

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

**MINUTES – March 24, 2015**

**Attendance Officers**

Mr. Paul Larrousse, Chairman

**Municipal Representatives**

Mr. Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township

Lt. Gary Panichella, Highland Park Borough

Mr. Scott Derector, Metuchen Borough

Mr. John Riggs, Monroe Township

Mr. Stephen Mamakas, Old Bridge Township

Mr. Lester Varga, Plainsboro Township

Mr. Deven M. Patel, South Brunswick Township

Mr. Edward T. Seely, Spotswood Borough

Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Township

**Others**

Mr. Paul Onish, 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

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

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

Mr. Michael Beltranena, Coach USA/ Suburban Transit

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

Mr. Donald Drost, Middlesex County College

Mr. Keith Hamas, NJTPA

Mr. Thomas Clark, New Jersey Transit

Mr. James Karamanos, Highland Park Borough Resident

Ms. Leigh Ann Kimber, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

**Staff**

Mr. George Ververides, Director, Office of Planning

Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division

Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division

**Total in Attendance – 23**

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Minutes**

February 24, 2015 Minutes were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the November 25, 2014 Minutes was made and seconded. 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 stated that the Office of Planning received a letter from NJ Transit in regard to the proposed route modification for bus #811 in East Brunswick, near Milltown. Due to time constraints from bus lay over, and the impact on passengers who used the existing route, NJ Transit has decided not to advance the recommendation proposed by the County to extend peak period service to the Riva Ave – Church Lane sections of East Brunswick. Mr. Gambilonghi stated that discussions will be held with the Office of Community Services to determine the possibility of modifying the MCAT bus #1 route for possibly accommodating the new proposed service area.

**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: Capital Transportation State Aid Program**

Mr. Richard Wallner, County Engineer

Mr. Wallner reported on the FY 2016 Capital Transportation Program State Aid funding through which the County is allocated to receive \$ 5,894,000 to implement eligible projects that are awarded and deemed eligible under the program. Projects under this program that may require additional money could be funded by the County. State Aid Program monies are applied to eligible projects on a first come, first serve basis. An inventory of infrastructure projects was reviewed.

Mr. Dan Lebar, Esq, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Districts, inquired about projects listed in year 2010 in the City of Perth Amboy. Mr. Wallner responded that those projects had been completed. Mr. Lebar further inquired about current resurfacing projects listed on State Street, and Smith Street to Ferry Street. Mr. Wallner confirmed the bid amount and stated that construction is set to begin in the next couple of weeks. A question was asked with regard to procedures of project bids and funding allocation. Mr. Wallner stated that projects have County jurisdiction consequently the bidding process is handled through County. Funding allocation already received approval by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. There were additional questions that pertained to the current cost of asphalt.

Mr. Paul Onish, 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, inquired about routine roadway maintenance and other construction projects in the towns of Cranbury Twp., Jamesburg Boro., Monroe Twp., Plainsboro Twp., and Spotswood Boro. Mr. Wallner stated town projects must be programmed in and locally endorsed by their municipality and included in the State Aid Program to become eligible for funding. Project #11309/113090 in District #14 (Cranbury) was awarded monies to initiate milling, resurfacing, and rehabilitation to the roadway within the project limits of Route 130, Westfield Avenue to Main Street. Mr. Wallner explained that very few projects had been awarded for the mentioned towns.

Motion made by Mr. John Riggs, Monroe Twp., to approve and send the proposed resolution to the Board of Chosen Freeholders as a recommendation to endorse implementation of FY2010-2015 Capital Transportation State Aid Program, as read by Chairman Larrousse. Motion seconded by Mr. Dan Lebar., Esq., 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Districts, Mr. Deven Patel, South Brunswick Twp., abstained. Motion passed.

A video was shown to the Committee entitled, "60 Minutes – National Transportation Infrastructure Needs".

Highlights of the video noted that there are 70,000 bridges in the United States; 1 out-of-every 9 bridge is considered 'structurally deficient'. An estimated 32% of major roadways in the US are in 'poor' conditions. Philadelphia has the worst report in the nation when it comes to the conditions of its infrastructure. Metropolitan Pittsburgh, PA has over 4,000 bridges and over 20% of them are structurally deficient. Lack of adequate funding sources requires an increase for stable, dedicated and ongoing funding contribution to address highways, bridges, and transit system needs. The growth of infrastructure obsolescence and neglect has created a necessity for major improvements and new projects which would be vital to the economic growth and well being of all.

The video highlighted the Interstate 35 Bridge which collapsed in Minnesota killing 13 people and injuring 145 people in year 2007. In 2013, the Washington State Interstate 5 Skagit River Bridge also collapsed. The film discussed the need to replenish funding for the Federal Highway Trust Fund as well as the need for sufficient State funding resources.

Chairman Larrousse concluded that the deterioration of infrastructure must be resolved to protect the safety of the transportation network, and that there is a need for an immediate course of action to finance structure improvement(s) to reduce repercussion in the future.

After further discussion on infrastructure needs and potential new revenues options, motion was made by Mr. John Riggs, Monroe Twp., to endorse and send a proposed resolution to the Board

of Chosen Freeholders as a recommendation to urge the Governor and State Legislature to raise a minimum of \$1 billion a year in new revenues to produce a stable, ongoing and adequate program. Such a program is needed to replace the money from the Transportation Trust Fund that is going solely for debt payment. The resolution also calls on the Governor and State Legislature to begin to address the large number of unmet transportation infrastructure projects and intermodal needs affecting highways, bridges, rails, bus facilities, safety initiatives, and special transportation accommodations for the disabled. Motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Twp. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Staff Reports**

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

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

Mr. Clark noted that the Delco Lead Safe Haven Storage and Re-inspection facility project to construct a safe haven storage facility for rail rolling stock located along the Northeast Corridor, South of the New Brunswick Station is now in the outreach phase. An open house meeting is scheduled to discuss the Delco Lead Safe Haven project on April 16<sup>th</sup> 4pm-8pm at New Brunswick City Hall Chambers.

Also mentioned was the Raritan River Drawbridge Replacement Project to replace the North Jersey Coast Line's aged and deteriorated Raritan River Drawbridge between South Amboy and Perth Amboy City which was damaged by Superstorm Sandy. The new bridge would be less vulnerable to storm surge and flooding.

There was discussion on possible considerations of a fare hike and service cuts to NJ Transit bus and train riders to address an \$80 million budget gap with a steady source of funding. The Transportation Trust Fund that was intended to provide a stable and ongoing funding source for transportation supports about \$480 million of the \$1.2 billion capital program.

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

Mr. Hamas reported the Board of Trustees amended and approved the Transportation Improvement Program and projects under the Disaster Recovery and Resilience Program, items include:

1. *\$446.3M* – North Jersey Coast Line's aged and deteriorated Raritan River Drawbridge with a new structure less vulnerable to storm surges and flooding.
2. *\$409.8M* – Create a microgrid system that will supply NJ Transit and Amtrak trains with power during blackouts.
3. *\$184.5M* – Construct new safe haven storage facility for trains near the New Brunswick Station on the Northeast Corridor line.
4. *\$89M* – Signal, communication and switch system improvements on multiple train lines.
5. *\$4.3M* – Resurfacing work on Route 1 from Raymond Road in South Brunswick to Aaron Road in North Brunswick.

6. \$3.7M – Resurfacing work on Route 1 from Route 91 in North Brunswick to Route 18 in New Brunswick.

Mr. Hamas noted that on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, NJTPA will hold another “*DO – IT*” (Developing Opportunities for Innovation in Transportation) workshop from 10am-1pm. The program will showcase transportation planning schools throughout the region.

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

Absent.

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

Ms. Kimber noted that Rutgers submitted an application to NJTPA for federal funding of a Bike Share Program to support the expansion of bicycling usage in New Brunswick and surrounding area.

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

Absent.

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

Absent.

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

No Report.

**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**

Absent.

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

Mr. Kruimer discussed upcoming events:

- The Franklin Food Bank Rise to be held at the Franklin Municipal Township, scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Brookdale Community College Farmlands Tour, located in Lincroft, scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bicycle Tour of Edison and Metuchen (25 mile run) to start at the Edison Municipal Township scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>.

There will be three ‘Freewalker’ events:

- Great Canal Walk from Trenton to New Brunswick (40 mile) scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The Between Walk from New Brunswick to Metro Park (15 mile) scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>.

- The Big Walk from Metro Park to Penn Station New York (50 mile) scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

Chairman Larrousse continued the journey of checking out transit systems from around the world and rode the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest subway train, the Continental Europe.

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

**O. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena**  
No Report.

**P. CR 529 Corridor Study Update – Tony Gambilonghi**  
Mr. Gambilonghi reported 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. More will follow

**Q. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw**  
Absent.

**R. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken**  
Mr. McCracken highlighted news articles that were distributed in the meeting packet.

**S. Staff Activities – George Ververides**  
Mr. Ververides thanked Mr. Wallner for the Capital Transportation State Aid presentation.

**VI.**

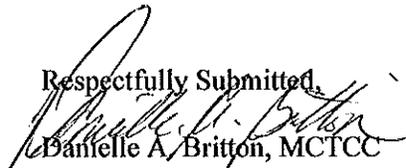
**A. TCC Member Comments – Mr. Riggs, Monroe Township, announced that the 2010 Department of Transportation research fund for bicycle trails, sidewalks, and roadway improvements through the Environmental Commission was adopted as an element of the Monroe Township master plan. A presentation was given to the TCC on this project back in 2010.**

**B. Public Comments – None**

**VII.**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Danielle A. Britton, MCTCC