

APPROVED

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

February 28, 2017

Attendance Officers

Freeholder Charles Kenny
Chairman Paul Larrousse, National Transit Institute

Municipal Representatives

Capt. Jeff Van Woeart, Carteret Borough
Mr. Mark Kataryniak, Edison Township
Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township
Mr. Brian Tobin, Metuchen Borough
Mr. Tom Valenti, New Brunswick City
Mr. Lupe Munoz, Perth Amboy City
Mr. Les Varga, Plainsboro Township
Mr. Thomas Cornell, Woodbridge Township

Others

Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District
Mr. Daniel Lebar, Esq., 18th Legislative Districts
Mr. Donald Newton, 19th Legislative District
Mr. Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Ms. Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Mr. Peter Bilton, Keep Middlesex Moving Inc. (Presenter)
Mr. David Schetterer, Monmouth County Planning Division/Transportation
Mr. Douglas Groff, Resident, Edison Township
Mr. Mike Beltranena, Suburban Transit/COACH USA
Mr. Sean Meehan, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University (Presenter)

Staff

Mr. Khalid Anjum, Department Head, Infrastructure Management
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division
Mr. Richard Wallner, County Engineer (Presenter)
Mr. Chris Wombacher, Information Technology Department

Total in Attendance – 25

I. Call to Order

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

II. Minutes

January 24, 2017 Minutes were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve both September 27, 2016 and October 25, 2016 Minutes were made by Mr. Cornell and seconded by Mr. Kruimer. Freeholder Kenny Abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

III.

IV. Welcome/ Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Larrousse called the meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Chairman 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 – None.

Freeholder Comments – None.

Introduction of TCC Members

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

- V. Special Item #1: Safe Routes to School Program.** Presented by: Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Senior Research Specialist and Sean Meehan, Project Manager from the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Mr. Sean Meehan presented information on the federal funded Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation through monies provided by the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Meehan stated the SRTS Resource Center is managed by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center and provides information to public officials and the general public to create a safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environment. This is one through research, education and distribution of materials. The program encourages and supports communities in implementing projects and programs to encourage children to walk and bicycle safely to school for a healthier and more active lifestyle at an early age.

Mr. Meehan showed a Power Point chart on the generational shift in the number of children walking to school in 1969 from 50% to 15% in 2001. Reasons were discussed from results of the study (e.g. obesity epidemic).

Infrastructure safety measures including the planning, design, and installation of sidewalks, crosswalks, signals, traffic calming and bicycling facilities are important to help increase more

children to walk to school. Mr. Meehan noted it's about safety. Attributes were discussed to illustrate reasons why children are at a greater risk to traffic accidents. Youth pedestrian crashes between ages 5 to 14 make up the largest percent of traffic fatalities according to a 2012 case study from the Federal Highway Administration agency.

Mr. Meehan highlighted several projects created to reduce and eliminate crashes and fatalities. The School Crossings at State Highways Program assesses the safety of school crossings on state highways. General field observation is conducted and guidance is given to the New Jersey Department of Transportation to target potential areas for safety improvements. Over 60% of New Jersey municipal crossing guards are trained to observe and provided information to the state.

A survey was conducted on school practices in the state which revealed that schools were unaware of safety policies. There was no identifiable district-wide policy and typically districts with 100% busing services did not permit children to walk or bike in accordance with the New Jersey Statutes Anointed 18A:25-2. Further examination of the statute was done and determined that schools do not have jurisdiction over this law. A clear unified policy was recommended for all schools to adhere.

Mr. Meehan stressed the need for the Safe Routes to School Program as a tool to educate and promote safe walking and bicycling to school as a healthier and more active alternative. Mr. Meehan noted there are over 300 + active programs in the state. Recent events held to promote the initiative was the NJ Bike and Walk Annual Summit. Also each Transit Management Association has Regional Coordinators to visit and meet with their local communities to assist with creating SRTS events, activities and assessments. NJ SRTS Recognition Program is another popular event.

Mr. Peter Bilton, Keep Middlesex Moving Inc., discussed local events in Middlesex County. He noted the SRTS program in the county has been in existence for five years. Several successful programs this year were discussed:

- 3rd Grade Bookmark Contest – 2017 Theme: Walking is fun for all seasons!
- Dad's Take Your Children to School Day – October, 2017.
- Bicycle Roedo – Assembly and outdoor activity.
- Walk and Bike to School – May, 2017.
- More School Travel Plans.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Bilton noted that brochure pamphlets were available to take and contact information was provided for additional thoughts and questions.

Questions/Answers:

Is it encouraged for children to walk on the left side of the road? Mr. Meehan replied that the practice of walking on the left side where there is minimal shoulder is still taught.

Question was asked where the presentation data source came from. Mr. Meehan said state police records generate the Plan for Safety Data through NJDOT. Rutgers University obtains access through their CAIT program.

Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District, asked how towns can be required to install sidewalks for children safety. Mr. Meehan stated that mandates cannot be placed on municipalities and more towns are becoming interested in sidewalks due to increased transportation costs.

Special Item #2: Middlesex County Capital Transportation Program for State Aid (2010 – 2017). Presented by: Richard Wallner, Middlesex County Engineer

Mr. Wallner reported on the FY 2017 Capital Transportation Program State Aid. He discussed transportation projects throughout the region, which were categorized on a priority list for discussion. State funds are programmed at \$7 - \$8 million.

The Capital Program State Aid reflects how infrastructure spending is prioritized. Monies are applied to eligible projects in the region on a first come, first serve basis. Municipal infrastructure improvements go into a pool for when funding becomes available. Middlesex County received \$5,351,000 to implement awarded projects under the program.

Questions/Answers:

Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District, inquired on the project status on Perrineville Road and Union Valley Road in Monroe. Mr. Wallner stated the project was in the construction phase.

There was question about the project on Milltown Road and Merrill Avenue in East Brunswick. Mr. Wallner stated the project was removed from the state aid this year due to lack of funding.

Resolution to endorse (2010 – 2017) Middlesex County Capital Transportation Program State Aid.

Chairman Larrousse read into record the resolution to approve and send the resolution to the Board of Chosen Freeholders as a recommendation of support to endorse the implementation of FY2010-2017 Capital Transportation State Aid Program.

Motion made by Mr. Mike Kruimer, seconded by Mr. Les Varga. Motion carried.

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**
Absent.
- D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Kevin Dunn**
Absent.

- E. Rutgers – The State University** – Jennifer Stuart
Absent.
- F. Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM)** –William Neary, Morteza Ansari
No further report.
- G. Middlesex County Area Transit Services** – Laila Caune, Phil Sherdan
Absent.
- H. Middlesex County Engineering Office** – Richard Wallner
No further report.
- I. Middlesex County Improvement Authority** – Brian Wahler
Absent.
- J. East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA)** – Mike and Ann Kruimer
Mr. Kruimer announced upcoming cycling related events:
 - 4/8/2017 Freewalkers Canal Walk from Princeton to New Brunswick – 40 miles.
 - 4/29/2017 Bike Tour de Franklin to support the Franklin Food Bank.
 - 5/6/2017 CJBC Farmlands Tour 5/6/2017.
 - 5/20/2017 Freewalkers “Big Walk” from Metro Park to NYC – 50 miles.
 - 5/21/2017 22nd Annual Bicycle Tour of Edison and Metuchen.
- 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. Transportation News Update** – Bruce McCracken.
Newspaper articles that were provided as part of the meeting packet.
- P. Staff Activities** – George Ververides
Absent.

VI.

Public Comments – Brief discussion on the connectivity of roadways on Amboy Avenue in the Borough of Metuchen by Mr. Daniel Lebar, Esq. County and Borough need to coordinate to connect county roads with local roads so there is no ponding or unpaved section(s) and ADA curb cuts are installed.

VII.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary

Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee