

**APPROVED**  
**MIDDLESEX COUNTY**  
**TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES – October 28, 2014**

**Attendance Officers**

Mr. Paul Larrousse, Chairman  
Freeholder Charles Tomaro

**Municipal Representatives**

Mr. Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township  
Ms. Leigh Annie Hindenlang, Perth Amboy City  
Mr. Thomas Valenti, New Brunswick City  
Mr. Thomas Vigna, North Brunswick Township  
Mr. Deven Patel, South Brunswick Township  
Mr. Rizwan Baig, South Brunswick Township  
Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Township

**Others**

Ms. Jael Davis, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Mr. Richard Lowe, 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. Paul Onish, 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. Brian Tobin, 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. Daniel Lebar, Esq., 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. John Wisniewski, 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. Michael Kruimer, East Coast Greenway  
Ms. Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway  
Mr. Morteza Ansari, Keep Middlesex Moving  
Ms. Kathaleen Shaw, Middlesex County Department of Business and Education  
Mr. Brian Wahler, Middlesex County Improvement Authority  
Mr. Thomas Clark, New Jersey Transit  
Mr. Steve Fittante, New Jersey Transit  
Ms. Dorothy Le, Rutgers University – Department of Transportation Services  
Mr. Louis Hoffman, Rutgers University – NJ Travel Independence Program  
Ms. Catherine Hunt, Resident  
Mr. Mark Hoopes, Resident

**Staff**

Mr. George Ververides, Director, Office of Planning  
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division  
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division

**Total in Attendance – 29**

I.

Call to Order

- **Statement an Open Public Meetings Act**
- **Pledge Allegiance**

II.

Minutes

September 23, 2014 Minutes were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the June 24, 2014 Minutes was made by Mr. Thomas Cornell, seconded by Mr. Thomas Valenti, motion carried unanimously.

III.

- A. Welcome/ Chairman's Remarks –Chairman Larrousse called the meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. He welcomed all that were in attendance at the meeting and called for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Sign in Reminder – Chairman Larrousse reminded the public to sign the attendance sheet.
- C. Correspondence – None
- D. Comments – None

IV.

Introduction of TCC Members –

Mr. Paul Larrousse introduced himself as Chairman of the Transportation Coordinating Committee. All persons and members in attendance of the meeting introduced themselves and what organization(s) they represented.

V.

**Special Item: City of Perth Amboy Transportation Priorities**

Presented by Ms. Leigh Annie Hindenlang, Executive Director and Principal Planner for the Office of Economic and Community Development.

Ms. Hindenlang representing Mayor Wilda Diaz began her presentation by commenting that the Mayor was unable to attend the meeting but wanted to let the TCC know that the City of Perth Amboy had passed a resolution requesting the Department of Transportation take action to make safety improvements to the Victory Bridge to prevent suicides. Ms. Hindenlang discussed transportation accomplishments to date in Perth Amboy which included the development of a complete streets policy, replacing/improving bus shelters, initiating a citywide bicycle and pedestrian plan, and preliminary intersection studies.

Ms. Hindenlang discussed planned improvements to the train station; the importance of multimodal access, pedestrian, bicycling and business friendly environment; proposed transit village designation and zoning to promote transit oriented development; and increasing

efficiency of parking assets. A plan for action to redevelopment Perth Amboy with focus on transportation priorities was also addressed.

The centerpiece of the plan is to redevelop the physical train station area. A Transit District design has been described to be built on an upgraded train station with access improvements to enhance visibility; 300 new dwelling units; 65,000sq. ft. of new retail; 30,000 sq. ft. of arts/mixed use and management of one (1) new commuter and downtown parking area. The plan will also build on cultural and civic assets. The demographic profile and strong sense of community will add a uniqueness to the city that sets Perth Amboy apart from others by creating an ideal location which can bring about an energetic expression of the past with present life activities to the highest level and with greater opportunities for a new gateway connecting to its downtown, subsequently bringing bikes and trails to the waterfront, downtown and restoration for places of interest.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Hindenlang responded to questions. Mr. Gambilonghi inquired on ferry services from Arthur Kill Waterfront Gateway. Ms. Hindenlang responded by stating land use amendments are being conducted.

Chairman Larrousse commented on the tragedy of suicides from the Route 35 Victory Bridge due to a number of factors, related to the initial bridge design. Recommendations have been sent to NJDOT that would help prevent future suicides and attempts.

Chairman Larrousse discussed a resolution to support safety fencing on the Route 35 Victory Bridge between the City of Perth Amboy and the Borough of Sayreville as follow-up to a prior letter submitted last year to NJDOT former Commissioner Jim Simpson requesting the installation of such fencing to make it more difficult for potential jumpers and suicide attempts. The resolution will also support similar recent requests and communications to NJDOT from the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the City of Perth Amboy for the new Commissioner of NJDOT, Jamie Fox, and the State Legislature to address this issue. The resolution urges the safety fence to be included in its capital improvement budget.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Daniel Lebar, seconded by Mr. Sanford Gardner, motion carried unanimously.

### **Staff Reports**

**A. New Jersey Department of Transportation – Denise Peck**  
Absent.

**B. New Jersey Transit – Thomas Clark and Steven Fittante**  
Mr. Clark reported on federal funding received through the Sandy Relief Program affecting the North Jersey Coast line new bridge across the Raritan River and the redesign of the Perth Amboy train station. A public meeting will soon be held to discuss activities which the money will be utilized. Request for Proposals on the project design

began. Classification has not yet been determined if an Environmental Impact Statement or Category Elevation Report is required.

Mr. Fittante reported that a study was done highlighting various types of local transit services within the region, including the importance of the first and last mile connection to existing transit services.

- C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) – Keith Hamas**  
Absent.
- D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Richard Brundage (Retired)**  
Absent.
- E. Rutgers – The State University – Dorothy Le**  
Ms. Le discussed the status of the bicycle lockers for several campus locations.  
  
Ms. Le mentioned there were two (2) bicycle safety classes offered in October, 2014.
- F. KMM – Keep Middlesex Moving - Morteza Ansari –**  
No Report.
- G. Middlesex County Department of Community Services – Laila Caune**  
Absent.
- H. Middlesex County Engineering Office / Traffic Safety – Richard Wallner**  
Absent.
- I. Middlesex County Transportation, Board of Social Services – Nancy Nicola**  
Absent.
- J. TCC Bikeways – Pedestrian Task Force – Guy Gaspari**  
Absent.
- K. Middlesex County Improvement Authority – Brian Wahler**  
Mr. Wahler reported that the red light camera pilot project may continue until recent studies have been analyzed.
- L. East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA) – Mike and Ann Kruimer**  
Mr. Kruimer announced his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary riding from Maine to Florida. On November 7, 2014 there will be an annual meeting held in Charleston, NC.  
  
Mr. Kruimer discussed the status of the Greenway project.

**M. TCC Transit Subcommittee – Paul Larrousse, Chairman**  
No Report.

**N. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger**  
Absent.

**O. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Ron Kohn**  
Absent.

**P. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw**  
Ms. Shaw discussed her departments' web portal that recruits business investments to the region. The search engine is beneficial for investors and developers to access information on commercial properties and space for sale or rent. Ms. Shaw suggested Ms. Hindenlang collaborate with her department during Perth Amboy's redevelopment phase to exchange data information. Access to the website portal can be found on the County's website.

**Q. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken**  
Mr. McCracken highlighted the following news articles that were distributed in the packet for information:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Merger of three state transportation agencies proposed             | Pg. 1  |
| Tesla charging stations approved for Turnpike                      | Pg. 3  |
| Officials eye gas tax hike to fix NJ roads and bridges             | Pg. 7  |
| Hundreds walk, sing on Victory Bridge                              | Pg. 9  |
| PATH Extension would link airport to the NY – NJ metropolitan area | Pg. 12 |
| Amtrak urges construction of new Hudson River tunnels              | Pg. 16 |
| Bridge closed to pedestrians after spate of suicide attempts       | Pg. 20 |
| Group – Don't stop NJ red light cameras                            | Pg. 32 |
| Lanes ready to roll as \$2.5B Turnpike widening winds down         | Pg. 36 |

**R. Staff Activities – George Ververides –**  
Mr. Ververides stated Mr. Jamie Fox is the new Commissioner of NJDOT. He commented on pending infrastructure concerns of the State and addressed the popular topic of petroleum tax increase. He mentioned possible consolidation of the State's Transportation Agencies.

Mr. Ververides met with North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and suggested ways to streamline the process for implementation and reduce time to complete projects in the region.

Mr. Ververides discussed the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition One Seat Ride to New York. It was determined at the last meeting with New Jersey Transit that funding is unavailable to continue the program. The Raritan Valley Committee and municipalities can apply for grant money to rejuvenate the One Seat Ride program.

VI.

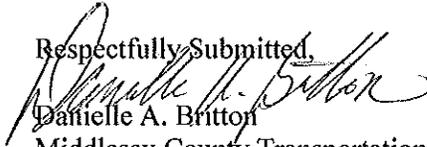
- A. **TCC Member Comments**- Mr. Lebar commented on the One Seat Ride program, and stated there is a proposal to use (CMQ) Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding for operations of the on seat ride program for direct one seat side on the Raritan Valley line to New York Penn Station, and the North Jersey Coast line service to Bay Head. Mr. Lebar asked if the County funded a grant writer position for federal programs. It was noted that the County's Office of Emergency Management applied for federal grants to help with the involvement and effects of Super storm Sandy. Other applications for federal aid have been made on projects and studies involving planning and open space.
- B. **Public Comments** - None

VIII.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm was made by Mr. Thomas Cornell, seconded by Mr. Michael Krumer, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton

Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee