

APPROVED

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES – September 29, 2015

Attendance Officers

Freeholder Charles E. Tomaro
Mr. Paul Larrousse, Chairman

Municipal Representatives

Mr. John Riggs, Monroe Township
Mr. Mike Costello, Monroe Township – Environment Commission
Mr. Carlo Socio, North Brunswick Township
Mr. Tom Vigna, North Brunswick Township

Others

Mr. Jael Davis, 6th Congressional District
Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District
Mr. Daniel A. Lebar, Esq, 18th Legislative Districts
Mr. Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Mrs. Ann Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Mr. Steve Fittante, New Jersey Transit
Mr. Thomas Clark, New Jersey Transit
Mr. Bill Neary, Keep Middlesex Moving
Ms. Leigh Ann Kimber, Rutgers University – Dept. of Transportation Services
Mr. Zachary Subar, Rutgers University – Dept. of Transportation Services
Ms. Karen Alexander, Rutgers University – NJ Travel Independence Program
Mr. Keith Hamas, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Ms. Pam Fischer, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Mr. James Karamanos, Highland Park Borough Resident
Mr. Carlton Brathwaite, New Brunswick City Resident

Staff

Mr. George Ververides, Director, Office of Planning
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division
Ms. Danielle Britton, TCC Secretary, Transportation Division

Total in Attendance – 25

Call to Order

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

II. Minutes

May 26, 2015 Minutes were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the April 28, 2015 Minutes was made by Mr. John Riggs, seconded by Mr. Michael Kruimer. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Welcome/ Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Larrousse called the meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Chairman welcomed all that were in attendance of 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 Tuesday, October 27, 2015, Transportation Coordinating Committee meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2015. There will be a joint meeting with the Union County Transportation Advisory Board at Carteret Borough Hall Council Chambers in Carteret Borough, New Jersey. Members will be notified of directions and additional meeting details in the coming weeks.

Freeholder Comments – Freeholder Tomaro welcomed everyone to the new meeting location in the Freeholder Meeting Room and expressed gratitude to all members and the public in attendance.

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: New Jersey Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Program

Presented by: Pam Fischer, Special Projects Manager, Safety Planning
Keith Hamas, Principal Planner, Safety Planning and Mobility Programs

Ms. Fischer gave an overview of New Jersey's Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Program. The campaign entitled "Check Your Vital Signs" means for drivers to obey speed limits and stop signs, and stop for pedestrians. For Pedestrians it means to use crosswalks, and obey walk and don't walk signals. The messages are being promoted as a public health initiative to educate and provide awareness for behavioral changes to pedestrian safety. Ms. Fischer provided statistical data from 2011; and in the U.S., 3 out-of-4 pedestrian fatalities occurred in an urban setting and 69,000 pedestrians were injured.

New Jersey's Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and receives contributions from various local partners. The launch of the 2013 education campaign began in pilot communities: Newark City, Jersey City, Woodbridge Township, and the Township of Hackettstown. Long Beach Island was identified and added to the roster in 2014. The City of New Brunswick is the latest pilot community in Middlesex County. The second phase of the initiative will start in October, 2015 to further spread the word about Street Smart NJ in conjunction with Walk to School Day and other events. Pam stated the campaign uses various forms of advertisement including outdoor, transit, online advertising (i.e. social media outlets), along with grassroots awareness and law enforcement to address pedestrian safety.

Ms. Fischer illustrated in a PowerPoint presentation the different messaging signs and posters for motorists and pedestrians, along with 'tip cards' that are used to engage law enforcement and residents within the community. The Street Smart NJ Guidebook can be utilized as a source of reference that provides a checklist for:

Problem Identification (Pre-Campaign)

High Visibility Enforcement Planning, Implementation and Evaluation

Public Outreach Planning, Implementation and Evaluation

Problem Identification (Post-Campaign)

Mr. Hamas informed the committee on strategies of how the campaign evaluation results are applied. He stated that research analysis is conducted through Rutgers University and PROvuncular. Two approaches were discussed: Pre and Post Observational Study, and Pre and Post Intercept Surveys. Three methods were also described: Education, Enforcement, and Evaluation.

Education – tip cards; identify areas, create new campaigns in communities, etc.

Enforcement – engage and educate pedestrians and drivers.

Evaluation – study and survey conducted.

Mr. Hamas noted that participation interest in the Street Smart NJ program has increased with a proven success rate for changing the traveler's behavior in making safer, smarter decisions on the roadway. In Woodbridge Township (Pre-Campaign), 31 percent of the community was non-compliant in pedestrian jaywalking and crossing against the signal; compared to 5% non-compliant after joining the program (Post-Campaign).

At the conclusion of the presentation, the committee was invited to visit www.beststreetsmartnj.org for additional information and to download forms on how to become active in one's respective community.

Chairman Larrousse read into record a resolution in support of the Gateway Tunnel Project. Motion was made and seconded. Motion moved unanimously.

Staff Reports

A. New Jersey Department of Transportation – Raymond Tomczak

Absent.

B. New Jersey Transit – Thomas Clark

Mr. Clark reported that bus route #655 no longer exists.

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

Mr. Hamas announced the deadline for other municipalities that may be interested in participating as a pivot community in the Street Smart NJ Program.

D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Michael Grant

Absent.

E. Rutgers – The State University – Leigh Ann Kimber

Ms. Kimber reported that the kick-off meeting for the Transportation Master Plan is being held in September.

Mr. Subar reported that the BikeRU Initiative will hold outreach events (referred to as POP-UPS) to promote alternative transit and provide the community with the best possible solutions for getting around campus safely with a focus on bicycling. A grant application was submitted to expand the Bike Sharing Program.

F. KMM – Keep Middlesex Moving – Bill Neary

Mr. Neary reported that Car Free Week was successful in signing up people to pledge. The program encourages people to reduce dependency on automobiles. The Pedestrian Flag Program in Metuchen Borough has been adopted. Participation in the ‘Walk the Kids to School’ program has been successful – awareness for the need for more walkable communities has increased.

It was noted that Central Jersey Transportation Forum (CJTF) is moving along and a letter proposing to stabilize funding will be introduced. Mr. Thomas Bracken of the NJ Chamber of Commerce will be attending the next meeting scheduled for October 20, 2015.

A traffic study was done on Patterson Street in New Brunswick to determine calming measures during congestion peak hours. A traffic signal now exists.

KMM submitted a grant application entitled, “Paint the Pavement”. The program allows for mural painting on public streets to encourage public art and to transform roadway public spaces.

G. Middlesex County Engineering Office / Traffic Safety – Richard Wallner

Absent.

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

Absent.

I. Middlesex County Improvement Authority – Brian Wahler

Absent.

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

Mr. Kruimer announced upcoming events:

- Cyclovia event in New Brunswick on October 4th.
- 8th Annual Hudson River Loop ride with ECG on October 11th – 25 miles.
- ECGA Semi-Annual meeting will be held on November 13th in Miami, FL.

K. TCC Transit Subcommittee – Paul Larrousse, Chairman

No Report.

L. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger

Absent.

M. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena

Absent.

N. CR 529 Corridor Study Update – Tony Gambilonghi

Mr. Gambilonghi stated the Steering Committee will meet sometime in early December, 2015. The second open house public meeting will be scheduled sometime in February, 2016.

O. Business Development and Education – Bill Neary (reported on behalf of Kathaleen Shaw)

Mr. Neary stated that Amazon has a warehouse site located in Carteret Borough has 2 ½ million square mile of space with 8,000 employees. Roughly 14% of these employees use mass transit, and 22% car pool. There was further in-depth discussion on the company and transportation alternatives.

P. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken

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

What happened to walking to school?	Pg.2
\$1.4B in tolls: That's a lot of loose change	Pg.6
Tesla grabs large plot of land in Nevada	Pg. 13
Done deal: NJ Transit ok's 9% fare hikes	Pg. 14
NJ Transit fare hike puts squeeze on riders	Pg. 15
NJ Transit fare increases are set for October	Pg. 17
Transportation Secretary seeks meeting with Cuomo and Christie on Hudson River Rail Tunnels	Pg. 19
Continuing on \$28M Route 18 Extension Project	Pg. 23
Christie, feds vow to build new tunnel	Pg. 29
NY – NJ Project for Hudson Tunnel faces long list of obstacles	Pg. 31
GOP Leader: I'm ready to vote for gas tax hike	Pg. 32

Q. Staff Activities – George Ververides

Mr. Ververides thanked Pam Fischer, Keith Hamas, and the entire NJTPA staff for the Street Smart presentation.

Mr. Ververides discussed proposed projects that will have an impact on Middlesex County and the surrounding region. This includes upgrades proposed on the Northeast Corridor, the North Brunswick loop, the Portal Bridge, the Gateway Tunnel project and proposed improvements to

Port Authority's Bus Terminal. George asserted that infrastructure funding was a major concern in the 1960's and continues to be a major concern going into year 2016.

Mr. Ververides discussed the status of the Raritan Rail Coalition and its continued persistence in providing one-seat ride services on Sundays from High Bridge to New York City.

V.

- A. **TCC Member Comments** – Mr. Lebar suggested during the summer months that field trips should be scheduled around the County and to various transportation agencies, warehouses, and other project sites and facilities.

Mr. Kruimer noted at the intersection of Jersey Avenue and VanDyke Street that a traffic light is needed.

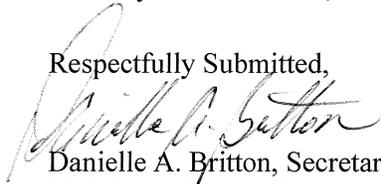
- B. **Public Comments** – None

VI.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Mike Kruimer, seconded by John Riggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary

Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee