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## CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

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### **DRAFT Meeting Highlights**

**Wednesday, June 30, 2021 | 1:00 pm**

**Virtual Meeting**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. There were 62 registrants for the meeting, but a quorum of voting members was not in attendance. A vote on approval of the February 2021 Highlights was postponed and Forum Chair Bill Neary opened the meeting.

#### **New Jersey's ITS Architecture**

Members of NJDOT's Transportation Mobility and Engineering unit including Director Wasif Mirza; Asst Engineer Hiren Kumar Patel; and Supervising Engineer Kelly McVeigh provided a 30,000-foot view of some of the projects advancing in ITS projects. These projects included New Jersey Connected Technology Implementation Initiative (NJCTII); Hard Shoulder Running; and Smart and Connected Corridors (proposed). The team also provided an update on adaptive traffic signal systems which are planned to extend north to Jersey City and south to Howell Twp.

#### **Planning for Warehouse Sprawl**

Tim Evans, Director of Research at New Jersey Future continued the conversation on warehouse development. More growth is coming to the region (locally, as a result of e-commerce, and as part of the global supply chain via the Port of New York and New Jersey. Recommendations included Involving regional governments, port officials, and shippers in planning for goods movement; encouraging warehousing to continue using redevelopment sites; building up with "High Cube" warehouses; and enabling more goods to be shipped by rail.

#### **Municipal & TMA Updates**

Municipalities and TMAs were invited to spend a few minutes each highlighting projects or innovations of regional interest.

- GMTMA – Cheryl Kastrenakes stressed the importance of active transportation and transit access to warehousing jobs. August 3<sup>rd</sup> was set as a launch date for GMTMA's PickUp Program, partnered with Waze Carpool. GMTMA is also working on school travel plans in light of the recent SRTS grant notification.
- KMM – Bill Neary shared that Middlesex County shuttles would reopen from their COVID-19 closures as of July 15. KMM has been engaging more people recently via Zoom than in-person meetings.
- West Windsor – Francis Guzik shared that Avalon Group's proposal for construction of Vaughn Dr and realignment of Washington Rd as part of the residential project is in technical review by

committee. There are also talks with DOT representatives about the Rt 64 bridge elevation adjustments as part of the NEC, which they hope allows the township to reconstruct Metal Rd.

### **Other Updates**

Chris D'Elia, NJ TRANSIT, staff provided an update on recent work. NJ TRANSIT partnered with Walgreens and the Port Authority of NJ & NJ to expedite COVID-19 vaccination of frontline workers, providing free rides to get vaccinated. Locomotive engineering staff back as operational levels. A new app feature was launched called MapMyRide to provide more immediate updates. There is also a partnership with Waze to provide rail crossing updates to drivers. A rewards program was launched in April to encourage more ridership. A roadmap to a 100% zero emission bus fleet was released in May, along with an RFP for a bus garage modernization program. NJ TRANSIT had a diversity in construction event surrounding the Portal North Bridge project and invited 100 national DVDs to learn about subcontracting opportunities and process. Updates on the Dinky can be found at <https://www.njtransit.com/dinky>.

Chairman Bill Neary adjourned the meeting.