

Draft Meeting Highlights

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was held at Princeton University in Princeton, NJ. There were 49 participants, including representatives from eight municipalities, four counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (both for-profit and non-profit). Forum Chair Bill Neary introduced Princeton Mayor Liz Lempert and thanked her and Princeton University for hosting the meeting. Mayor Lempert then opened the meeting by highlighting a number of important transportation projects taking place around the Borough.

Vinn White, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Philip D. Murphy, next addressed the forum on various transportation efforts at the state level that impact the corridor, and how they are being moved forward by a number of different agencies throughout state government. Mr. White emphasized the importance of the US 1 corridor, which links not only Trenton to New Brunswick, but extends to two of the biggest markets in the country: Philadelphia and New York. He pointed specifically to state aid programs as being relevant to municipalities in the Forum, and explained how recent changes to the programs are intended to extend aid to municipalities who may have not received assistance in previous rounds. Finally, Mr. White outlined a number of plans at the state level relating to automated and electric vehicles in New Jersey, particularly efforts to expand access to charging infrastructure.

Forum Business

Bill Neary asked for a motion to approve the highlights for the January 10, 2019 meeting. Les Varga motioned, and David Cohen seconded. All in attendance voted in favor of approving the highlights by affirmation, none were opposed.

Mobility Alternatives Plan Update

Jackie Davis of DVRPC and Bob Diogo of NJTPA presented their findings from data collection efforts conducted by the MPOs in the spring, including growth in population and employment and changes in land use and traffic congestion. They noted that although the region is continuing to see growth, it is near or below the projections from the 2010 Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy, and that most of the assumptions made as part of that study still hold true today.

Following the presentation by the MPOs, Matt Lawson, representing the Action Team, addressed the Forum regarding the question of a Plan Update. Mr. Lawson credited member municipalities on implementing center-based growth which has helped avoid some of the worst-case scenarios outlined in the 2010 Study, before discussing how the Forum can proceed going forward. Because funding is scarce and much of the work that went into 2010 Study remains relevant, Mr. Lawson proposed redirecting focus toward one or more smaller-scale efforts, including:

- a. COAH Impacts: Work with municipalities to identify the schedule and scope of development included in COAH settlement agreements. Include these in MPO travel demand models and schedule a model run to understand their network impacts.
- b. NJLUTRANS: Work with Rutgers VTC, the MPOs, counties, willing municipalities, and potentially a new Task Force of the NJ Geospatial Forum, to develop data standards, repositories, and an interface to track site plan and subdivision approvals useful both in-house to local governments and for state and regional economic growth impact analysis.
- c. East-West Traffic and Transit: Compile and summarize planning studies, plans, current conditions, and completed projects related to east-west mobility between/excluding NJ 18 and I-295, with particular emphasis on the east-west corridor identified in the US1 BRT feasibility assessment.
- d. Multimodal Integration: Convene a coordination group to compare results, and find interconnections between bicycle and trail plans now under development by all three counties.



Consider a joint meeting of Human Service Transportation Coordination Committees from all three counties.

- e. **Funding Outreach:** Discuss with TMAs and other coordinating organizations (e.g., Einstein's Alley, Princeton Regional Chamber) the potential for outreach to corporations in the Forum area who may be interested in contributing to coordinated land use and transportation planning.

Regional Project Updates

Zenobia Fields, NJDOT Director of Community and Constituent Relations, presented on a number of planned transportation projects by NJDOT in the corridor. Ms. Fields further outlined NJDOT's new mission statement and noted that 23% of the funding including in NJDOT's FY 2019 Capital Program is directed back to counties and municipalities through various aid programs.

Steve Sigmund of the Gateway Development Corporation presented an update on the Gateway project to improve rail links between New Jersey and Manhattan along the Northeast Corridor. Mr. Sigmund explained that the project is needed both to repair damage to bridge and tunnel crossings, especially caused by Hurricane Sandy in 2012, and to expand the capacity from a one-track to two-track system. Mr. Sigmund outlined the work that has been completed to date and the significant funding challenges that must be addressed before the project can be completed. He encouraged everyone to get involved with Build Gateway Now, an advocacy group supporting the project, saying that advocacy is the best way the Forum can help.

Joe Donnelly, Deputy Executive Director of Communications at the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, presented on the construction of the new Scudder Falls Bridge. Preparations are underway to remove and replace the existing single span. The scheduled opening for the new dual span bridge is July 10th. A walkway for bicyclists and pedestrians is in place, but will not open until 2020. Mr. Donnelly further outlined the all-electronic tolling that will be implemented, and encouraged everyone to obtain an EZ Pass to avoid the more expensive toll-by-plate rates.

Vision Zero at Greater Mercer TMA

Due to an emergency evacuation of the venue, Cheryl Kastrenakes' planned presentation on Greater Mercer TMA's Vision Zero policy initiative was postponed until a later date TBD.

Web Development & Branding

Due to an emergency evacuation of the venue, Jackie Davis' planned update on the Forum's new independent website and branding for the Forum was postponed until a later date TBD.

Brief Updates & Dialogue

Bill Neary provided an update on the Keep Middlesex Moving Radio Show, and announced that a number of Forum participants will be guests on upcoming episodes. Mr. Neary then adjourned the meeting.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, www.dvrpc.org, may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities and in transit-accessible locations when possible. Auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a meeting. Requests made within seven days will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint may be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please call (215) 238-2871 or email public_affairs@dvrpc.org.



Attendees

Mayors			
Christopher	Bobbitt	Mayor	Lawrence Township
Liz	Lempert	Mayor	Princeton

Municipal Staff & Council Members			
Ann	Bell	Zoning Officer	Robbinsville Township
Theodore	Chase Jr	Council Member	Franklin Township
David	Cohen	Council Member	Princeton
Hal	English	Director of Community Development	Robbinsville Township
Francis	Guzik	Director of Community Development	West Windsor Township
Alison	Miller	Council President	West Windsor Township
Gail	Smith	Township Engineer	Montgomery Township
Les	Varga	Director of Planning and Zoning	Plainsboro Township
Jeffrey	Wilkerson	Acting Planning Director	City of Trenton

Counties			
Anthony	Gambilonghi	Supervisor, Transportation	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Charles	Kenny	Freeholder	Middlesex County
Matthew	Lawson	Principal Planner-Transportation	County of Mercer
David	Schmetterer	Principal Planner	Monmouth County Planning
George	Ververidis	Director	Middlesex County Office of Planning
Kenneth	Wedeen	Supervising Transportation Planner	Somerset County Planning Board

Metropolitan Planning Organizations			
Kevin	Anderson	Long-range Planning Intern	DVRPC
Jaclyn	Davis	Senior Planner	DVRPC
Bob	Diogo	Manager, Modeling	NJTPA
Lois	Goldman	Director, Long Range Transportation Planning	NJTPA
Barry	Seymour	Executive Director	DVRPC

Other Regional Bodies			
Claire	Adler	Project Coordinator	Mid-Atlantic Small Business Transportation Resource Center
Joe	Donnelly	Deputy Executive Director of Communications	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Cheryl	Kastrenakes	Executive Director	Greater Mercer TMA
Bill	Neary	Executive Director	Keep Middlesex Moving
Tiffany	Spraggins-Payne	Project Director	Mid-Atlantic Small Business Transportation Resource Center
Mathew	Tharakan		SEPTA



State Departments			
Tom	Clark	Regional Manager- Government and Community Relations	NJ TRANSIT
Larry	Cotton		NJDOT
Zenobia	Fields	Director of Community and Constituent Relations	NJDOT
Tom	Houck	Transportation Planner	NJDOT
Brian	Leckie		NJDOT
Kimberly	Nance		NJDOT
Robert	Tessier		LPS DCA
Mike	Viscardi		NJ TRANSIT
Vinn	White	Senior Transportation Advisor	Office of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy

Other			
Kristin	Appelget	Director, Community and Regional Affairs	Princeton University
John	Conroy	Principal	Princeton Design Collaborative
Widmarc	Dalce		Mercer County Community College
Curt	Emmich		Princeton Forrestal Center
Jim	Hess	Senior Civil Designer	AECOM
Jack	Kanarek	Manager, Rail and Transit Practice	Dewberry
Pam	Mount	Chair	Sustainable Lawrence
William	Pyontek	Chief Engineer	French & Parrello Associates
Steve	Sigmund	Chief of Public Outreach	Gateway Development Corporation
Sheldon	Sturges	Co-founder and Administrator	Princeton Future
Kerri	Tyerman	Transportation Department Manager	HNTB Corporation