

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW
CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
JANUARY 31ST, 2012 MEETING

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

There were over 65 participants, including representatives from 12 municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (for-profit and non-profit). Forum Co-Chairs Pam Mount and Marvin Reed opened the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS & APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20TH MEETING SUMMARY

There were several action items. Each was unanimously endorsed. These included a resolution to amend the Forum Voting Bylaws document; a proposal to create a Transit Action Team; and authorization for the Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy Action Team to begin delivering the smart growth road show presentation to municipalities and counties on behalf of the Forum.

BRIEF UPDATE ON ROUTE 1 PROJECTS & PLANNED PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Mark Rollo, Program Manager for the NJDOT Division of Project Management, provided updates about a number of projects in the US 1 corridor. The updates followed the set of projects listed in the Timing and Status of US 1 Projects map included in the draft *Planned Projects Status Report* distributed in the meeting folders. Jesse Buerk, Transportation Planner at DVRPC, provided further information about the *Planned Projects Status Report*.

NJ TRANSIT UPDATE ON PROPOSED NEW ROUTE 655

Tom Marchwinski, Director of Systems Planning at NJ Transit, provided a brief update about the progress of the new Route 655 bus. Final funding discussions are ongoing, but if all of the pieces fall into place, service should begin operating in May 2012.

BRIEF UPDATE ON NJ STRATEGIC PLAN

Barry Ableman, Principal Planner for the NJ Department of State, Office of Planning Advocacy, said the draft NJ Strategic Plan has been presented to the public. Six public meetings have been scheduled, which will consist of a short presentation about the draft Plan and time for public comments and a question-and-answer session. He encouraged Forum members to attend the meetings and/or send written comments.

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT ROUTE 1 – SUMMARY OF NJTPA/DVRPC STUDY

Jeff Perlman, Principal Planner at NJTPA, and Chris Linn, Manager of the Office of Environmental Planning at DVRPC, summarized the climate change impacts study. It was a partnership between the three NJ MPOs (NJTPA, DVRPC, SJTPO), as well as NJDOT, DEP, and NJ Transit. The study analyzed critical transportation links at risk for flooding given the expectation of expanded floodplains in a range of future climate scenarios.

LEARNING FROM HURRICANE IRENE: HOW TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION IN SEVERE WEATHER AND MAJOR EVENTS

Jim Hadden, Director of 511 and Special Projects for NJ Statewide Traffic Operations, and Susan Winter, Principal Planner, Emergency Management, at NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, spoke about Hurricane Irene and lessons learned. The group discussed how to better communicate emergency information to the public during a major event.

**MEETING SUMMARY
CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
JANUARY 31ST, 2012**

ATTENDEES: OVER 65 PARTICIPANTS – PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU ATTENDED BUT ARE NOT ON THE LIST.

Mayors			
Yina	Moore	Mayor	Princeton Borough
Liz	Lempert	Deputy Mayor	Princeton Township

Other Municipal Staff			
Andrew	Feranda	Traffic Consultant (Shropshire Associates)	Cranbury Township
Theodore	Chase	Councilman	Franklin Township Council & Planning Board
Tom	Belanger	Engineer	Hillsborough Township
Gene	Strupinsky	Business Advocate	Hillsborough Township
Richard	Krawczun	Township Manager	Lawrence Township
Pam	Mount	Councilwoman; Forum Co-Chair	Lawrence Township
Amy	Rutherford	Transportation Coordinator	Monroe Township
Gail	Smith	Engineer	Montgomery Township
Tom	Vigna	Township Planner; Co-Chair, RT1RGS Action Team	North Brunswick Township
Les	Varga	Director	Plainsboro Township Planning and Zoning
Anton	Lahnston	Chair	Princeton Borough Traffic and Transportation Committee
Ralph	Widner	Board Member	Princeton Borough Traffic and Transportation Committee
Marvin	Reed	Chairman - Master Plan Committee; Forum Co-Chair	Princeton Regional Planning Board
Bryan	Bidlack	Planner	South Brunswick Township
Pat	Ward	Director of Community Development	West Windsor Township - Community Development Dept.

Counties			
Matthew	Lawson	Transportation Planner	Mercer County Planning Department
Tony	Gambilonghi	Supervising Planner for Transportation	Middlesex County Department of Planning
George	Ververides	Director	Middlesex County Department of Planning
Bob	Bzik	Director of Planning	Somerset County Planning Board
Walt	Lane	Principal Planner	Somerset County Planning Board

Freeholder Peter Palmer represented Somerset County and the NJTPA Board.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations			
Jesse	Buerk	Transportation Planner	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Chris	King	Senior Transportation Planner	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Chris	Linn	Manager, Office of Environmental Planning	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Zoe	Neaderland	Manager, Transp. Safety & Congestion Mgmt.	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Barry	Seymour	Executive Director	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Don	Shanis	Deputy Executive Director	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Solomon	Caviness	Special Project Manager	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Lois	Goldman	Director of Regional Planning	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Mary K.	Murphy	Executive Director	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Jeff	Perlman	Principal Planner	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Peter	Palmer	Freeholder, Board Member	Somerset County, NJTPA Board

Other Regional Bodies			
Glenn	Reibman	Director of Policy and Planning	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Cheryl	Kastrenakes	Executive Director	Greater Mercer TMA
Morteza	Ansari	Senior Transportation Coordinator	Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
Bill	Neary	Executive Director	Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
Basil	Giletto	Chair of Transportation Committee	Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce
Alisa	Goren	Planner	PlanSmart NJ
Joan	McGee	Watershed Policy Specialist	Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed Association

State Departments			
Robert	Tessier	Director of Land Use Policy	NJ Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth
Barry	Ableman	Principal Planner	NJ Department of State, Office of Planning Advocacy
Danielle	Graves	Project Engineer	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Statewide Strategies
Jim	Lewis	Manager	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Statewide Strategies
Ira	Levinton	Project Engineer, Planning	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Systems Development & Analysis
Mark	Rollo	Program Manager	NJ Department of Transportation, Division of Project Management
Susan	Winter	Principal Planner, Emergency Management	NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Planning & Project Management Bureau
Jim	Hadden	511 and Special Projects	NJ Statewide Traffic Operations
Tom	Clark	Regional Manager, Gov. & Community Relations	NJ Transit
John	Del Colle	Regional Manager, Gov. & Community Relations	NJ Transit
Tom	Marchwinski	Director of Systems Planning	NJ Transit
Mike	Viscardi	Senior Facilities Manager	NJ Transit

Other			
James	Hess	Consultant	AECOM Transportation
Raymond	Tomczak	Planner	APA - NJ
Jerome	Lutin		Bucks County Resident
Chip	Crider		Citizen
Ileana	Ivanciu	Vice President, Environmental Services	Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.
Daniel	O'Connell	NJ Legislative Director	NJ State Legislative Board/United Transportation Union
Curt	Emmich	Associate	Princeton Forrestal Center, Picus Associates
Sheldon	Sturges	Managing Director	Princeton Future
Pam	Hersh	Vice President for Government Relations	Princeton Healthcare System
Kristin	Appelget	Director	Princeton University, Community & Regional Affairs
Karen	Jezierny	Director	Princeton University, Public Affairs
Andrew	Black	Legislative Assistant	Staff to Representative Rush Holt
Jack	Kanarek	Planning Manager - Philadelphia	Systra Consulting

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

There were over 65 participants, including representatives from 12 municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (for-profit and non-profit). Forum Co-Chairs Pam Mount and Marvin Reed opened the meeting.

2. ACTION ITEMS & APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20TH MEETING SUMMARY

Several action items were addressed to begin the meeting:

- There were no comments on the September 20th meeting summary and it was adopted unanimously.
- A handout was distributed in the meeting folders highlighting proposed amendments to the Forum Voting Bylaws, which were discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Reed clarified that the most significant amendment would require a quorum of two-thirds of voting members in order to vote on major issues, such as taking a policy stance. The quorum requirement reinforces that the representative or alternate for each voting member is expected to attend meetings and adds greater weight to adopted votes by ensuring a high level of participation. Barry Seymour, Executive Director of DVRPC, pointed out that 14 of 15 voting members were in attendance for the current meeting. He said that staff had already received 10 of the 15 letters of representation required to renew previous voting members for the coming year. Zoe Neaderland, Manager of the Office of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management at DVRPC, reminded everyone that the other eligible municipalities in the Forum area can become voting members at any time by submitting a letter designating a representative and alternate. A model representation letter is available. A vote was held and the resolution passed unanimously.
- The next action item concerned supporting the proposed Transit Action Team. Ms. Mount briefly described the work session held on November 1st, 2011, which resulted in a recommendation to form an action team to support transit and a Complete Streets approach in the broad Route 1 corridor. Rich Krawczun, Township Manager of Lawrence Township, asked if the existing Rt1RGS Action Team could address these issues, rather than creating a new action team. Mr. Reed said the proposed action team would focus more on advancing various transit elements and that its efforts would be coordinated to complement those of the Rt1RGS Action Team. Gene Strupinsky, Business Advocate for Hillsborough Township, asked if anyone would be able to join the proposed Transit Action Team. Mr. Reed said yes, they would. Bob Bzik, Director of Planning for the Somerset County Planning Division, requested a slight change in the language describing the proposed action team to mention coordinating with counties and TMAs. A vote was held and the resolution passed unanimously.
- Ms. Mount introduced the fourth action item, concerning the revised Rt1RGS Action Team road show potential actions. Tom Vigna, Township Planner for North Brunswick Township and Co-Chair of the Rt1RGS Action Team, said that the concerns expressed at the last Forum meeting about the wording in the potential actions document were addressed in a smaller meeting. The language in the document was edited to satisfy those concerns. Mr. Vigna also said that pictures specific to each town that signs up for the Road Show presentation would be included in the final PowerPoint. Mayor Womack of North Brunswick Township has volunteered to be the first to receive the Road Show presentation. Mr. Vigna said the Rt1RGS Action Team would work through the proper channels starting with Forum members to schedule presentations in additional municipalities. Mr. Seymour clarified that endorsing the Road Show and next steps document does not mean endorsing the model resolution document drafted by NJDOT. A vote was held and the resolution passed unanimously. Ms. Mount thanked everyone and encouraged

them to sign up for the Road Show presentation. A sign-up sheet was passed around the room.

3. BRIEF UPDATE ON ROUTE 1 PROJECTS & PLANNED PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Mark Rollo, Program Manager for the NJDOT Division of Project Management, provided updates about a number of projects in the US 1 corridor. He distributed a spreadsheet with information about phases and scheduled award dates. The updates followed the set of projects listed in the Timing and Status of US 1 Projects map included in the draft *Planned Projects Status Report* distributed in the meeting folders.

The US 1 turning lanes restriction project at Harrison Street generated the following discussion:

- Mr. Rollo prefaced the discussion by emphasizing that the project is a test and that if it is unsuccessful, conditions can be returned to how they were before the test.
- Pat Ward, Director of Community Development for West Windsor Township, asked about the Harrison Street overpass project. Mr. Rollo said it was part of the (unfunded) Penns Neck project.
- Liz Lempert, Deputy Mayor of Princeton Township, expressed concern about the turn restrictions project. She encouraged NJDOT to postpone the trial until after the new hospital opens, because baseline data collected before then will be irrelevant, since the hospital will create significant traffic impacts. She expressed concern about the number of people who might be negatively affected by the trial. Yina Moore, Mayor of Princeton Borough, echoed Ms. Lempert's comments, saying the improvement plan was proposed mainly to aid the movement of hospital vehicles, so it can't really be tested until after the hospital opens. Mr. Ververides suggested that NJDOT should also take into consideration future development that may be attracted to locations near the hospital when making a final decision. Mr. Rollo said the trial had already been postponed and NJDOT was hoping to begin the trial before summer. He said there is never a perfect time, but that NJDOT is reluctant to wait too long. He reiterated that if the trial is deemed a failure, it will be shut down. He said NJDOT is hoping it will be an obvious success and acknowledged that what will be most challenging is if the results of the trial are inconclusive.
- Mayor Moore asked Mr. Rollo about plans for diverting large trucks in order to avoid having them use local streets during the trial. Mr. Rollo said signage is in place to direct truck traffic to the proper routes and explained the routes. He suggested that if a truck driver decided to ignore the signs and try Alexander Road, the truck driver would only do that once.
- Chip Crider, Citizen, asked if the signal timing would be adjusted at the affected intersections during the trial since less time would be needed with fewer turning vehicles. Mr. Rollo said NJDOT staff had some concerns about skewing the results of the trial, but that in all likelihood, adjustments would end up being made to the signal timings during the trial.
- Ted Chase, Councilman for Franklin Township, asked what was planned for Fisher Place, as residents are concerned traffic will cut through there. Mr. Rollo said they have heard those concerns. The plan for now is to keep the road open, but NJDOT will continue to work with the municipality.

- Sheldon Sturges, Managing Director of Princeton Future, said merchants in Princeton are worried about gridlock on the local streets as a result of the trial. He asked how NJDOT planned to measure the time lost by locals trying to get home.
- Matt Lawson, Transportation Planner for the Mercer County Planning Department, noted something similar was done at the intersection of Franklin Corner Road and US 1, and that it worked well there.
- Peter Palmer, Somerset County Freeholder and NJTPA Board Member, asked how a traffic problem rises to the status of warranting a trial like the one being discussed. Mr. Rollo said it is often high need combined with lack of funds for an expensive solution that lead to a test of lower-cost solutions. Jim Lewis, Manager of the NJDOT Bureau of Statewide Strategies, added a test is always an option as part of the design process. He gave an example of having tested a roundabout by marking it out before building it.
- Mr. Reed noted that the Princeton master plan had assumed the Penns Neck project would be built. Since Mr. Rollo had reinforced that there is not funding for that project, the Princetons may need to re-examine the plan and cut back on reasonable levels of development given the existing transportation network.
- Ms. Ward requested that a contact be provided at NJDOT for issues during the test. Mr. Rollo said he would provide it to the Forum. [It turned out it was on the handout that had been provided. The contact is Ms. Kimberly Nance in the Office of Community Relations at NJDOT. Her contact information is Kimberly.Nance@dot.state.nj.us or (609) 530-2110.]
- Mr. Reed wrapped up the discussion by asking Mr. Rollo how the final decision about whether or not to continue the turn restrictions will be communicated. He encouraged NJDOT to keep the Forum involved and to share the results of the turn restriction trial study before making the decision. Mr. Rollo said that another round of public information centers would be held, and encouraged people to participate.

Mr. Reed mentioned the draft update of the *Planned Projects Status Report*, which was included in the meeting folders. He explained that a new addition to the report is a map showing the timing and phasing of projects along US 1. He said the map will be a valuable resource for planning. Going forward, the projects in the map will continue to be tracked. He also pointed out the other maps in the report, including the map of major land development projects. He encouraged anyone with information about any land development projects not covered in the report to get in touch with Jesse Buerk.

Jesse Buerk, Transportation Planner at DVRPC, provided further information about the *Planned Projects Status Report*. In addition to the new timing and phasing map, information about the BRT and planned BRT-supportive investments was integrated with the map of development projects in the US 1 corridor. He said there are plans to do timing and phasing maps for other corridors in the Forum area, such as US 130 and US 206. He thanked everyone who helped contribute and review information for the draft report, and encouraged anyone with additional information about any aspect of the report to contact him at jbuerk@dvrpc.org.

4. NJ TRANSIT UPDATE ON PROPOSED NEW ROUTE 655

Tom Marchwinski, Director of Systems Planning at NJ Transit, provided a brief update about the progress of the new Route 655 bus. He explained that the Route 655 bus is

an early feeder route for the proposed Route 1 BRT. NJ Transit applied for Competitive Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding at both MPOs. NJTPA has already approved Route 655 for CMAQ funding. The proposal will be presented to the DVRPC board for approval in February. Mr. Marchwinski said final funding discussions are ongoing, but if all of the pieces fall into place, service should begin operating in May 2012. He said he hopes to have more details to report at the next Forum meeting. He explained that the Route 655 bus will connect with NJ Transit Routes 600 and 605, in addition to Coach USA routes and the DINKY.

5. BRIEF UPDATE ON NJ STRATEGIC PLAN

Barry Ableman, Principal Planner for the NJ Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy, said the draft NJ Strategic Plan has been presented to the public and six public meetings have been scheduled. The meetings will consist of a short presentation about the draft Plan, as well as time for public comments and a question-and-answer session. Mr. Ableman said to visit www.njsmartgrowth.com for more information. He encouraged Forum members to attend the meetings and/or send written comments.

The discussion included the following highlights:

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- Ms. Mount and Mr. Reed started a discussion of how the Forum should interact with the State Plan and provide comments. Mr. Reed encouraged everyone to download and review the draft plan. He said that he noticed more of an emphasis on growth and investment areas rather than where not to invest, as was the case in past plans. He raised questions about what role the Forum should play. One suggestion was that the Forum could work with municipalities that either do or do not want to be designated as development centers. Ms. Mount and Mr. Reed said they were planning to attend at least one of the scheduled public hearings and these questions would be discussed at the next Forum meeting.
- Mr. Bzik said that the counties are working with their municipalities to submit county-wide sewer and septic system plans to the state. Somerset, Middlesex, and Mercer counties have already submitted this information. Mr. Lawson said that a lot of public outreach was conducted to assemble Mercer County's submission, but that these plans don't go as far as integrating other land use elements.
- Mr. Bzik said that the counties will prepare comments on the draft Plan. He suggested the Forum might consider focusing its comments on more strategic elements such as the Priority Investment Areas.
- Ms. Mount and Mr. Reed requested that the counties forward their comments on the draft Plan. The three sets of comments could be put together and presented at the next Forum meeting.

6. HOW CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT ROUTE 1 – SUMMARY OF NJTPA/DVRPC STUDY

Jeff Perlman, Principal Planner at NJTPA, summarized the climate change impacts study, which was a partnership between the three NJ MPOs (NJTPA, DVRPC, SJTPO), as well as NJDOT, DEP, and NJ Transit. NJTPA was the lead agency. The study was funded by a grant from FHWA and was one of the first such grants awarded nationwide.

Mr. Perlman explained that the study included two focus areas, one of which was the US 1 corridor. The other was a coastal area. Flooding was the main concern for the inland (US 1) area. The study analyzed state and county roads, as well as freight, transit, and airport facilities. Historical weather data was examined, with a focus on looking for increases in temperature, rainfall, and the number of days with temperatures of 95 degrees or more. A scenario planning exercise was conducted using a complex climate model created with the assistance of the NJ State Climatologist. The climate analysis was overlaid with an index of critical transportation infrastructure to determine locations at risk for future flooding. Mr. Perlman explained that the study looked for critical transportation links that intersected the new, expanded floodplain.

Chris Linn, Manager of the Office of Environmental Planning at DVRPC, said that since trends and climate models indicate more frequent, larger rain events can be expected in the future, existing flood plains will likely expand. He explained that the poster displayed for the meeting depicted the mid-range scenario for future flood plain growth. Mr. Linn said that the maps produced for the climate change study will be made available to the Department of Environmental Protection and will be distributed to local governments through the Sustainable Jersey committees. In addition, Rutgers University is working to make some of the analysis available in a more user-friendly manner. Mr. Linn clarified that the study was intended as a high-level analysis and that further work would be required to drill down to the level of detail necessary to assess risks and vulnerabilities for specific locations.

Mr. Reed thanked Mr. Linn and Mr. Perlman for the presentation and asked how the Forum should proceed with addressing the issue. Mr. Perlman said there are plans to explore strategies for adapting to the changing climate. He suggested that municipalities could benefit from assessing their risks beyond transportation issues, for example by investigating public health risks, including the identification of vulnerable populations. This additional analysis could result in more holistic adaptation strategies. Mr. Perlman said that NJTPA plans to work on integrating the information from the study into future project planning and asset management programs.

7. LEARNING FROM HURRICANE IRENE: HOW TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION IN SEVERE WEATHER AND MAJOR EVENTS

Jim Hadden, Director of 511 and Special Projects for NJ Statewide Traffic Operations, gave a presentation about Hurricane Irene and the lessons learned regarding how to communicate information to the public during a major event.

Mr. Hadden began by citing statistics showing that during the hurricane, calls to 511 and visits to www.511nj.org increased dramatically. Mr. Hadden explained that most of the information displayed on the 511 website is automatically updated from the OpenReach system that allows all emergency responders to share information with each other. However, during the hurricane, Mr. Hadden realized he needed a way to post additional information on the fly. He was able to add information about shelter locations and coastal evacuation routes from the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (OEM), as well as a list of statewide hurricane-related road closures with time-stamp information. However, Mr. Hadden acknowledged one lesson learned was that the 511

system did not have good information about county and local road closures but travelers were very interested in obtaining this information. Mr. Hadden said he was working to improve how county OEMs pass local information up to the statewide level and disseminate it to the public. He said he is currently working with the county OEMs to figure out how to address the problem. Another lesson learned led to the enhancement of the 511 web site to allow more ways to sort information, for example by county or road. This change has already been implemented. He also said that since 511 does not advertise, it was helpful that the Governor made an announcement telling people to evacuate the shore and mentioning 511 as a source of information.

The discussion included the following highlights:

- Tony Gambilonghi, Supervising Planner for Transportation for the Middlesex County Department of Planning, said most people visit the 511 website in order to receive information, but he asked if there was any provision for people to be able to use the site to provide information. Mr. Hadden said that currently, 511 only accepts incident information from first responders, and that verification is required. He explained that state troopers train local first responders on how to provide incident information to the 511 system. There is a phone number that the first responders use for reporting, but Mr. Hadden said this number is not made available to the general public.
- Mr. Sturges suggested using a wiki-style website to gather information about road closures at the local level. He said there needs to be a way to gather and distribute this information in real time, and that overworked, short-staffed local governments can't be expected to do it. Mayor Moore said that a few local websites did exactly that, including posting alerts and pictures from local residents. Mr. Hadden explained some of the issues that NJDOT faces as a public entity which makes it difficult to rely on the sort of crowd-sourced information being discussed. For example, if people submit information using a Google mobile application, Google collects information about their location. The NJ Attorney General's office has concerns about the privacy implications of using this geocoded information. Mr. Sturges suggested a voluntary log-on that would cover legal issues. Mr. Chase suggested that perhaps information from the public could be displayed on the 511 site in a different color that indicates less confidence. Mr. Hadden said he would take these ideas back and explore them.
- Mayor Moore raised the issue of power outages. She asked how people could receive information from the 511 website if the power was out, or if phone networks were down. Mr. Hadden acknowledged the problem and said it's still a weak link in the system.
- Chris King, Senior Transportation Planner at DVRPC, explained that in the DVRPC counties, the OpenReach system is accessed through the Regional Integrated Multi-Modal Information Sharing (RIMIS) system. He said some counties (for example, Burlington County) have traffic operations centers which help coordinate information within the county. DVRPC is working with its counties to help them distribute and share data from CCTV cameras and video equipment through RIMIS. Mr. Hadden said that the ability to leverage all of those cameras to help first responders has been a very useful tool.
- Mr. Reed said part of the problem is figuring out who can and will have time to provide good information from the local level. For example, in Princeton they notified their police of closed roads, but he doesn't know if that information was passed on to the county or to adjoining municipalities. He asked what network the State needs. He also asked what a citizen was supposed to do if he or she had road closure

information to report in an emergency situation. Mr. Hadden mentioned that during Hurricane Irene, he got a call from a police sergeant in Hillsborough Township, reporting closure of US 206. Mr. Hadden said another part of the challenge for getting information at the local level is that for the purposes of the 511 site, it's critical to also know when an incident or closure has cleared and conditions return to normal so 511 can be updated accordingly.

- Mr. Krawczun said that the county OEMs are a great resource for local information, and that coordinating with them to filter information up to the statewide 511 system would be the simplest approach. He also pointed out that there are issues at times with information filtering down from the higher levels to the local level. For example, during Hurricane Irene, Lawrence Township tried to evacuate residents to local hotels, but ran into issues because the township had not been informed that FEMA booked the same hotels to use as shelters for other evacuees from around the state.
- Solomon Caviness, Special Project Manager at NJTPA, said NJTPA is analyzing the response to Hurricane Irene to determine how well the existing emergency response systems worked and how resilient the transportation network proved to be. He said NJTPA is working with the state OEM to identify investment opportunities. In addition, NJTPA and DVRPC are considering a joint incident management task force for the US 1 corridor. Mr. King explained that DVRPC has an extensive incident management task force network. Next year, DVRPC and NJTPA will partner to explore one for the wide I-295 and Route 1 corridor.
- Mr. Sturges invited all to a meeting on February 18th organized by Princeton Future to address emergency management issues in the Princeton area.
- Susan Winter, Principal Planner, Emergency Management, NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Bureau of Planning and Project Management, spoke briefly about various efforts. She explained that there are different efforts underway in evacuation planning, and include the northern NJ Urbanized Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the non-UASI parts of the state. In the non-UASI areas, which include the Route 1 corridor, there has been a behavioral survey to better understand what people will do in major events, and they are modeling emergency evacuation with assistance from Rutgers. During the summer of 2012 there will be meetings with county OEMs in the Forum area. A survey of municipal OEMs is underway and she encouraged all to have their municipality respond. She said she'd be happy to go into more detail at a future Forum meeting or to contact her at Susan.Winter@ohsp.state.nj.us.
- Pam Hersh, Vice President for Government Relations for Princeton Healthcare System, said that the hospital tried to convene a symposium on this topic five years ago. She said with so many different entities in New Jersey, it seems to be a challenge to stay coordinated. She also said another information gap is getting real time information to people who need to get to the hospital but don't need an ambulance.
- Ms. Ward noted that the West Windsor Police Facebook site worked well during the hurricane to provide information.
- Mr. Neary said KMM's website also worked well to provide transportation information and also lets people choose local routes in order to receive information about them.
- Mr. Reed said the system for aggregating and communicating information has to be simple, direct, and worked out in advance. Ms. Mount added that the system has to be nimble enough to guide people who are stranded in their vehicles. There was brief discussion of whether a better system could be hosted by a regional agency or whether Google would eventually become the reliable source.

- Ms. Neaderland suggested having county and local OEM representatives speak at a future Forum meeting.

8. BRIEF UPDATES & DIALOGUE

The floor was opened up for dialogue, which included the following highlights:

- Mr. Reed asked for feedback about how the Rt1RGS action team could further tailor the road show to encourage elected officials to adopt the resolution.
- Ms. Ward asked if anyone had updates about the US House of Representatives transportation bill. Andrew Black, Legislative Assistant for Representative Rush Holt, said that a press conference was taking place at that very moment to release the bill.
- Mr. Seymour mentioned a handout in the meeting folders clarifying some questions about transit energy use that were raised at the last Forum meeting. He shared some ideas for future meetings, including providing more information about RIMIS, presentations from county OEMs, or discussing the topic of Complete Streets. He encouraged everyone to share any other ideas for future meeting topics.
- Mr. Strupinsky thanked the Forum for holding the meeting in Hillsborough. Mr. Seymour thanked Mr. Strupinsky and Hillsborough Township for being such gracious hosts. Mr. Strupinsky said he was pleased to hear about plans for future work focused on US 206, since Hillsborough sometimes feels left out of the Forum due to its focus on US 1. He said that as the township's business advocate, he is very aware of the importance of transportation, including good transit. Hillsborough is working to get bus service to serve the downtown area in lieu of the West Trenton rail line. He said he would keep the Forum informed as that effort moves forward, and that he would seek the Forum's endorsement at some point.
- Ms. Mount mentioned an ongoing project by Sustainable Jersey to map green assets in New Jersey.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website may be translated into Spanish, Russian, and Traditional Chinese online by visiting www.dvrpc.org. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For more information, please call (215) 238-2871.