

**CR 529 Corridor Study to Improve Transit Services and
Bicycle and Pedestrian Access**

**Steering Committee – Minutes
November 13, 2014**

Attendance

Mr. Paul Larrousse, TCC Chairman/ National Transit Institute
Mr. David Hollod, North Plainfield Borough
Ms. Beth Waltrip, New Jersey Transit
Mr. Joseph Herrera, Piscataway Township
Mr. Mike Viscardi, New Jersey Transit
Mr. Charles Brown, Rutgers University – Voorhees Transportation Center
Mr. Ken Herrmann, Green Brook Township
Mr. Morteza Ansari, Keep Middlesex Moving
Ms. Suan Gravel, Edison Township
Ms. Leigh Ann Kimber, Rutgers University – Dept of Transportation Services
Mr. Doug Greenfeld, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Ms. Cyndi Steiner, New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition
Ms. Liza Betz, Union County
Mr. Ken Wedeen, Somerset County
Mr. William Robins, Dunellen Borough
Ms. Karen Alexander, New Jersey Travel Independence Program
Mr. Steven Fittante, New Jersey Transit
Ms. Esther Barrett, Edison Township
Mr. Brian Wahler, Piscataway Township
Jennifer Stuart, Rutgers University -

Staff

Ms. Sima Alimokhtary, Middlesex County Engineering Department
Ms. Mirah Becker, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Ms. Danielle Britton, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Stan Olszewski, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Nick Tufaro, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Ms. Laila Caune, Middlesex County Transportation Department
Mr. Phil Sheridan, Middlesex County Area Transit
Mr. George Ververides, Director, Office of Planning
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division
Mr. Ryan Rapp, Principal Planner, Office of Planning

Total in Attendance – 32

Mr. Gambilonghi began the meeting and discussed the project timeline. He noted the duration of the two year study being under the NJTPA FY 2015 – 2016 Subregional Studies Program which is to be completed no later than June 30, 2016. He discussed the role of the Steering Committee and projected milestones. It was noted that data and relevant literature and/or planning documents, along with recommendations are vital to the study. The timeline of upcoming open house meetings and other steering committee meetings include the following: The first public open house on the introduction of the study and the solicitation of public input/participation is to be scheduled by April 30, 2015; the second Steering Committee meeting is to be scheduled by September, 2015; the second public open house to present the final draft report is to occur by January 31, 2016; and the third meeting of the Steering Committee to approve the final will be scheduled by April 30, 2016.

A PowerPoint slide show presentation was prepared and presented by Mr. Rapp which outlined the staff's approach in identifying ways to enhance transit services, bicycling and pedestrian improvements to the Route 529 Corridor study area. This study has been approved by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority as part of the FY 2015-2016 Subregional Studies Program that provides funding for special technical studies in the region. The purpose of the study is to examine existing and future growth in the Route 529 Corridor and the opportunities for transit service expansion along with bicycling and pedestrian improvements to serve points of attraction along the corridor and in nearby areas. Route 529 Corridor starts at Route 514, Woodbridge Avenue, then turns into Stelton Road, Washington Avenue, running toward Route 22 in Green Brook.

Various data was collected and analyzed involving all public transit services and facilities in the corridor which includes Rutgers University. Sidewalk data was collected such as worn paths on segments with no sidewalks; shoulder lane was identified and the presence (or lack of) dedicated bike lane(s) were examined. Pedestrian facilities at signalized intersections were inventoried and discussed; on each leg at every location inventory was made of the presence or lack of crosswalks, depressed curbing and ramps at corners, pedestrian signal heads and countdown timers. Mr. Rapp then called for suggestions from committee members to allow for complete representation from stakeholders.

Suggestion was made from the Committee to make contact with homeowner associations along the corridor.

Ms. Alexander stated the need and benefit for public meetings to be conducted around rail stations within the corridor for greater participation and feedback. She suggested the advertisement of the Route 529 study area with connectively illustration of location points. Ms. Alexander recommended the Center for Independent Living as another possible stakeholder to the Steering committee. Mr. Fittante concurred.

Mr. Hollod offered stakeholders within the Borough of Dunellen, and stated he would contact them accordingly.

Mr. Herrmann said he would reach out to Somerset County Transportation Management Association

Mr. Herrera recommended The Villas at Fairway located on Stelton Road in Piscataway Township as a possible stakeholder.

Ms. Becker suggested the Steering Committee survey actual pedestrians and bicyclists out in the field to get a realistic list of roads and shoulder locations that accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ms. Betz discussed a bicycle facility pilot program currently being tested in Union County.

Mr. Brown suggested online surveying as oppose to an in person open house meeting.

Mr. Wedeen recommended a variable message board to reach out to train riders and assist in surveys.

Ms. Stuart commented that bicycle and pedestrian facilities on Busch / Kilmer Campuses exist in the Route 529 corridor and that students in the proposed Rutgers bike sharing program could also participate in the surveying.

Mr. Olszewski recommended a survey outreach to people who participated in local running events in New Brunswick.

Suggestion was made for information on accidents related to driving accidents from local municipal traffic safety boards to obtain statistics and data that could be helpful to the study.

There was discussion on connectivity around Camp Kilmer and Livingston Campus to the Edison Train Station via bus and bike. It was suggested that municipalities adopt complete streets ordinances.

The next upcoming steps in this study will include ongoing solicitation of comments and information along with additional data collection and technical assessment including general demographics, work travel characteristics, application of the NJ Transit "Transit Score", land use, zoning and development trends.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:47am was made and seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle A. Britton, Recording Secretary