



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

**North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority**

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Michael Lysicatos, Chairman  
Brian Appezzato, Vice Chairman

**Minutes**

**December 7, 2011**

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I. Roll call

The roll was called and 14 members of the Committee were present. Two more arrived after approval of the minutes.

II. Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting was made by Somerset County, seconded by Warren County, and carried with 12 affirmative votes, Jersey City and Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) abstained.

III. Review of RTAC schedule – Michael Lysicatos, Chairman

It was agreed that the 2012 meeting calendar would be revised to reflect that the regularly scheduled RTAC meetings will be held on Mondays rather than Wednesdays, starting with the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was agreed that the schedule change will allow RTAC members more time before the standing committee meetings to inform Trustees about upcoming actions and other items reported on by Central Staff at the RTAC meetings.

IV. Review of standing committee agendas

Karen Shannon, Central Staff, announced that a fourth action item will be added to the agenda of the December 12<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Project Prioritization Committee. She explained that \$1 million is available for a pedestrian safety education program in connection with recommendations from the FY 2011 NJTPA

Pedestrian Safety at and Near Bus Stops Study. She said the NJTPA will work with NJDOT and NJ Transit on this marketing effort. It was noted that the funding (\$500,000 per year for two years) is specifically designated for outreach and education.

#### V. Information items

##### 1. Draft FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ms. Shannon provided an overview of the organization of the UPWP. A summary of the various UPWP volumes was distributed, along with the FY 2013 Volume I Table of Contents and the FY 2013 UPWP Budget. She also highlighted elements of Volume I (Central Staff Activities). Ms. Shannon said Volumes II (STP work program) and IV (TMA program) will be emailed to the Trustees and RTAC shortly for their review. Each of the eight NJTPA division directors spoke briefly about ongoing and proposed tasks in the FY 2013 program.

Ms. Shannon noted that many elements from the Strategic Business Plan are being implemented through the UPWP.

Ms. Shannon pointed out three factors that may affect the UPWP: federal authorization (currently outlined in the draft Senate bill Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, or MAP-21; the update of the region's long-range transportation plan; and planning work funded by the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.

Beth Johnson, Central Staff, briefed the Committee on the UPWP budget. She said a meeting for Board and RTAC review of the work program is set for January 9<sup>th</sup>, and comments are due by January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Draft FY 2013 UPWP will be submitted for Planning and Economic Development Committee endorsement in February and Board approval in March. It will become effective July 1, 2012.

##### 2. FY 2012 FHWA Discretionary Grant Programs

David Behrend, Central Staff, highlighted five FHWA grant programs for FY 2012. A summary had been emailed to RTAC Members in November. Programs open to local governments include: Ferry boat; public lands highways; transportation, community and system preservation; truck parking facilities; and the value pricing pilot program.

Mr. Behrend noted that applications for funding are to be directed to NJDOT. He said more details on the application process are available on the Federal Highway Administration website. Mr. Behrend noted that the NJTPA needs to be informed of all grant applications in order to provide letters of support when appropriate and to initiate TIP amendments as necessary for awarded projects. He asked RTAC members to notify the NJTPA of any municipalities applying for the grant programs, in case the agency can be of assistance. Applications are due January 8, 2012.

Concerning the Truck Parking Facilities Program. Erik DeLine, Morris County, asked if there has been any discussion about advancing recommendations from the NJTPA Truck Rest Stop Study. Ted Matthews, NJTPA Director, Freight Division, said the study yielded two recommendations for development: NJ Turnpike's Vince Lombardi and Molly Pitcher service areas. He said both projects are a long way from being "shovel ready." He noted that there was a recent sharing of information with the City of Newark and an indication that Brick City Development Corporation was exploring the possibility of a truck rest stop facility in the City, but nothing is moving forward at this time.

Tom Drabic, Sussex County, asked if the Public Lands Highways grant, includes roadways and bridges operated by the National Park Service. Mr. Behrend said he would find out.

### 3. Calendar Year NJTPA 2012 local funding opportunities

A summary of NJTPA Calendar Year 2012 Local Funding Opportunities eligibility and solicitation requirements was distributed at the meeting. Ms. Shannon pointed out that some programs are available to the region's municipalities through the NJTPA, and the municipalities must have the support of their respective subregional representatives before they can apply. She stressed the importance of county/municipality coordination. The programs include: Local Safety Program, High Risk Rural Roads program, Local Capital Project Delivery Program, Walkable Community Workshops, and Local Planning Assistance Program.

### 4. Use of operations data (archived real time traffic data) to support planning

Swena Gulati and Solomon Caviness, NJTPA Central Staff, briefed the committee members on uses for real-time traffic data. They explained that, as a member of the I-95 Coalition, the NJTPA has access to this data for planning support. Currently, NJDOT is using archived real time traffic data to inform the 511 system and signal optimization. Ms. Gulati said the NJTPA will explore ways the data can be used for various efforts such as congestion management, investment prioritization, strategy evaluation, performance based planning, and corridor studies. Mr. Caviness said the NJTPA has received approval from TRANSCOM to use the data to evaluate the region's system performance before, during and after Hurricane Irene.

### 5. 2040 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, briefed the committee on the progress of the study, which will develop a clear, accurate and comprehensive picture of current and future freight activity in the region. He said the consultant team is led by Cambridge Systematics and includes ASW, Parsons Brinkerhoff and Rutgers University Center for Urban Policy Research. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members include representatives from Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Union, and Warren Counties; NJDOT; PANYNJ, New Jersey Turnpike; and NJTPA Systems Planning, Regional Planning and Freight division staff.

Mr. Rowinski said a set of regional freight profiles is in development, one for each of the region's counties, the two cities and one for the entire region. He distributed the draft profile produced for Middlesex County for review and feedback.

Mr. Rowinski said he will contact the subregions concerning a schedule of webcast demonstrations of the Excel-based Freight Forecasting Tool. Mr. DeLine commented that the interactive tool is comprehensive and easy to use.

#### 6. HUD grant update

Scott Rowe, Central Staff, reported that the next Regional Transportation Plan will be developed along the same schedule as the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD), which is being funded through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He noted that the RPSD will incorporate much of the RTP, taking advantage of the collaborative resources of the large North Jersey Sustainable Communities Consortium. Mr. Rowe said a consortium agreement is in development.

Mr. Lysicatos expressed concern that the counties and municipalities have been underrepresented during the process of forming the consortium, and the level of local government participation in the overall RPSD planning process is unclear. Mr. Rowe said that post-award discussions continue, and the planning process has not begun. He pointed out that HUD guidelines preclude overrepresentation by government, and Mr. Behrend stressed that the consortium will be the group that guides the process.

NJTPA Executive Director, Mary K. Murphy, said the consortium is well positioned to advance the plan it develops and that it includes the NJ Office of Planning Advocacy, Rutgers University and the Office of the Governor, as well as the region's counties and major cities, if they agree to participate. She pointed out that, although the focus of the RPSD is not construction projects *per se*, construction projects can result from the planning process. She said more information will be known after further meetings with HUD.

Mr. Rowe said Rutgers, through the Bloustein School, will serve as the administrative/fiscal agent for the grant, and \$250,000 from the HUD grant is allocated to the NJTPA for scenario planning. The \$5 million grant award will be matched with \$3.2 million in matching funds through NJ Transit, Rutgers, NJDEP, NJ Office for Planning Advocacy, and NJ Future. The NJTPA will leverage staff resources and is budgeting funds to match the funds to be provided to the subregions. How the funds will be allocated has not yet been determined.

#### 7. Subregional training update

Ms. Johnson reported that the recent MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) and Right-of-Way courses were well attended by the subregions and others. She said asked for volunteers to work with her on the development of a short list of courses for the remaining portion of the Subregional Training Program budget. It was agreed that Ms. Johnson will email a list of available courses (with a solicitation for the volunteer) for the purpose of presenting a short list for the Committee's consideration at the February meeting.

## VI. Other items

- Lois Goldman, Central Staff, announced a TMA (Transportation Management Association) Work Group meeting, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
- The December Viz Tools TAC meeting is rescheduled to January 12, 2012.
- Dave Dawson, Central Staff, requested that members complete the freight-movement-related survey that had been distributed to them by email, twice.
- Mr. Behrend alerted the members that, as part of the NJTPA Communications Action Plan project, their respective Board Trustees will be contacted by the project consultant, Winning Strategies.
- Mark Solof, Central Staff, announced the availability of brochures about Operation Life Saver, which is concerned with pedestrian safety around railroad tracks.
- Erik DeLine, Morris County, thanked the NJTPA for submitting the Morris County Freight Infrastructure and Land Use Analysis Study for the Transportation Planning Excellence Award, in the Freight category.
- On behalf of Frank Reilly, Brian Appezzato solicited topics for the 2012 TransAction conference.

## VII. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2012

(Lincoln's birthday, will be observed Monday, February 13 by many subregions.)

## VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and was followed by a brown bag session on Community Analyst, the GIS data and subscription software.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee  
Attendance  
December 7, 2011

Voting Members	
Michael Lysicatos (Chairman)	Passaic County
Brian Appezzato (Vice Chairman)	Warren County
Ken Aloisio	Bergen County
John Lane	Hudson County
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Ryan Rapp	Middlesex County
Inkyung Englehart	Monmouth County
Erik DeLine	Morris County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Eric Powers	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ Transit
Lou Venech	Port Authority of NY and NJ
Others	
Gary Davies	AECOM
Stephen Elliot	ESRI
John Mullen	McCormick Taylor
Anthony Gamallo	Monmouth County
Mary K. Murphy	NJTPA Central Staff
Karen Shannon	NJTPA Central Staff
Mary Ameen	NJTPA Central Staff
David Colón	NJTPA Central Staff
Brian Fineman	NJTPA Central Staff
Lois Goldman	NJTPA Central Staff
Martin Hofler	NJTPA Central Staff
Beth Johnson	NJTPA Central Staff
Ted Matthews	NJTPA Central Staff
Mark Solof	NJTPA Central Staff
David Behrend	NJTPA Central Staff
Zenobia Fields	NJTPA Central Staff
Scott Rowe	NJTPA Central Staff
Solomon Caviness	NJTPA Central Staff
Dave Dawson	NJTPA Central Staff
Swena Gulati	NJTPA Central Staff

Keith Hamas	NJTPA Central Staff
Beverly Morris	NJTPA Central Staff
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA Central Staff
Rich Stoolman	NJTPA Central Staff