval of FY 2012 Subregional Training Program

Beth, Johnson, Central Staff reported that a set of training courses for both central and subregional staff was assembled based on input from the Committee during the June meeting. She summarized the detailed course information from a handout that was distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. Ms. Johnson said that Central Staff is requesting RTAC authorization to use the FY 2012 Subregional training budget toward the cost of three courses totaling \$40,000-\$55,000 (depending on actual cost and attendance) to be charged to the Subregional Training Line of the FY 2012 UPWP. The courses are:

- NHI – Introduction to Federal-Aid Right of Way requirements for Local Public Agencies
- ESRI-GIS Training
- Rutgers – MUTCD Sign Retro-reflectivity Inspection

In answer to a question from Mr. Lysicatos, Mary Ameen, Central Staff, said that the NJTPA purchased a package of APA audio/web courses, of 12-13 credits, to help planners complete their yearly requirements. She said she would report back to the committee with more information about credit bearing law and ethics courses.

A motion to approve the use of funds from the FY 2012 subregional training budget for the three aforementioned courses was made by Warren County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

Mr. Lysicatos noted that the Subregional Training Program is highly valued by the subregions. Ms. Johnson said a list of additional courses will be provided for RTAC review by the next meeting.

2. Approval of TMA/RTAC Structure

Mr. Lysicatos said the TMAs provide input and flexibility “on the ground” in performing research and implementing various services in the subregions. Administration of the TMAs recently shifted from USDOT to NJTPA Central Staff. Mr. Lysicatos opened the discussion of how the TMAs might be incorporated into the RTAC process. He noted that the topic had been discussed at previous meetings, and he asked for feedback from committee members.

George Ververides, Middlesex County, said that his subregional staff already work closely with the TMAs and would benefit from TMA participation because of their expertise with addressing congestion and gridlock challenges. He recommended that the TMAs become voting members of the committee.

Referring to a section of the RTAC bylaws, Mr. Lysicatos said the bylaws would have to be amended to expand voting membership on the committee, and a majority vote is required to add non-voting members. He said that, historically, voting member agencies receive direct funding for project development etc.

Sue Dziamara, Hunterdon County, said the County works closely with the HART TMA and supports inclusion of the TMAS (whether as voting, non-voting or ex officio members) as long as they have standing with the committee and the ability to participate in its discussions. Mr. Lysicatos agreed with Ms. Dziamara's statement.

Liza Betz, Union County, said the work done by the TMAs is integral to subregional staff activities, and TMA voting membership would be a reasonable level of participation.

Mark Jehnke, Ocean County, recommended non-voting membership for TMAs based on the structure of the NJTPA membership. He said the subregions are directly funded through the agency and RTAC members serve as extensions of their respective Board members. Walt Lane, Somerset County, and Joseph Ettore, Monmouth County, agreed with Mr. Jehnke's opinion.

Mr. Lysicatos summed up, saying that in general there was no issue with TMAs being part of the committee, but whether or not they would be a voting or non-voting member should be determined before the next RTAC meeting, so that an action item can be formulated. He asked for TMA input.

Tara Shepherd, HART TMA and Vice-President of the TMA Council, said the TMAs' interest is in being able to participate and provide input and feedback. She said that a TMA representative will be present at all RTAC meetings.

Mr. Lysicatos said RTAC members will communicate further on the nature of TMA participation in the RTAC before the next meeting, when it is anticipated that the membership will take action on the TMAs' role on the RTAC.

V. Information items

1. Update on TMA activities

Zenobia Fields, briefed the committee on NJTPA/TMA activity thus far. She said that, at the TMAs' request, the NJTPA planning analysis process will be discussed at the next working group meeting on August 23rd. She reported that they had been trained on use of the online cost tracking system for financial and administrative documentation. Ms. Fields said the solicitation for the FY 2013 TMA work program will be issued September 16th, and responses are due October 12th. She said the TMAs requested a place on the October 12th RTAC meeting agenda to introduce themselves.

2. 2040 regional and county population forecasts

Bob Diogo, Central Staff, updated the committee on the progress of the data collection process for the county level population forecasts. He said he will contact those subregions who had not yet submitted their population forecasts. Mr. Diogo said a consultant will be hired to help with the data collection.

During a brief ensuing general discussion, the importance of coordinating the subregions' population data with that used by the State was noted. Mr. Diogo said he will contact the state about it.

VI. Other items

- Karen Shannon and Ann Ludwig, Central Staff, said the PPC will be asked to consider a package of NJDOT/NJ Transit TIP modifications as part of the year-end process of reallocating funding from projects unable to be authorized in the current federal fiscal year to projects that can use the funding by the September 30th fiscal year end. It was noted that a special PPC teleconference might be scheduled for the action.
- David Behrend, Central Staff, said the transportation bill due to expire September 30th is likely to be extended in the absence of a new bill. He said the House is proposing a six year bill that includes new funding rules that would limit the funding source to the Highway Trust Fund, thereby reducing transportation funding by 30 percent. Mr. Behrend said the Senate is considering a two-year bill. He said allowing the federal gas tax to expire on September 30th is also being discussed.
- Mr. Behrend announced that a new round of the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Plan is underway. He said that, while the region did not receive a grant last year, it scored high enough to be designated with "preferred sustainability status." He said the new application will be similar to last year's and include revisions based on HUD feedback. Rutgers University will serve again as grant applicant and administrator. The pre-application is due August 25th and the final is due September 26th.
- Keith Miller, Central Staff, introduced Swena Gulati, who will work on data analysis and forecasting in the NJTPA modeling and data group. Mark Solof, Central Staff, introduced intern Keith Hamas, who will work on the Subregional Studies Program summary publication. Ms. Johnson announced that Meredith Gibson has returned to the NJTPA to work with subregional support administration.
- Ms. Johnson said a solicitation for subregions' requests for the FY 2012 Subregional Support Program (SSP) will be emailed shortly. She said each subregion is allotted \$15,000 for Technical Library items, internships, and training. An additional service, language translation has been added to the program. Ms. Johnson requested submission of SSP requests by September 30th. She said a second round would ensue if any funds remain from the first solicitation.

VII. Next meeting; October 12, 2011.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and was followed by Subregional Studies Program brown bag session.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
Attendance
August 17, 2011

Voting Members	
Michael Lysicatos (Chair)	Passaic County
Brian Appezzato (Vice Chair)	Warren County
Ken Aloisio	Bergen County
John Lane	Hudson County
Sue Dziamara	Hunterdon County
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
George M. Ververides	Middlesex County
Joseph Ettore	Monmouth County
Erik Deline	Morris County
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Steve Brown	Port Authority of NY and NJ
Others	
Susan Pigula	NJDOT
William Ragozine	Cross County Connection
Tara Shepherd	HART TMA
Roberta Karpinecz	Keep Middlesex Moving
Krishna Murthy	Meadowlink
Anthony Capece	Bergen County
Megan Massey	Hudson County
Anthony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County
Anthony Gamallo	Monmouth County
Nora Shepard	Monmouth County
Andy Kaplan	Rutgers TSRC
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff

Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Beth Johnson	Central Staff
Keith Miller	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff
Ann Ludwig	Central Staff
Zenobia Fields	Central Staff
Amy Magnuson	Central Staff
Swena Gulati	Central Staff
Keith Hamas	Central Staff
Bob Diogo	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff