

**DRAFT**

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES – May 26, 2015**

**Attendance Officers**

Mr. Paul Larrousse, Chairman

**Municipal Representatives**

Mr. Stephen Mamakas, Old Bridge Township

Mayor Brian Wahler, Piscataway Township

Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Township

**Others**

Mr. Jael Davis, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

Mr. Richard Lowe, 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Mr. Brian Tobin, 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

Mr. Daniel A. Lebar, Esq, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Districts

Ms. Laila Caune, County Office of Aging and Disabled Services

Mr. Michael Beltranena, Coach USA/ Suburban Transit

Mr. Mike and Mrs. Ann Krumer, East Coast Greenway Alliance

Mr. Peter Bilton, Highland Park Borough Resident

Mr. Morteza Ansari, Keep Middlesex Moving

Ms. Leigh Ann Kimber, Rutgers University – Dept. of Transportation Services

**Staff**

Mr. George Ververides, Director, Office of Planning

Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division

Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division

**Total in Attendance – 18**

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Minutes**

April 28, 2015 Minutes were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the March 24, 2015 Minutes was made and seconded by Mr. Richard Lowe.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**III. 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.

**Sign in Reminder**

Chairman Larrousse reminded the public to sign the attendance sheet.

**Correspondence** –

Mr. Gambilonghi announced that the Department of Transportation will conduct a 9/11 Memorial Trail Corridor Feasibility Study and the Planning Office will participate as a member on the Advisory Committee. The first kick-off meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2015.

**Comments** – None

**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.

**IV. Special Item: Existing and Planned Transportation Activities in Piscataway Township**

Presentation given by: Mayor Brian Wahler

Mayor Wahler discussed various municipal road and bridge projects and current activity including proposed roadways, bicycling, and pedestrian improvements as well as bike lanes and sidewalks through the township. Currently 31 projects are underway. Road improvements that have approached completion or close to being completed include Haines Avenue; Stelton Road to New Durham Road, which was completed in January, 2012; Hoes Lane West, Orchard Road to Mitchell Avenue to be completed in June, 2015. Improvements to Lakeview Avenue, Washington Avenue to Fairview Avenue are under construction and to be completed in the fall. Roads paved in 2015 include:

Avon Street	Bay Street	Custer Street
Farmland Court	Long Street	Mountain Avenue
No. Randolphville Road	Nye Court	Plane Street
Plymouth Court	Salem Street	

Mayor Wahler discussed the status of several Township/County road projects:

- Metlars Lane, South Washington Avenue (Lake Nelson) to Stelton Road
  - *under construction; to be completed in 2015*
- New Brunswick Avenue, Lakeview Avenue to West 7<sup>th</sup> Street
  - *completed in 2013*
- River Road, Hoes Lane West to Sutphen Road
  - *completed in 2015*
- River Road, Plainfield Avenue to John Field Court
  - *Request for bids in May 2015*
- River Road, Route I-287 to Netherwood Avenue
  - *Request for bids in May 2015*
- New Durham Road and Corporate Boulevard Intersection
- New Market Road, Consolidated Railroad Tracks to Washington Avenue
- Stelton Road, to Ethel Road to Edison Township
- Stelton Road, Lakeview Avenue to Cumberland Road
- Stelton Road, New Durham Road to Melrose Avenue
- Washington Avenue to Dunellen Lane
- Washington Avenue, Cumberland Road to Lakeview Avenue
- West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Washington Avenue to Clinton Avenue

The Route 18 Extension to I-287 is near completion by NJDOT and is expected to be done by the end of this year or early next year.

Bridge and culvert projects also were highlighted:

- Blackford Avenue
  - *under construction*
- Mayfield Lane
  - *completed*
- Baekeland Avenue
- First Avenue
- River Road
- Zirkel Avenue and Wickley Avenue

### **Staff Reports**

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

**B. New Jersey Transit – Thomas Clark**

Mr. Clark reported that continued public hearings across the State are being conducted in regards to the fare hike and service cuts to NJ Transit bus and train riders to address an \$80 million budget gap. Middlesex County officials have been in attendance. In the coming months, the Board of Trustees will review the minutes and comments from all meetings and a decision will be made effective September, 2015.

On the North Jersey Coast Line; the one-seat ride initiative with direct service into New York Penn Station from Bay head; which has a stop at the Rahway station. Three trains will service the a.m. & p.m. peak. In addition, two new dual train locomotives are to be installed.

**C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) – Keith Hamas**  
Absent.

**D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Michael Grant**

Absent.

**E. Rutgers – The State University – Leigh Ann Kimber**

Ms. Kimber discussed the bicycle share program. Ms. Kimber discussed the process within the Master Plan; she mentioned that contractor bids were being submitted for review.

**F. KMM – Keep Middlesex Moving –Morteza Ansari**

Mr. Ansari reported on current activities.

**G. Middlesex County Department of Community Services – Laila Caune**

Ms. Caune reported on current activities.

**H. Middlesex County Engineering Office / Traffic Safety – Richard Wallner**

Absent

**I. Middlesex County Transportation, Board of Social Services – Nancy Nicola**

Absent.

**J. Middlesex County Improvement Authority – Brian Wahler**

No Report.

**K. East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA) – Mike and Ann Kruimer**

Mr. Kruimer reported on the Farmlands Tour held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Turnout was 800 riders. The Freewalkers “Big Walk” event had 32 people attend and walk from Metro Park to New York City. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Bike Tour of E&M had 130 riders. Mr. Kruimer stated the Freewalkers website lists all upcoming events for anyone interested in participating.

Mr. Kruimer discussed upcoming events:

- Bike Rodeo at John Marshall School in Edison on May 30<sup>th</sup>
- The Revolutionary Ramble sponsored by Morris Area Freewheelers going out from Drew University in Morristown will be held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual Hudson River Loop Ride sponsored by the NY & NJ Committees of the East Coast Greenway.

**L. TCC Transit Subcommittee – Paul Larrousse, Chairman**

No Report.

**M. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger**

Absent.

**N. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena**

No Report.

**O. CR 529 Corridor Study Update – Tony Gambilonghi**

Mr. Gambilonghi reiterated that the CR529 Corridor Study project is moving along, and the first open house public meeting will be held at the Piscataway Westergard Library located within the study area on Monday, June 15, 2015 in the evening. Flyers have been distributed.

**P. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw**

Absent.

**Q. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken**

Mr. McCracken highlighted the following news articles that were distributed in the packet for information:

Cost to replace Air Train could go off the rails	Pg. 1
New buses are eco-friendly, but passenger averse	Pg. 3
Bombardier’s Trains Attract Chinese	Pg. 5
Cheap gas for summer can’t be ruled out	Pg. 11
Another oil train goes up in flames	Pg. 13
NY Region’s Transit wish list exceeds financial resources	Pg. 22
Support Builds to redo US Air-Traffic System	Pg. 29
Can air-traffic control go private?	Pg. 30
Amtrak train derails, killing five	Pg. 32
NJ leads in derailments caused by personnel	Pg. 38
Be careful about air-traffic control	Pg. 44

**R. Staff Activities – George Ververides**

Mr. Ververides thanked Mayor Brian Wahler for his presentation on Piscataway Township.

**V.**

**A. TCC Member Comments – Mr. Lebar discussed transportation concerns in the region.**

**B. Public Comments – None**

**VI.**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Daniel Lebar, seconded by Mike Kruimer. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle A. Britton, MCTCC