

APPROVED

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

January 23, 2018

Attendance Officers

Freeholder Charles Kenny
Chairman Paul Larrousse, National Transit Institute
Vice-Chairman Tom Vigna, North Brunswick Township

Municipal Representatives

Mr. Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township
Ms. Doriann Kerber, Milltown Borough

Others

Mr. Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Ms. Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Mr. James W. Karamanos, Highland Park Borough Resident
Mr. Bill Neary, Keep Middlesex Moving
Mr. Charles Kratovil, New Brunswick Today
Mr. Kevin Dunn, NJ Turnpike Authority
Mr. Tom Clark, NJ Transit
Ms. Jennifer Fogliano, NJTPA (Presenter)
Mr. Douglas Groff, Resident

Staff

Mr. Khalid Anjum, Department Head
Mr. George M. Ververides, Director, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division
Mr. John Ferguson, Office of Emergency Management
Ms. Rachel Fanaro, Information Technology Department

Total in Attendance – 19

I. Call to Order

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

II. Minutes

Meeting minutes from April 25, 2017; June 27, 2017; and October 24, 2017 were distributed for approval at the next meeting.

Motion to approve September 26, 2017 Minutes were made by Chairman Larrousse, seconded by Mr. Gardner. Motion carried. Abstained by Freeholder Kenny.

III. Welcome/ Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Larrousse called the meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The Chairman welcomed all that attended 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 – Freeholder Kenny wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the committee for their continued participation within the TCC.

Introduction of TCC Members

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

IV. Special Item: Alternative Fuel Vehicle Readiness Study Presented by: Ms. Jennifer Fogliano, Principal Planner, NJTPA Environmental and Transportation Planning.

Ms. Fogliano summarized the role of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) in relation to the County's Transportation Coordinating Committee. A synopsis on Interagency Collaboration on Alternatively Fueled Vehicle Infrastructure (AFV) was presented through use of Power Point. Ms. Fogliano stated there are three pilot communities; Montclair Township in Essex County, Woodbridge Township in Middlesex County and Secaucus in Hudson County are all implementing the use of Plug-in electric vehicles (PEV) and Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV). To refuel or recharge AFV's that operate on natural gas, propane, electricity, hydrogen, ethanol, biodiesel were discussed.

The goal of the AFV Readiness Program is to increase usage of electric vehicles and natural gases, assess demand and challenges, and recommend regulatory updates and other action. A readiness guidebook scheduled to be released in February, 2018 will be provided to all municipalities in the region which will describe benefits and drawbacks, and offer recommendations and resources. The goal of the guidebook is to be a reference for NJTPA regions to design and conduct local readiness planning efforts, to increase usage of a variety of AFV's, and provide general assistance and offer practical suggestions for any community to implement. This comprehensive tool is written primarily for municipal policy makers. It provides ideas on how to prioritize plans and gives informational facts and figures.

Ms. Fogliano mentioned that transportation accounts for the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the state (46%) accordingly to New Jersey's Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory study done by Rutgers University (*New Brunswick*) in 2015. Second highest is electricity (20%). NJTPA has environmental goals to reduce greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide emissions and other hazards.

Ms. Fogliano described the components of the municipal readiness plan which provides specific and practical methods for implementing AFV and infrastructure. Example recommendations include supporting the general market by responding to local conditions, providing various infrastructure demand types, revising Zoning and Planning Ordinances, and other suggested course of action and methodologies were discussed.

Each municipality decides what areas are considered "high opportunity" for their town. Woodbridge Township was used as an example to explain the process of demand analysis. Priority areas include Metropark, Woodbridge Corporate Plaza, Station Village, and the Community Center. Outreach was conducted to target employers to install chargers, identify funding opportunities for infrastructure development, assess the existing municipal fleet, and develop a fleet management plan to explore more opportunities. Ms. Fogliano noted that the process is data-driven.

Ms. Fogliano concluded by offering information on how to become AFV ready:

- Being flexible when responding to local conditions within a municipality;
- Obtaining basic information needed to make decisions on the best course of action for a particular area in town;
- Challenges (and opportunities) for infrastructure demand types such as multi-unit dwellings through modifying municipal ordinances; and
- Recognizing the importance of and encouraging stakeholder participation (businesses and developers).

Ms. Fogliano noted she is available to assist with utilizing the guidebook and overall understanding of the program. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be available on the Middlesex County website in the next 2 weeks (search Transportation).

Vice Chair Tom Vigna informed the TCC that the Planning Board in North Brunswick Township recently approved an application for Tesla to convert 10 existing parking spaces into 10 charging stations. Tesla vehicles are internally programmed to provide car owners with location radius of where charging stations are. Parkway and Turnpike corridors will soon have charging stations in proximately to towns within Middlesex County.

There was further dialogue on the activities of the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Office of Clean Energy pertaining to the advancement of electric vehicles on the road and charging stations for commercial and residential use; and how roadways and alternative fueled vehicle infrastructure will be financially maintained and regulated.

Mr. James W. Karamanos asked if municipalities will purchase natural gas powered vehicles and their fleets. Ms. Fogliano said there has been discussion about natural gas vehicles and most of the interest is in electric vehicles.

Staff Reports

- A. New Jersey Department of Transportation – Raymond Tomczak**
Not Present.

B. New Jersey Transit –Thomas Clark

Mr. Clark said the fully-funded Raritan Bridge Crossing project and renovation project to the train station in the City of Perth Amboy is approaching the completion of the design phase.

Mr. Clark discussed the transit village project (i.e. new train station) in North Brunswick. Work has begun on the engineering and design phase of the project.

Woodbridge Township has a new Transit Oriented Development plan in Avenel. Developer has linked the project to the Woodbridge train station. Higher ridership will come with new development.

Has met with the City of New Brunswick regarding the County Rail Yard Project. Appraisals are currently underway and when finalized along with cost and project assessment, project will go to next phase.

C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) – Peter Bilton

Not Present.

D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Kevin Dunn

Mr. Dunn reported on Turnpike maintenance work on the roadway such as ramp resurfacing, bridge repair, and other capital improvements.

Parkway on the northbound side of exit 125 and exit 127 will be repaired.

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

Not Present.

F. Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM) –William Neary, Morteza Ansari

Mr. Neary reported that KMM is hosting an Electric Vehicle Conference on Monday, April 23, 2018 in New Brunswick. For additional information and to register, contact KMM office.

G. Middlesex County Area Transit Services – Laila Caune

Not Present.

H. Middlesex County Engineering Office – Richard Wallner

Not Present.

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

Mr. Kruimer announced upcoming bicycle events:

April 11th – May 3rd 911 National Memorial Trail Bicycle Tour

Bicyclist will ride into New Brunswick from New York City on April 26th and leave for Doylestown, PA on April 27th. Riders are welcome to join with the Core Group. Mr. Kruimer noted that publicity events are welcome. Contact Bruce Donald at Edison Greenways Group or Mr. Tom Baxter at the 911 Memorial Trail.

March 3rd – 5th National Bike Summit in DC.

March 24th NJ Bike/Ped Summit in Princeton

J. Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management – John Ferguson
No Report.

K. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger
Not Present.

L. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena
Not Present.

M. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw, Carla Cefalo
Not Present.

N. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken.
Transportation events articles were provided as part of the meeting packet.

O. Staff Activities – George Ververides
Mr. Ververides staid that funding for Gateway rail tunnels are still top priorities for New Jersey and Governor Murphy’s new administration.

V. Public Comments – None.

VI.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made. Seconded by Chairman Larrousse.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee