

Meeting Highlights

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was held at the emergency management training facility in Hillsborough, NJ. There were over 60 participants, including representatives from 14 municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (for-profit and non-profit). Bill Neary, Forum Chair, welcomed everyone and began a round of short introductions around the room. A reporter from the local Montgomery News announced himself during introductions. Mr. Neary introduced Mayor Gloria McCauley and thanked her for hosting us in Hillsborough Township. Mayor McCauley welcomed everyone and introduced Hillsborough representatives to the Forum, David Maski and David Kois. The Mayor announced that she recently held a meeting with NJDOT to make sure the 206 Bypass—a project that has been in planning since the 1990s—is still on schedule. The 206 bypass is all that remains of the original I-95 route through Mercer and Somerset Counties. Construction is slated to begin this spring and finish by 2020. Mayor McCauley also mentioned the Township's Town Center plan designed around smart growth principles that is linked to the completion of the bypass.

Forum Business

Bill Neary reminded municipal and county representatives that they should send in a 2018 voting letter—signed by their elected representative—stating their desire to be an active participant in the Forum for this calendar year and naming a voting member and up to two alternates. Letters must be submitted by the May 1 Forum to retain voting privileges.

Mr. Neary called for a motion to vote on the Draft Highlights from the September 7th Forum meeting. Matt Lawson motioned the vote and Walt Lane seconded. There were two abstentions and all others voted in favor of approving the highlights. One misspelled name will be corrected.

Central Jersey in DVRPC's long-range plan

Brett Fusco presented on DVRPC's Long-range Plan for the greater Philadelphia region. He gave an overview of the planning process and principle focus areas, and highlighted several projects in the Central Jersey portion of the Delaware Valley (Mercer County) that are included in the Plan. Some of the funded roadway projects in Central Jersey include US 1 Alexander Road to Mapleton Road, a proposed Quakerbridge Road Flyover, and a West Trenton Bypass. There is a project in the TIP within the US 1 corridor. There are no funded transit projects in Central Jersey under the fiscally constrained plan. US 1 bus rapid transit is listed on the plan as an unfunded project. Also unfunded is I-195 active traffic management, which would digitize this roadway with variable speed limits, queue warning, and dynamic lane assignments. Mr. Fusco said that local funding has become most flexible type, as there are always strings attached to state and federal dollars. California, for example uses 40-50% local funding for transportation projects. Other regions are spending more, improving infrastructure, and making their regions more competitive. A key step to local funding in New Jersey is state-enabling legislation. Attendees had several questions following the presentation:

- Bill Neary asked whether millennials are moving to suburban town centers in the same way they are moving to urban downtowns. Mr. Fusco responded that this is already happening, as many of these town centers are building the walkability and community that millennials are seeking.
- Tom Vigna asked for clarification on whether the region is deficient compared to others. Mr. Fusco responded that Central Jersey is in the middle-ground when it comes to transportation performance. With regard to local funding, more would help with capacity and even some operational improvements that the region is not able to tackle now. There is indication that the federal government is looking to scale back matches and push for more state and local investment, which is something the region should consider.
- Another attendee asked whether interstate tolling was an option for funding. Mr. Fusco responded that, at this point, tolling would need not only state, but federal approval to implement. However, leaks of the latest infrastructure funding proposals written by the Trump administration indicate that this may be allowed in the future.



Central Jersey in NJTPA's long-range plan

Lois Goldman presented NJTPA's Long-range Plan to the Forum. Ms. Goldman said that NJTPA did a great deal of public outreach as part of the planning process including a setting-the-table workshop with millennials, a Board retreat, work with an ESL class, and a survey. Similar to DVRPC, NJTPA identified and planned for outside forces (called "game changes" in the Plan). The Long-range Plan is built as an implementation element of the North Jersey Regional Plan. Ms. Goldman highlighted strategies included in this implementation element under categories of making the region Competitive, Efficient, Livable, and Resilient. Attendees had several questions following the presentation:

- Cheryl Kastrenakes said that it seems online deliveries and their impacts are not being addressed and suggested promoting greater inclusion of them so they are not a burden on small towns. Lois responded that loading and unloading zones are a big issue and NJTPA is looking at complete streets that include those zones so they are part of the planning process. Mary K Murphy added that there's an article on NJTPA's complete streets policy in Planning Magazine which touches on planning around freight.
- Bill Neary raised the issue of autonomous truck deliveries and asked if there's a way to schedule deliveries at night. Mary K Murphy responded that time of delivery is an issue that a local municipal ordinance would need to address, and added that the electronic component has the potential to lower noise and be better for neighborhoods.
- Sheldon Sturges asked Mr. Seymour and Ms. Murphy to invite the new Governor to attend a meeting and consider collaborative ways to dedicate funding toward priority projects. Mr. Seymour agreed that it may now be perfect timing to put together something on behalf of the Forum that talks about shared principles and a short list of projects in the Route 1 Central Jersey area for which membership wants to advocate. Ms. Murphy suggested that it would be important to share the same information with the new DOT commissioner, as well as the head of transit. Freeholder Charles Kenney motioned a vote on sending an invitation; Gail Smith seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed.

Past, Present & Future in the US 1 Corridor

Matt Lawson presented area maps from the 1930 Regional and Mercer Plans, and discussed the potential for US 1 based on its past and present. Current mapping shows a mismatch of density to network in the present day as a result of the disappearance of trolley lines. While the 2001 State development plan identified two future TODs with high density and lots of surrounding green space, the 2020 trend development characterized by sprawl. Prior to the current CJTF, in 1987, a Middlesex Somerset Mercer (MSM) Regional Council was established to link land use & transportation planning in Central Jersey. It promoted smart growth, mixed use, and transit improvements, and brought in corporate sponsorship to run the forum. Since the 1930's, the region has been planning land use around transit, but no transit exists. Mr. Lawson argued that we must have this investment to complement the other decisions we've made. Mr. Lawson has been working with Walt Lane in Somerset County on reinstating ridership on the West Trenton line, and has seen lots of support for this initiative.

- George Ververides said that we should be discussing contributions the private sector can make in new developments. Mr. Lawson responded that, while a County planning act needs to allow this, Mercer is working on impact mitigations, and is in very early discussions with Howard Hughes, though West Windsor Township has the lead in those discussions.
- Sheldon Sturges thanked Mr. Lawson and Mr. Lane for keeping the West Trenton line alive.
- Alison Miller thanked Mr. Lawson and noted that illustrations in the slides from Howard Hughes do not have the support of West Windsor Township, pointing out that there are no solutions for a Quaker Bridge Road overpass, which is vital for transportation access.

CJTF Strategic Plan

Bill Neary introduced the strategic planning process that has taken place over the last year. New staffing, technology changes, demographic and workforce changes, and the Transportation Trust Fund, made a new plan for the Forum's direction timely. In the spirit of maintaining and increasing the Forum's



relevance to transportation and land use planning in the Route 1 corridor, the Steering Committee initiated this process and helped to form a final plan following a workshop involving voting members. Steering Committee members Walt Lane, Matt Lawson, and Cheryl Kastrenakes each presented on one of the three action tables from the Plan, which detail strategies and related actions that the Forum aims to follow over the next 3-5 years.

- Sheldon Sturges mentioned the Trump administrations plans for \$1.6T in infrastructure investment and asked if we should be applying for high speed rail funding. Barry Seymour noted the importance of recognizing that most of the \$1.6T is intended to come from state and local funding sources, and perhaps \$200M will be federal contributions.
- Tom Vigna thanked Jackie Davis for organizing the planning process and authoring the draft document based on voting member and steering committee input.
- Bill Neary added that members should review the Draft Plan document and provide comments. The next meeting, scheduled for May 1, will hold a vote on approving the Plan.

Brief Updates & Dialogue

Patrick Kelly, NJDOT, provided an update on the I-95/295 Re-designation process. The Extension of 295 to Scudder Falls Bridge as 295 extension N/S began the week of the Forum meeting, as did 295 corridor signage changes. On the PA side, 295 will be extended, but will become an E/W road once passed the bridge. NJDOT is compiling a list of operational impacts and working with Mercer emergency response teams to help redirect drivers. They are communicating with GPS entities, UPS, and Amazon so that users and drivers received updated maps and routes. NJDOT is also coordinating with the Joint River Toll Bridge Commission to disseminate updates, maps, project history, and public relations communications via I95link.com. All graphics available on the project website are free for agencies to use.

- Matt Lawson added that DVRPC's incident management task force would be meeting the next Friday to discuss emergency response surrounding this project.

Scott Steens, NJDOT, provided an update on the Rt. 1 Hard Shoulder Running project. This project was presented to the Forum in May 2017 when the pilot project was starting. The pilot was a big success; it did not attract additional traffic, and moved existing traffic through the corridor faster with the addition of lanes. Now that the testing phase has ended, NJDOT is moving forward with permanent installation. This will include signage, curbs to delineate the new lane, increased drainage to remove ponding, and strengthening asphalt throughout the shoulder lengths. Plans and specifications should be completed by Fall 2018, and Mr Stephens offered to provide another update at that time. Construction is expected in early 2019, but temporary changes in place today will remain until that time.

- Bill Neary asked whether the corridor will now allow trucks. Mr. Stephens said there will be no through traffic for trucks due to the number of driveways. Trucks will only be able to make end of trip deliveries from this road.
- George Ververides asked if this project could extend as far as Hillsborough. NJDOT is looking into this possibility.
- Matt Lawson asked if there are any plans for bike traffic. Mr. Stephens said that while pedestrians are legally allowed to walk alongside Rt 1, there would be no bike facilities added.
- Cheryl Kastrenakes asked how the lack of pedestrian and bike infrastructure fits in with NJDOT's complete streets policy. Mr. Stephens said that because Rt 1 is not a historically walked or biked road, the changes being made don't require NJDOT to add amenities for pedestrians and bikes.

Other updates:

- Cheryl Kastrenakes announced that GMTMA is preparing to create a Mercer County interconnected, multiuse trail plan. A consultant has been contracted and will be reaching out to each municipality, and will hold multiple outreach sessions.



- Bill Neary announced that Keep Middlesex Moving is hosting its second electric vehicle conference at St. Peter's Hospital on April 23rd.
- Walt Lane announced that Somerset County is launching a bike and trails plan funded by NJTPA. A consultant will begin work in March/April to update a plan for preservation, open space, historic preservation, and greenways. Somerset will be reaching out to municipalities and neighboring counties.
- Matt Lawson relayed an update he received, stating that NJ is included in the Volkswagen settlement. There is \$75M available. Mr. Lawson also introduced his staff member, Matt Zochowski, who is working on a bike plan for Mercer County's highways.
- Barry Seymour mentioned DVRPC's Breaking Ground event for March 22nd. It is a full-day conference focused on tools for local governments. Registration is available at <https://dvrpc.ticketleap.com/breaking-ground-2018/>
- Mary K Murphy mentioned the NJ TransAction conference and expo planned for April 17-19. Registration is available at <https://www.njtransaction.com/>.

There were no further comments. Bill Neary adjourned the meeting.

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Attendees

Mayors			
Liz	Lempert	Mayor	Princeton
Gloria	McCauley	Mayor	Hillsborough Township - Committeewoman

Municipal Staff			
Ann	Bell	Zoning Officer	Robbinsville Township
Bryan	Bidlack	Director of Planning	South Brunswick Township
Joe	Camarota		South Brunswick Township
Francis	Guzik		West Windsor Township
Alison	Miller	Council President	West Windsor Township
David	Kois	Business Advocate	Hillsborough Township
David	Maski	Planning Director	Hillsborough Township
Gail	Smith	Township Engineer	Montgomery Township
ARTHUR	LEHRHAUPT		Plainsboro Township
Les	Varga	Director	Plainsboro Township
Tom	Vigna		New Brunswick
Jeffrey	Wilkerson		Trenton
David	Cohen	Councilman	Princeton
Lee	Solow	Planner	Princeton
Deanna	Stockton		Princeton
Michele	Hovan	Administrator	Borough of Hopewell
Theodore	Chase Jr	councilman	Franklin Township

Counties			
Matthew	Lawson	Principal Planner-Transportation	Mercer County
Matthew	Zochowski	Assistant Transportation Planner	Mercer County
George	Ververides	Director	Middlesex County
Anthony	Gambilonghi	Supervising Planner, Transportation	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Kenneth	Wedeen	Supervising Planner	Somerset County Planning Board

Metropolitan Planning Organizations			
Barry	Seymour	Executive Director	DVRPC
Michael	Boyer		DVRPC
Jaclyn	Davis	Program Manager	DVPRC
Brett	Fusco	Manager	DVRPC
Lois	Goldman		NJTPA
Mary K.	Murphy	Executive Director	NJTPA
Tom	Schulze		NJTPA

Other Regional Bodies



Cheryl	Kastrenakes		Greater Mercer TMA
Bill	Neary		Keep Middlesex Moving
Basil	Giletto	Chair of Transportation Committee	Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC)
Joe	Donnelly	Deputy Executive Director	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission

State Departments			
Jennifer	Buison	Assistant Director, Federal Projects Planning	NJ TRANSIT
Danielle	Graves	Project Manager	NJDOT
Tom	Houck	Sr. Transportation Planner	NJDOT
Barry	Ableman	Principal Planner	NJ Secretary of State, Office for Planning Advocacy
Robert	Tessier	Project Specialist	Department of Community Affairs
Gerry	Scharfenberger	Business Action Center Director	New Jersey Department of State

Other			
Asha	Bailey	Executive Director	RideWise
Jack	Kanarek		Dewberry
Patrick	Kelly	Design Manager for the PA Turnpike / I-95 Interchange Project	Jacobs
Patricia Ward	Prutzman		The Hathaway Group
Marvin	Reed	Former Chair	former mayor, Princeton Borough
Sheldon	Sturges		Princeton Future
Kristin	Appelget	Director of Community and Regional Affairs	Princeton University
Janna	Chernetz	Director, NJ Policy	Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Widmarc	Dalce	Student Services Coordinator	Mercer County Community College
Joseph	Forte	President/CEO	Global Community Strategies
Jim	Hess		AECOM
Katherine	Kish	Ex. DIR.	EINSTEIN'S ALLEY
Jack	Molenaar	Senior Director	Rutgers University
Tushar	Patel		AECOM
Dave	Schwartz	Senior Transportation Planner/Engineer	CDM Smith
Dana	Shaeffer	Sr. Project Manager	TranSystems
Ali	Vaezi		Dewberry Engineers Inc.
Ralph	Widner		Princeton Mass Transit Trust Fund