

APPROVED
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES – March 22, 2016

Attendance Officers

Mr. Paul Larrousse, Chairman
Mr. Tom Vigna, Vice Chairman

Municipal Representatives

Mr. Jeffrey Van Woeart Carteret Borough
Ms. Deborah Berger, East Brunswick Township (Traffic Advisory Board)
Mr. Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township
Mr. John Riggs, Monroe Township
Mr. Allan Marcus, Old Bridge Township
Mr. Steve Mamakas Old Bridge Township
Mr. Guadalupe Munoz, Perth Amboy City
Ms. Alsan Ali, South Brunswick Township
Ms. Cynthia Urbanik, South River Borough
Mr. Tom Cornell, Woodbridge Township

Others

Ms. Jael Davis, 6th Congressional District
Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District
Mr. Carlo Socio, 17th Legislative District
Mr. Daniel A. Lebar, Esq, 18th Legislative Districts
Mr. Donald Newton, 19th Legislative District
Mr. Peter Bilton, Highland Park Borough Resident
Mr. Bill Neary, Keep Middlesex Moving
Ms. Blythe Eaman, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Mr. Kevin Dunn, New Jersey Turnpike Authority
Mr. Mike Beltranena, Suburban Transit/COACH USA

Staff

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

Total in Attendance – 26

I. Call to Order

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

II. Minutes

February 23, 2016 Minutes were distributed for approval as the next meeting.

Motion to approve the November 4, 2015 Minutes was made by Mr. Cornell and seconded by Mr. Onish. Mr. Riggs Abstained. 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 – None.

Freeholder Comments – Absent.

Introduction of TCC Members

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

IV. Special Item: Middlesex County Route 529 Corridor Study - Recommendations

Presented by: Ryan Rapp, Principal Planner

Mr. Rapp gave a follow-up briefing from the Second Public Open House meeting held on March 7, 2016 at the Stelton Community Center in Edison Township. Over 38 attendees participated. The Route 529 Corridor Study has continued identifying various ways to enhance transit services, bicycling and pedestrian improvements to the area.

Mr. Ryan Rapp reiterated the purpose of the study, and distributed handouts of proposed bus service routes, bike and sidewalk routes along major roadways. Recommendations were received from the public:

- Rail Transit
 - In the winter: Seasonal parking and access problems
 - Stairwell from new parking is difficult for seniors, etc. Need ramp switchback.
- Bus Transit
 - Expand bus service and extend routes
 - Shuttle services from apartment complexes to train stations (e.g. Rivendell at Edison Apartments to Edison Train Station)
 - Shuttle services to run along Kilmer Campus from Kilmer Homes and Ozanam Shelter.
 - Bus service from Edison Train Station to Middlesex Mall Plaza.
 - Train/Bus connectively from neighboring towns/cities to South Plainfield, Piscataway, New Brunswick.

- Existing Bus Route#814* – Expand mobility needed to Library and Retail locations (e.g. malls)
- Currently at intersection Plainfield Avenue and Woodbridge Avenue: commuters have to cross over Route 1 to get to bus stop. Closer access needed.
 - Bus service to Wick Shopping Plaza (Edison) with loop around to/at Walgreens at Plaza.

Existing Bus Route#819 – More frequent stops needed.

- **Bicycle Facilities**
 - Bikeway connections are essential.
 - Connect train stations Northeast Corridor (Edison) to Raritan Valley Line (Dunellen).
- **Illumination Facilities**
 - Truman Drive in Edison – Very dark in the evening; lighting is needed.
 - Suttons Lane in Edison, train rail underpass – illumination needed.
- **Pedestrian Facilities**
 - Sidewalk gap – Townhomes on Stelton Road toward Edison Train Station
 - Sidewalks needed between Ethel Road and Edison Train Station on the opposite side of the 529 Corridor.
 - Sidewalks needed on Kilmer Road in Edison.
 - Kilmer Road: too wide for single use.
 - Make 2 lanes both directions or make better defined lanes.

Mr. Rapp reminded the TCC that all recommendations are still being accepted and reviewed. There will be further discussion on the recommendations at the next and final meeting of the Steering Committee being held on Monday, April 11, 2016 at Middlesex County Administration Building, Lower Level Conference Room (C).

Staff Reports

A. New Jersey Department of Transportation – Uzoma Anuke
Absent.

B. New Jersey Transit –Thomas Clark
Absent.

C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) – Keith Hamas
Ms. Eaman described the Street Smart Campaign during the month of March. The educational awareness campaign is designed to shift the behavioral patterns of distracted pedestrians and drivers. There are five core messages in which the campaign follows:

Obey speed laws	Stop for pedestrians
Wait for walk sign	Use cross walks
Heads up; Phones down	

NJTPA started the Street Smart campaign in 2015, since then, seven municipalities within Middlesex County participant.

D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Kevin Dunn
Mr. Dunn reported that the Turnpike design project at exit 8a - Cranbury has been scaled back. The \$80 million project now includes improvements to the intersection of CR535 and NJ-32. The project also includes the widening of NJ Turnpike ramps, to and from Route NJ-32. South bound

CR535 left-turn onto the turnpike is a one-way; before we can widen CR535, turnpike ramp needs widening. There is current discussion on ways to continue with the project such as parcel swap with neighboring businesses (e.g. hotel at the corner of the subject property)

Mr. Dunn noted there is an agreement with NJ Turnpike and Middlesex County to put in a dual left-lane onto CR535 (South Brunswick/Monroe). The work is roughly \$10 million. No major concrete elevated work for trucks is being proposed.

E. Rutgers – The State University – Jennifer Stuart, Leigh Ann Kimber
Absent.

F. KMM – Keep Middlesex Moving –William Neary, Morteza Ansari
Mr. Neary mentioned that KMM are partners with Woodbridge and Metuchen on the Street Smart Program. Information will be provided, as well as, assistance to any town who may be interested in participating.

Mr. Peter Bilton is working in Highland Park on the Safe Routes to School Program.

KMM is also taking on the distracted pedestrian problem – by implementing an initiative entitled, “Paint the Pavement”. Gift certificates are being offered to young people who submit designs and drawings for the pavement for reminder to drop the cell phone at intersections and cross the walk.

G. Middlesex County Area Transit Services – Laila Caune, Phil Sherdan
Absent.

H. Middlesex County Engineering Office – Richard Wallner
Absent.

I. Middlesex County Improvement Authority – Denise Nickel
Absent.

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

K. Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management – John Ferguson
Absent.

L. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger
Absent.

M. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena
Mr. Beltranena announced that Mr. Brett Burke is the new General Manager, and Mr. William Pelzer is the new Assistant General Manager.

Mr. Beltranena stated that due to the following terrorist attacks in Belgium, various bus services are on heightened security.

N. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw, Carla Cefalo
Absent.

O. CR 529 Corridor Study Update –Tony Gambilonghi

Mr. Gambilonghi announced that the April 11th meeting of the Steering Committee will consider the proposed recommendations.

P. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken

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

Q. Staff Activities – George Ververides

Mr. Ververides noted that the TransAction Conference is being held from Tuesday, April 12th to Thursday, April 14, 2016 at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ.

V.

TCC Member Comments – Mr. Ververides asked Mr. Dunn if there will be any improvements at NJ-32 and Route 130 considering improvements were included in the original project proposal. Mr. Dunn said the original plans have been shelved and that portion would be a separate project with the Department of Transportation at another time.

Mr. Ververides asked if the design has been discussed with County Engineering. Mr. Dunn said a discussion has not occurred, yet. The first phase of the project is simply to design how the turnpike can improve its ramp, possibly with swapping parcels and/or taking over land with a nearby hotel. After that process is completed, the Turnpike will approach County Engineering.

Public Comments – None

VI. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Mr. Beltranena, seconded by Mr. Riggs. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee