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## CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

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### Meeting Highlights

**Wednesday, September 18, 2019 | 1:00 pm**  
Somerset County Fire Academy | Rooms B & C  
402 Roycefield Rd. | Hillsborough, NJ 08844

#### Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was held at the Somerset County Fire Academy in Hillsborough, NJ. There were 43 participants including representatives from eight municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (both for-profit and non-profit). Forum Chair Bill Neary requested introductions of attendees, and then introduced Hillsborough Mayor Frank DelCore. Mayor DelCore opened the meeting by highlighting a number of important transportation projects taking place in Hillsborough, including updates on the status of the Route 206 bypass.

#### Forum Business

Short of a voting member quorum, Chairman Neary asked for a motion to provisionally approve the meeting highlights for the June 11, 2019 meeting. The meeting highlights for both June and September 2019 will be voted on at the next meeting.

#### Vision Zero at Greater Mercer TMA

Cheryl Kastrenakes, executive director of the Greater Mercer TMA, presented on the principles behind Vision Zero. Ms. Kastrenakes argued that road fatalities are a Public Health crisis, citing > 37,000 fatalities on road networks. Slower driving due to congestion puts NJ in the 4<sup>th</sup> quartile of state roads fatalities. Ms. Kastrenakes proposed a multidisciplinary approach including policy, engineering, education, and enforcement to reduce the fatalities to zero. This requires political commitment via resolution and policy, forming a task force, and creating an action plan. Barry Seymour, Executive Director at DVRPC, noted the difficulty of formally adopting a Vision Zero goal due to the compliance requirement from the federal government<sup>1</sup>. A resolution and letter of support on behalf of CJTF to legislators was suggested.

#### Automated Collision Avoidance for Busses

Jerry Lutin, formerly NJTRANSIT and now independent consultant working with Munich Re and

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<sup>1</sup> If an MPO doesn't make significant progress toward its safety goals, they are required to use funds equal to the previous years' apportionment only for Highway Safety Improvement Program's (HSIP) projects, in addition to submitting an HSIP Implementation Plan. Additional guidance from FHWA is attached.

PierceTransit on bus safety, discussed the testing of automated safety technology on public transit buses that could decrease the number of bus accidents thus reduce the liability costs associated with these accidents. Testing has shown that 70 percent of collisions could be avoided with technology. Despite these promising numbers, Mr. Lutin noted that bus drivers do not seem to completely accept and champion the technology during the first testing phase due to false warnings. Mr. Lutin explained that further testing of the automated avoidance technology is planned for Pierce County, Washington.

## Updates & Dialogue

### a) **Upcoming Alexander Rd Bridge closures, Basit Muzaffar, Mercer County.**

Basit "Sunny" Muzaffar, Assistant County Engineer at Mercer County, presented on the Alexander Rd Bridge road closures and impact mitigation. Mr. Muzaffar explained that the bridge was originally designed as temporary but became a permanent NJDOT structure by default. He noted that the cost of the replacement was estimated at \$6.3 million, and construction would last for 135 calendar days with full road closures starting on November 6, 2019. Opening date is set for April 20, 2020 leaving buffer time for significant utility work and for potential bad winter. Mr. Muzaffar explained that mitigation includes opening two lanes on Washington Road towards Route 1, and that the county is working with NJDOT to install static signs for travel times into Princeton to help drivers decide on routes.

### b) **VW Settlement update, Andrea Friedman, NJ DEP.**

Andrea Friedman, Climate Scientist at NJDEP, presented the overall plan for spending NJ's share: \$72.2 million. NJ Governor Murphy aims to spend the entire budget by the end of his term, with \$10.8 million committed to EV stations. The budget allocated to projects will be distributed in three phases, with the first phase just having been awarded including electric buses for Camden. On the Pennsylvania side, Mr. Seymour noted that Philadelphia was awarded \$2 million from PA DEP to replace existing buses with electric ones. The program is a reimbursement program. More details on funding amounts and eligible projects are listed on the consent decree and NJDEP's website.<sup>2</sup>

### c) **Forum Branding & Web, Jackie Davis, DVRPC.**

Jackie Davis, Senior Planner at DVRPC, presented the new Forum branding and plans to develop a website on an independent URL as requested in the Strategic Plan.

### d) **Municipal Implementation Toolbox, Jackie Davis, DVRPC.**

Ms. Davis, presented a new online resource<sup>3</sup> to assist municipal efforts to protect, preserve and grow communities, all of which help to implement the goals of Connections 2045, DVRPC's Long-Range Plan.

Chairman Bill Neary asked if there were any other updates. With none, Chairman Neary adjourned the meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/vw/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dvrpc.org/Connections2045/MIT/>



## CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

### Attendees

#### Mayors

<b>Hillsborough Township</b>	Frank	DeCore
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#### Municipal Staff & Council Members

<b>Franklin Township</b>	Chase Jr	Theodore
<b>Hillsborough Township</b>	Kois	David
<b>Hillsborough Township</b>	Maski	David
<b>Montgomery Township</b>	Smith	Gail
<b>Plainsboro Township</b>	Lehrhaupt	Arthur
<b>South Brunswick Township</b>	Bidlack	Bryan
<b>South Brunswick Township Planning Board</b>	Lutin	Jerry
<b>City of Trenton</b>	Wilkerson	Jeffrey
<b>Franklin Township</b>	Chase Jr	Theodore
<b>North Brunswick</b>	Vigna	Tom
<b>South Brunswick</b>	Lutin	Jerry

#### Counties

<b>Mercer County</b>	Lawson	Matthew
<b>Mercer County</b>	Muzaffar	Basit
<b>Monmouth County</b>	Schmetter	David
<b>Somerset County</b>	Holzmann	Andras
<b>Somerset County</b>	Lane	Walter

#### Metropolitan Planning Organizations

<b>DVRPC</b>	Boyer	Mike
<b>DVRPC</b>	Davis	Jaclyn
<b>DVRPC</b>	Seymour	Barry
<b>DVRPC</b>	Wassen	Laure
<b>NJTPA</b>	Ameen	Mary
<b>NJTPA</b>	Goldman	Lois

#### Other Regional Bodies

<b>Greater Mercer TMA</b>	Kastrenakes	Cheryl
<b>Keep Middlesex Moving</b>	Neary	Bill

State Departments		
<b>NJDOT</b>	Graves	Danielle
<b>NJDEP</b>	Friedman	Andrea
<b>NJ Department of Public Affairs</b>	Tessier	Roberto
<b>NJ Transit</b>	LaVine	Benjamin
<b>NJ Transit</b>	Millan	Louis
<b>NJ Transit</b>	Viscardi	Mike

Other		
<b>AECOM</b>	Hess	Jim
<b>Dewberry</b>	Kanarek	Jack
<b>FHWA</b>	Goodson	Brian
<b>The Hathaway Group</b>	Ward	Patricia
<b>Mercer Community College</b>	Dalce	Widmarc
<b>Munich Reinsurance America, Inc.</b>	Scrudato	Mike
<b>Princeton Future</b>	Reed	Marvin
<b>Princeton Future</b>	Struges	Sheldon
<b>RideWise</b>	Allison	Donna