



CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

DRAFT Meeting Highlights

Monday, November 1, 2021 | 1:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. There were 70 registrants including 14 voting members for the meeting, but a quorum of voting members was not in attendance. A vote on approval of the February and June 2021 Highlights was postponed and Forum Chair Bill Neary opened the meeting.

MPO Updates

Mike Boyer, Director of Regional Planning for DVPRC announced that on September 23, 2021, the DVPRC Board adopted the *Connections 2050* (C2050) Long-Range Plan for Greater Philadelphia as well as an updated NJ TIP for Fiscal Years 2022-2025, both of which encompass Mercer County, NJ and all of its municipalities. The C2050 vision is an equitable, resilient, and sustainable Greater Philadelphia region that: preserves and restores the natural environment; develops inclusive, healthy, and walkable communities; grows an innovative and connected economy with broadly shared prosperity; and maintains a safe, multimodal transportation network that serves everyone. C2050 includes strategies to achieve the vision and a fiscally-constrained financial plan for investing in regional transportation infrastructure. More information is available at <https://www.dvrpc.org/plan>.

Lois Goldman, Director of Regional Planning for NJTPA announced that NJTPA's *Plan 2050: Transportation. People. Opportunity.* was approved by the NJTPA Board on September 13, 2021. Also approved on that date were the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination, all of which encompass Middlesex and Somerset Counties and all of their municipalities. Ms. Goldman highlighted some of the 11 priorities for Plan 2050 including Safety, Accessibility, and Equity. Several background papers on Plan priorities were published in advance of the Plan document. More information is available at <https://www.njtpa.org/Planning/Plans-Guidance/Plan-2050.aspx>.

Crash Data and Analysis Tools

Joseph Weiss, Traffic Safety Analyst at the Division of Highway Traffic Safety provided an overview of motorized and non-motorized crash data for Central Jersey and a high-level overview of the DHTS crash analysis tool via numeric, Crash Query. New Jersey pedestrian fatalities have steadily increased since 2013, with 2021 poised to be the worst year for fatalities since 1993 when there was 194 pedestrian fatalities. Over 30% of all roadway fatalities in NJ are pedestrians, so NJDHTS is focusing heavily on pedestrian safety now. Mr. Weiss shared a comparison of county performance in Central Jersey. The tool is accessible to planners to explore crash data and generate custom reports with near-real time data. Contact Mr. Weiss for access to njdhts.numeric.com at joseph.weiss@njoag.gov.

SRTS COVID Challenges

Christopher Gonda, Safe Routes to School Coordinator at Keep Middlesex Moving, discussed outreach and its challenges as a result of COVID-19 and remote schooling. From March 2020-2021, students faced the challenges of inactivity, adapting to new academic environment, lack of socialization, and others. Videos and webinars became focused on outdoor spaces. Content was shared via social media networks and Local Community Partners shared resources to families that subscribed to them. Focus continues to be on creating safe community spaces that families and children feel safe using for active transportation.

Municipal & TMA Updates

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

- Princeton – David Cohen discussed Vision Zero activities. The task force established a steering committee and five subcommittees focused on data collection, policy, roadway design, enforcement, and communications, respectively. There are plans to enable a Wiki to allow citizen to report near-misses.
- Greater Mercer TMA – Cheryl Kastrenakes updated that GMTMA has been slowly working through its bicycle pedestrian task force to engage in a Vision Zero reolution. GMTMA has worked with Lawrence and Hightstown schools on travel safety plans for SRTS grant applications. These plans are good for 3 years and are great to work on before applications are requested. GMTMA also continues work on a trails plan and a pedestrian bridge over I-295.
- RideWise – Donna Allison reported that electric vehicle coalition meetings are focusing on priority areas for accelerating EV adoption in Somerset County. A recent event on EV model ordinances provided municipal implementation next step guidance and was well represented from municipalities across the state.
- Keep Middlesex Moving – Bill Neary discussed recent and upcoming webinars including one on air taxis that Orlando, FL is [piloting](#) and New Brusnwick, NJ is [considering](#). Zoom has expanded TMA outreach, generally.
- Mercer County – Matthew Lawson reported results from a DVRPC technical memo which modeled potential ridership on two routes with significant new affordable housing proposed. A route and schedule was developed for the CR 571 Corridor, from Twin Rivers to Princeton. There is potential for coordination with the Waze rideshare service GMTMA has been developing for commuters. NJ TRANSIT announced that its #8 bus service would extend to the airport, satisfying the need of the other route (Extension of 608 to Trenton-Mercer Airport & Capital Health, Hopewell studied).

Other Updates

- a) NJ TRANSIT – Leah Katz provided an update on the Princeton Transitway Study. NJ TRANSIT has been working on revisions to the 4 draft alternatives and preparing graphics to prepare for customer and stakeholder outreach. These are early, planning-level alternatives in the draft, concept-level only stage. Additional details are provided at <https://www.njtransit.com/princetontransitway/>.
- b) NJDOT - Zenobia Fields shared the NJDOT's **online** Local Aid Resource Center which hosts all grant opportunities for municipalities. NJDOT has plans to establish an equity advisory council

to inform how NJDOT will reduce fatalities and serious injuries in underserved communities and called for participants in these meetings.

- c) NJTPA – Peter Bilton shared information on Together North Jersey's 2022 Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program. It offers planning-level technical assistance for implementation. There are five project types to choose from. [Applications](#) are due February 11, 2022.

Chairman Bill Neary adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT