

**FY 2015-2016 NJTPA SUBREGIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM**  
**CR 529 Corridor Study**  
**Improve Transit Services & Bicycle and Pedestrian Access**

**Second Steering Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES – December 3, 2015**

**In Attendance**

Mr. Paul Larrousse, Chairman / National Transit Institute  
Ms. Heidi Heleniak, Dunellen Borough/ Downtown Management Organization  
Mr. Chris Mazauskas, Edison Township  
Mr. John Stewart, Plainfield City  
Mayor Brian Wahler, Piscataway Township  
Mr. Andras Holzmann, Somerset County  
Mr. Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County

Mr. Paul Onish, Senator Linda Greenstein Representative – 14<sup>th</sup> District  
Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)  
Ms. Blythe Eaman, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)  
Mr. Uzoma Anuke, New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Mr. Mike Viscardi, New Jersey Transit  
Ms. Leigh Ann Kimber, Rutgers University – Department of Transportation Services  
Ms. Liza Betz, Union County  
Mr. Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway  
Mr. George M. Ververides, Director of County Planning  
Ms. Carla Cefalo, Middlesex County Economic Development  
Mr. Val D’Aloia, Middlesex County, Engineering Staff  
Ms. Danielle Britton, Middlesex County Planning Staff  
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Middlesex County Planning Staff  
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Middlesex County Planning Staff  
Ms. Kae Yamane, Middlesex County Planning Staff  
Mr. Ryan Rapp, Middlesex County Planning Staff  
Mr. Nick Turfaro, Middlesex County Planning Staff

**Total in Attendance – 25**

Mr. Paul Larrousse began the meeting with a brief introduction and welcomed all who were in attendance. A brief synopsis of the two-year technical study in the region was discussed to identify ways to enhance transit services, bicycling and pedestrian improvements to the Route 529 Corridor study area. The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) has approved the study as part of the FY 2015-2016 Subregional Studies Program with a completion date no later than June 30, 2016 was also noted.

Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi summarized 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. Mr. Gambilonghi discussed meeting details from the first public open house that was held on June 15, 2015 at the Johanna Westergard Library in Piscataway. The timeline for upcoming open house meetings and other steering committee meetings includes: The second public open house to present the final draft report is to occur by March 7, 2016 and the third meeting of the Steering Committee to approve the final will be scheduled by April 30, 2016.

Mr. Ryan Rapp reiterated the purpose of the study and provided handouts for committee distribution. Preliminary Transit Needs Assessment includes:

- Rail Transit
  - Increase in accessible parking capacity near or along train stations in Edison Township and Dunellen Borough.
  - Additional bicycle lockers
  - Better access to Kilmer Road parking lot. (Edison Township)
- Bus Transit
  - Local bus service connections from US Route 22 to US Route 1 and Woodbridge Avenue (CR 514).
  - Bus service for apartment complexes with high trip activity to employment centers, shopping centers, train stations, schools or recreational parks.
  - Bus shuttle between Edison Train Station and Rutgers University – Livingston Campus.
  - Peak period bus shuttle(s) to/from Dunellen Train Station and to/from Edison Train Station.
  - Bus service along the Centennial Avenue Corridor.
  - Bus shuttle along US Route 1 Commercial Corridor.
  - Bus shuttle from study area to Middlesex County College.
  - Connectivity from study area to nearby County parks.
  - Connectivity through train stations at Dunellen (Raritan Valley Line), Edison (Northeast Corridor), and Perth Amboy (North Jersey Coast Line).
  - Encourage public-private participation in the provision of shuttle services to the Edison Train Station or Dunellen Train Station.

- Bicycle Facilities
  - Connectivity between existing parks, scenic routes, cultural community facilities and other resources with bicycle path plans.
  - Give priority to improving bicycle accessibility to various locations such as train stations.
  - Jefferson Avenue Bridge over Green Brook Township should remain open for bicycle and pedestrian traffic (connecting Green Brook, Dunellen and Plainfield).
  - East Coast Greenway connectivity between Woodbridge, Edison, and Metuchen.
- Pedestrian Facilities
  - Safer walking conditions during winter months.
  - Widen sidewalks where there are more pedestrians.
  - Better illumination at crosswalks.
  - Provide benches and trash cans along sidewalks.

A question was asked where there were needed improvements for pedestrian safety problems in the corridor. Mr. McCracken stated that the highest pedestrian volume were at Edison and Dunellen train stations where commuter accessing the trains should use upgraded crossings and other improvements.

Mr. Gambilonghi introduced Carla Cefalo of the Middlesex County Office of Economic and Business Development. He pointed out that future opportunities growth exist in the Route 529 Corridor, and that Ms. Cefalo would describe the assistance the County offers through the County's Economic Development Business Portal. Ms. Cefalo presented a PowerPoint describing that the Office of Economic & Business serves as the primary County business source, servicing both the public and private sectors. The Office develops marketing plans, while addressing the needs of the current and future business community and manage demographics, statistical analysis; providing financial and technical assistance to the business community.

Through the new Economic Development Business Portal, the Middlesex County Office of Economic and Business Development can assist expanding or relocating businesses with site selection needs.

The feedback from the Committee supported the preliminary transit needs assessment for rail, bus, bike, and pedestrian. Committee members became aware of possibilities and were open to opportunities which the improvements to the CR529 Corridor would generate specific recommendations were in the idea stage. For example with rail; the Edison station bus shuttle connections to Route 529 are missing. Transit needs assessment recommends action and the feasibility of projects has not been scoped.

#### Next steps

Upcoming steps 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. The Second Public Open House Meeting will be held March 7, 2016 and the Third Steering Committee Meeting will be held sometime in April, 2016.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle A. Britton, Recording Secretary