

Forum Voting Bylaws

Updated Version Adopted at January 31, 2012 Forum Meeting

The Forum adopted a formal voting structure to be better able to speak as a strong and effective regional voice for the needs of the broadly defined Route 1 corridor of central New Jersey. The bylaws regarding voting procedures were adopted at the March 21st work session held at the New Jersey Hospital Association in West Windsor, New Jersey. Each item passed by at least a two-thirds vote of the ten municipalities and three counties that intend to be voting members at this time. All potential voting members were invited to this work session.

1. Voting Members

Voting members are counties and municipalities. The counties and 21 municipalities traditionally in the Forum will be eligible, as well as the five additional municipalities included in the NJDOT Rt1RGS (Trenton, New Brunswick, Ewing, Hamilton and North Brunswick Townships).

2. Becoming a Voting Member

An eligible entity must provide a signed letter from its chief elected official naming a representative and up to two alternates. The people named can be the official, another official, staff, or citizens as long as they are authorized to speak for and will report back to the chief elected official. The appointment lasts for a year, although an entity may submit a new letter sooner.

3. Voting Procedure

Simple majority voting will be used for minor issues (such as adopting meeting summaries) and two-thirds majority will be used for major issues (such as taking a policy stance). The quorum is two-thirds of voting members to reinforce that the representative or alternate is expected to be present. The voting mechanism will be a show of hands for minor issues and roll call for major issues. All voting entities will be invited to speak before a vote. On major issues, entities voting against a passing proposal will be invited to have their concerns documented in the meeting summary.

4. Vote Distribution

Each voting entity has one vote, and all votes have the same weight.

5. Chair and Co-Chairs

Voting members annually elect a Chair or Co-Chairs from among current voting members. The Executive Directors of the two MPOs (DVRPC and NJTPA) will assist as special advisors and facilitators.

6. Advance Notice for Votes

All items to be voted on shall be listed on an agenda distributed in advance of the full Forum meeting during which the vote will take place. Agendas are distributed by e-mail at least two weeks before meetings and are also posted on the DVRPC web site.

7. Changes in Bylaws

The bylaws may be changed by two-thirds vote of the eligible voting members.