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## CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

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### Meeting Highlights

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020 | 1:00 pm**

**Plainsboro Public Library | Community Room**

**9 Van Doren St. | Plainsboro Township, NJ 08536**

#### Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was held at the Plainsboro Public Library in Plainsboro, NJ. There were 57 participants including representatives from twelve municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (both for-profit and nonprofit). Forum Chair Bill Neary welcomed new attendees, requested introductions of attendees, and then introduced Mayor Peter Cantu of Plainsboro, the longest serving mayor in New Jersey. Mayor Peter Cantu was present at the founding meeting of the CJTF and highlighted the changes in development and demand the township has faced, including working with Princeton University for the past 3-4 years to redevelop and rezone an area of 90 acres in the township and encourage mixed-use developments to take place.

#### Forum Business

**a) Voting Letters**

The Forum met a quorum with the appointed 2020 voting members and alternates. Hopewell Township, represented by Mayor Kristin McLaughlin, joined the Forum as a new member.

**b) Meeting Highlights**

Chairman Neary asked for a motion to provisionally approve the meeting highlights for the September 2019 Forum meeting. Matt Lawson motioned the vote and Tom Vigna seconded. The Highlights were adopted without role call.

**c) Election of Forum Chair**

Chairman Neary requested nominations for Chair or Co-chairs of the Forum. Miriam Cohen made a motion for Bill Neary to continue as Chair. Walt Lane seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call and Mr. Neary will continue his tenure as Chair for the 2020 calendar year.

#### Resolution in support of a Vision Zero policy

Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director of the Greater Mercer TMA introduced a resolution in support of the Vision Zero policy. The idea for this resolution was presented at the previous

Forum meeting in September. Ms. Kastrenakes reiterated the need for a resolution, calling traffic deaths a public health crisis facing the country, with over 37,000 fatalities annually. The resolution states that no traffic deaths are acceptable and that they are preventable.

Several members of the Forum expressed concern with the language of the resolution, stating that it pressured municipalities into adopting their own resolution or form a task force. Barry Seymour, Executive Director of DVRPC, suggested the removal of the 2nd "Be it resolved..." eliminating the creation of a task force, action plan, and timeline. Tom Vigna motioned to approve the resolution with the amendments proposed by Mr. Seymour. Matt Lawson seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a roll call. The approved resolution and accompanying letter will be mailed to Central Jersey municipalities, counties and state representatives.

## **Multi-Modal Planning Efforts**

### **a) Greater Mercer TMA Trail Plan**

Jerry Foster of Greater Mercer TMA presented on the Multi-Modal Planning Efforts within Mercer County. GMTMA has a goal to build integrated networks connecting jobs and homes. Concepts incorporated into the network include: bike or walk to trails, seamless integration with roads, transit integration, and regional trails. The existing network consists of 673 miles with a total goal (including under construction & planned) of 1472 miles. Some projects they hope to advance in the near future are the Lawrence Hopewell trail closing gaps, Johnson Trolley line bridge over I-295 and extension south into Trenton, Dinky Line Trail, Trolley Line 15, Capital to Coast trail, John Bull trail (Camden & Amboy), and the Union Transportation Trail.

### **b) Somerset County Bicycle and Pedestrian Study**

Andras Holzmann of Somerset County presented the Somerset Walk, Bike, Hike Study. The plan developed design guidance and identified potential improvements to be made with the goal of creating a low stress network suitable for all ages. The plan included an outreach period and via in-person workshops, online wiki and surveys. The plan also identified crash hotspots, level of traffic stress analysis, and island effect created by rivers, and highways that limit mobility and connectivity. The existing network consists of 369 miles with a total goal of 640 miles. A design handbook for more consistent design across all locations has been created. The plan supports adoption of complete streets policies by all municipalities in the county.

### **c) Mercer County Bicycle Master Plan**

Matt Lawson of Mercer County presented the Mercer County Bicycle Master Plan. He presented the Mercer County Bikeability webmap and identified several priority facilities. The Master Plan, slated for adoption in March 2020 analyzes 180 road miles and offers bike facility types and design recommendations, as well as implementation guidance. It developed a methodology for calculating the cost of building bike facilities per foot and finding appropriate type of bicycle facilities to build according to road type and existing conditions. Parts of the plan have been implemented with a grant from NJDOT on County Road 539.



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### Brief Updates & Dialogue

#### a) Princeton Transitway Study

Mike Viscardi of NJ Transit stated that there is concept study in procurement to look at what to do with the dinky. The train cars on the line are old and repairs are costly, although replacements are being considered. Replacing the line with bus service is also being considered. There will be a micromobility aspect included in the study. NJ Transit is also working with Mercer County to connect trails to the station. As the study is in procurement, no decisions have been made yet.

#### b) Upcoming Census Update

Lisa Moore of the New York Regional Census Center presented on the importance of the 2020 US Census. It is tied to political representation at several levels of government and is used for distributing \$675B in federal funding for social and infrastructure programs. The Census Bureau cannot share data with law enforcement or immigration agencies and is partnering with local community organizations to encourage low-response communities to participate. There are several ways to respond: online, phone, paper, or personal visits. Surveys are available in 13 languages over the phone and 59 online. Responses will be solicited starting March 12.

#### c) North Brunswick Station Update

Tom Vigna of North Brunswick gave an update on the North Brunswick rail station. \$50M has been awarded from the state with another \$20 million provided by the county. As of October 2019, Middlesex County Improvement Authority took over the project, hired consultants, and will progress more rapidly.

#### d) Other updates from members

The City of Trenton passed a transit-oriented development plan. The plan focuses on sites located around the Trenton Transit Center & RiverLine light rail stations.

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

## Attendees

| Mayors                |         |            |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|
| Hillsborough Township | Frank   | DelCore    |
| Hopewell Township     | Kristin | McLaughlin |
| Plainsboro Township   | Cantu   | Peter      |

| Municipal Staff & Council Members |          |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Robbinsville Township             | Bell     | Ann     |
| South Brunswick Township          | Bidlack  | Bryan   |
| Hillsborough Township             | Kois     | David   |
| Lawrence Township                 | Parvesse | James   |
| North Brunswick                   | Vigna    | Tom     |
| South Brunswick Township          | Camarota | Joe     |
| Monroe Township                   | Cohen    | Miriam  |
| Princeton                         | Cohen    | David   |
| North Brunswick                   | Andrews  | Ralph   |
| City of Trenton                   | Kolber   | Michael |
| Franklin Township                 | Chase    | Ted     |
| Plainsboro Township               | Varga    | Les     |

| Counties         |             |         |
|------------------|-------------|---------|
| Mercer County    | Lawson      | Matthew |
| Middlesex County | Greenfeld   | Doug    |
| Middlesex County | Gambilonghi | Tony    |
| Middlesex County | Ververides  | George  |
| Somerset County  | Wedeen      | Kenneth |
| Somerset County  | Lane        | Walt    |
| Somerset County  | Holzman     | Andras  |

| Metropolitan Planning Organizations |           |         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| DVRPC                               | Rodriguez | Pedro   |
| DVRPC                               | Seymour   | Barry   |
| DVRPC                               | Andrews   | Mike    |
| DVRPC                               | Boyer     | Mike    |
| DVRPC                               | Davis     | Jaclyn  |
| NJTPA                               | Goldman   | Lois    |
| NJTPA                               | Perlman   | Jeffrey |
| NJTPA                               | Ritter    | Ted     |

| Other Regional Bodies           |             |        |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Greater Mercer TMA              | Foster      | Jerry  |
| Greater Mercer TMA              | Kastrenakes | Cheryl |
| New York Regional Census Center | Moore       | Lisa   |



## CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM

|  |          |         |
|--|----------|---------|
| <b>Keep Middlesex Moving</b>                       | Neary    | Bill    |
| <b>Princeton Future</b>                            | Sturges  | Sheldon |
| <b>Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission</b> | Donnelly | Joe     |

| State Departments                         |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|
| <b>NJ Office of Planning Advocacy</b>     | Ableman  | Barry    |
| <b>NJ Department of Community Affairs</b> | Tessier  | Bob      |
| <b>NJ Transit</b>                         | Viscardi | Mike     |
| <b>NJ Transit</b>                         | LaVine   | Benjamin |
| <b>NJDOT</b>                              | Losko    | Jelena   |
| <b>NJDOT</b>                              | Tayebi   | Touraj   |
| <b>NJDOT</b>                              | Houck    | Tom      |
| <b>FHWA</b>                               | Goodson  | Brian    |

| Other                                       |          |           |
|---|----------|-----------|
| <b>Princeton University</b>                 | Appelget | Kristin   |
| <b>NJ Conservation Foundation</b>           | Brill    | Tim       |
| <b>Princeton Forrestal Center</b>           | Emmich   | Curt      |
| <b>AECOM</b>                                | Hess     | Jim       |
| <b>Dewberry</b>                             | Kanarek  | Jack      |
| <b>Einstein's Alley</b>                     | Kish     | Katherine |
| <b>Princeton Regional Chamber of Comm.</b>  | Giletto  | Basil     |
| <b>Michael Baker International</b>          | Kremer   | Peter     |
| <b>Mercer County College</b>                | Widmarc  | Dalce     |
| <b>Princeton Bicycle Advisory Committee</b> | Thio     | Tineke    |
| <b>NV5</b>                                  | Schultz  | Annette   |
| <b>AECOM</b>                                | Hess     | Jim       |