

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

**MINUTES – May 24, 2016**

**Attendance Officers**

Freeholder Charles E. Tomaro  
Mr. Thomas Vigna, Vice Chairman

**Municipal Representatives**

Mr. Dennis McFadden, Carteret Borough  
Mr. Peter Bilton, Highland Park Borough  
Mr. Lupe Munoz, Perth Amboy City  
Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Township

**Others**

Ms. Jael Davis, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Mr. Paul Onish, 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. Daniel A. Lebar, Esq, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Districts  
Mr. Donald Newton, 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Mr. Mike and Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Mr. James Karamanos, Highland Park Resident  
Mr. Morteza Ansari, Keep Middlesex Moving  
Mr. Charlie Kratovil, New Brunswick Today Newspaper  
Mr. Anthony Larobina, New Brunswick Resident  
Ms. Blythe Eaman, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority  
Mr. Kevin Dunn, New Jersey Turnpike Authority  
Mr. Tom Clark, New Jersey Transit  
Mr. Zachary Subar, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
Mr. Mike Beltranena, Suburban Transit/COACH USA  
Mr. Frank Wong, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

**Staff**

Mr. George M. Ververides, Director, Middlesex County Office of Planning  
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division  
Ms. Danielle A. Britton, Transportation Division

**Total in Attendance – 24**

## **I. Call to Order**

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

## **II. Minutes**

April 26, 2016 Minutes were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve the March 22, 2016 Minutes was made by Mr. Thomas Cornell, and seconded by Mr. Paul Onish. Motion carried unanimously.

## **III. Welcome/ Chairman's Remarks**

Vice Chairman Vigna 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**

Vice-Chairman Vigna reminded the public to sign the attendance sheet.

**Correspondence** – No announcement.

**Freeholder Comments** – No announcement.

### **Introduction of TCC Members**

All persons and members in attendance of the meeting introduced themselves and what organization(s) they represented.

## **IV. Special Item: Rutgers University – Transportation Master Plan**

Presented by: Frank Wong, Director, Physical and Capital Planning, Rutgers University

Due to a technical malfunction in the Freeholder Meeting Room, the PowerPoint presentation was unavailable. A hard copy of the PowerPoint was distributed as Mr. Wong highlighted key items for point of discussion.

Mr. Wong stated that the University Master Plan (Rutgers 2030) is an opportunity to engage the Rutgers community and to gather support for the goals of the strategic plan. One goal of the plan is to create a transportation environment that enhances mobility alternatives (i.e. parking, transit, bicycling, and walking) for students, faculty, staff and visitors. Mr. Wong focused his presentation on the transportation element of the master plan for New Brunswick/Piscataway campuses. He mentioned that the University has facilities in six municipalities in Middlesex County alone. Geographically, the university faces connectivity problems. Mr. Wong stated the plan addresses current and long term transportation needs for the various locations.

The University has hired a consulting firm to assist with the development of the master plan taking into account building structure, landscape, infrastructure, and transportation. The master plan will help to better understand the infrastructure improvements and operational changes that need to occur to advance the vision of Rutgers 2030. This project has been ongoing since the fall of 2015 and recommendations should be completed for review by December, 2016.

Mr. Wong stated that Rutgers University is the largest employer in the City of New Brunswick and has the largest college bus service system. There are over 40,000 students; over 10,000 faculty and staff; 2,700 acres of land; 700 + buildings and over 17 million gross square feet. Rutgers University also has the largest housing system in the country. The transportation element will be in alignment with an intercampus bus system and parking operation that includes a new development pattern. In addition the plan outlines the necessary capital improvements to serve the Rutgers community in coordination with other local municipal and county transportation initiatives.

Mr. Wong shared the consultants parking demand observation(s) and stated that New Brunswick and Piscataway parking lots that serve the University appear to be at capacity and the demand on campus is location specific. Methods are being analyzed to evaluate all transportation needs of the University. Existing services, current conditions and utilization were identified by:

- Utilization and loading.
- Running times and on-time performance.
- Transit stops location and access.
- Treatment to improve service.

Access to existing and future parking was explained. The creation of more parking spaces and restrictions on student parking on campuses were also mentioned. Parking policies included:

- Technology utilization; hybrid classes for students to learn from a remote location.
- Estimate future demand, using varying policy scenarios.
- Locate conditions from data, observation and outreach.
- Establish future campus scenarios, by phase, from Rutgers 2030.
- Identify shortfalls and needs.
- Establish parking program.
- Movement of faculty and not just students from one class to another.

Improving connectivity was further discussed. Key locations were identified in connecting transportation services between all campuses in Middlesex County. They included:

- Raritan River Boardwalk.
- Raritan River Ped/Bike Bridge and Livingston Trails Preservation.
- Busch Livingston Connection.
- George Street/Neilsen Street – Bus Rapid Transit.
- Parking needs (future development and RBHS).
- Access to Edison Train Station.
- Development of Complete Streets Initiative (providing accommodation for vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians).

Mr. Wong explained the district transit hub concept that would allow for 5-10 minutes walking or biking distance from Transit Hubs to classes, activities, and amenities. New and enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connections were reviewed.

There was discussion on connections between the D&R Canal and other bicycling facilities including Boyd Park in New Brunswick.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Wong stated that once the consulting firm finalizes the recommendations report, another meeting would follow with more detailed information on the Transportation Element.

The question and answer part of the presentation included the following comments:

Mr. Anthony Larobina asked how the Transportation Master Plan helps citizens who are not directly affiliated with the University. He inquired if the master plan would only provide transportation connections for students and faculty? Mr. Wong replied that the University bus system is a community resource, in that it does not charge the community to utilize its service. Improvements made to the right-a-way are positive assets which include development of pedestrian walkways, access to the river-walk corridor, and enhancements to the parks and open space. In turn, fewer vehicles would be on the road, which is better for the environment and beneficial for everyone. On question of ways to improve connectivity, the Transportation Master Plan will enhance alternative ways for students to maneuver between campus and for the public to access the various sections of the city and facilities on campus.

Vice-Chair Vigna noted that any improvements made to reduce traffic congestion and enhance circulation are benefits to all.

Mr. Anthony Larobina also stated there needs to be parking accommodations close to the Turnpike off Route 18 to help reduce congestion when you enter and exit from exit 9 on the Turnpike and East Brunswick. Bus service was suggested for circulation along the Route 18 corridor into New Brunswick and Piscataway.

### **Resolution Endorsing County Route 529 Study Recommendations**

After a brief discussion on the NJTPA Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 Subregional Studies Program, Route 529 Corridor Study, Vice Chairman Vigna read into record a Resolution to endorse the CR 529 Corridor Study and Recommendations Report to Improve Transit Services and Bicycle – Pedestrian Mobility to location points along the corridor and in nearby areas. Motion was made by Mr. Daniel Lebar, Esq., seconded by Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Twp., and motion passed unanimously.

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### **Staff Reports**

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

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

Mr. Clark reported on the new Raritan Bridge Replacement Project. The \$500 million project will replace the existing bridge between Perth Amboy and South Amboy. The new bridge will be raised 5ft higher along with a swing to better support future super storms. An open house public meeting will take place sometime in September, 2016. Project completion date, year 2025.

**C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) – Blythe Eaman on behalf of Keith Hamas.** No Report.

- D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority** – Kevin Dunn  
No report.
- E. Rutgers – The State University** – Zachary Subar *on behalf of Jennifer Stuart*  
No report.
- F. Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM)** –William Neary, Morteza Ansari  
Mr. Ansari provided promotional materials for distribution. Mr. Peter Bilton discussed various initiatives that are currently being implemented.
- 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  
Mr. Kruimer announced upcoming bicycle events and other riding events.
- K. Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management** – John Ferguson  
Absent.
- L. Academy Bus Co** – Chuck Kassinger  
Absent.
- M. Suburban Transit / Coach USA** – Michael Beltranena  
No Report.
- N. Business Development and Education** – Kathaleen Shaw, Carla Cefalo  
Absent.
- O. CR 529 Corridor Study Update** –Tony Gambilonghi  
Mr. Gambilonghi noted that the finalized CR529 Corridor Study Report has been submitted for review to the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. Staff is awaiting comments from NJTPA. The ultimate goal is to implement as many recommendations as possible. Mr. Gambilonghi will provide an update in the near future.
- P. Transportation News Update** – Danielle Britton *on behalf of Bruce McCracken*  
Newspaper articles were provided as part of the meeting packet.
- Q. Staff Activities** – George Ververides  
Mr. Ververides expressed concern over the rapid depletion of the State Transportation Trust Fund. Money is needed to pay for capital infrastructure improvement projects which include roadway, mass-transit, and bridge repairs. Roughly there are over 2,000 bridges in the state alone, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation for bridges in dire need of repair/replacement. Mr. Ververides noted there is tremendous pressure on Legislature to act upon the Transportation Trust Fund before July 1, 2016.

V.

**Public Comments** – Mr. Mike Krumer mentioned that the intersection of George Street, Hamilton Street and Johnson Drive in New Brunswick does not have enough space for buses to make left-turns. The signalized timer needs to be checked.

He also noted that there needs to be a pedestrian connection to Landing Lane Bridge on both sides. It is quite challenging for pedestrians to cross.

Mr. Charlie Kratovil suggested that our region investigate the development of a light rail system to transport commuters from the Route 18 corridor to various sections within New Brunswick City. He explained how the idea could be implemented by utilizing existing freight lines. Funding possibilities through public – private partnership would be beneficial for the design, build, operation and maintenance for light rail service. It was noted that light rail systems are popular and can serve as a practical mode of transportation due to the population demographics within our region.

VI. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary  
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee