

APPROVED

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

February 27, 2018

Municipal Representatives

Mr. Jeff Van Woert, Carteret Borough
Ms. Teri Jover, Highland Park Borough
Mr. Brian Tobin, Metuchen Borough
Ms. Miriam Cohn, Monroe Township
Ms. Cynthia Urbanik, South River Borough

Others

Mr. Michael Beltranena, COACH USA/Suburban
Ms. Jael Davis, 6th Congressional District
Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District
Mr. James W. Karamanos, Highland Park Borough Resident
Mr. Morteza Ansari, Keep Middlesex Moving
Mr. Peter Bilton, NJTPA
Mr. Brendan Torres, Rutgers University

Staff

Mr. Khalid Anjum, Department Head
Mr. George M. Ververides, Director, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division
Ms. Denise Nickel, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Richard Wallner, Middlesex County Engineering Office (Presenter)
Mr. Kunal Patel, Information Technology Department

Total in Attendance – 19

I. Call to Order

- **Statement on Open Public Meetings Act**
- **Mr. George Ververides noted that in the absence of Chairman Paul Larrousse and Vice Chairman Thomas Vigna, he would be Chairing the meeting.**

II. Minutes

Meeting minutes of January 23, 2018 were distributed for approval for the next meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2017; June 27, 2017; and October 24, 2017 were made. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

III. Welcome/ Chairman's Remarks – Mr. George M. Ververides called the meeting to order in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. He welcomed all that attended the meeting and called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sign in Reminder – Mr. Ververides reminded the public to sign the attendance sheet.

Correspondence – Mr. Ververides informed the committee that Mr. Dan Lebar, a TCC member and longtime public servant, passed away on January 23, 2018. Mr. Ververides called for a moment of silence.

Freeholder Comments – None.

Introduction of TCC Members

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

IV. Special Item: Middlesex County Capital Transportation Program for State Aid (2010 – 2018). Presented by: Richard Wallner, Middlesex County Engineer

Mr. Wallner discussed the Capital Transportation Program (CTP) State Aid for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018. He outlined transportation projects within various municipalities. The CTP reflects the need to prioritize spending. Projects are categorized on a priority list for implementation. State funds awarded for FY2018 total \$11.1 million. Last year's expenditure has a remaining balance of \$1 million to be utilized for projects.

Monies are applied to eligible projects in Middlesex County on a first come, first serve basis. Infrastructure improvements are reported and listed for when funding becomes available.

Questions/Answers:

Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District, questioned how the \$920,798 money would be spent in Monroe Township. Mr. Wallner said the money is being used for traffic signals throughout town.

Mr. Peter Bilton, NJTPA, asked if additional funding would be available for the Livingston Avenue Complete Streets Project in the City of New Brunswick. Mr. Wallner stated that prior earmark funding of \$6 million along with other allocated funding sources are available. Additional monies for construction should be available by the end of Summer, 2018.

Ms. Teri Jover, Highland Park Borough, inquired about the process of how local infrastructure projects are considered for funding and placed on the County Capital Transportation Program – State Aid list. Mr. Wallner said that a municipality will need to submit a request to the County from the Governing Body expressing interest and providing project information along the county roadway being proposed. The County Engineering Office will review the request and determine priority on the State Aid chart.

Resolution to endorse (2010 – 2018) Middlesex County Capital Transportation Program State Aid. Mr. George M. Ververides called for a motion to accept the Capital Transportation Program – State Aid chart and report presented. Motion made by Mr. Michael Beltranena, COACH USA/Suburban. Motion seconded by Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

- A. New Jersey Department of Transportation** – Raymond Tomczak
Not Present.
- B. New Jersey Transit** –Thomas Clark
Not Present.
- C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)** – Peter Bilton
No Report.
- D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority** – Kevin Dunn
Not Present.
- E. Rutgers – The State University** – Jennifer Stuart, Leigh Ann Kimber (Brendan Torres)
Mr. Torres reported that Request for Proposals on the Bike Share Program were sent by the Department of Transportation. Second item discussed was the awarded \$10 million to NJ Transit for the Rutgers University and New Brunswick City Light Rail System feasibility study. The focus is light rail train connectivity between the town of East Brunswick and South Plainfield Borough corridors.
- F. Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM)** –William Neary, Morteza Ansari
Mr. Ansari announced there will be another NJ Electric Vehicle Conference at 8:00am on April 23, 2018 at Saint Peter’s University Hospital in New Brunswick.
- G. Middlesex County Area Transit Services** – Laila Caune
Not Present.
- H. Middlesex County Engineering Office** – Richard Wallner
Presenter. No other items discussed.
- I. East Coast Greenway Alliance (ECGA)** – Mike and Ann Kruimer
Not Present.
- J. Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management** – John Ferguson
Not Present.

K. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger
Not Present.

L. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena
No Report.

M. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw, Carla Cefalo (Denise Nickel)
Ms. Nickel informed the committee about a new platform provided through Workforce Development called “SkillUp Middlesex”. Online training courses are free to everyone. After taking the training course, a certification can be downloaded upon an 80% passing grade. This innovative online training approach to enhance educational and professional development is used by Fortune 500 companies in various industries from customer service to transportation and logistics. Additional Information can be found on the County website.

N. Transportation News Update – Bruce McCracken.
Listing of transportation news topics were provided as part of the meeting packet. Handouts of news articles are available upon request.

O. Staff Activities – George Ververides
Mr. Ververides discussed funding concerns with regard to infrastructure improvements in our region. Roughly \$1.3 Billion in funding may be in jeopardy. Various projects would be adversely affected including the Gateway Program, the Portal Bridge Replacement, and the Delco Lead and County Yard project in New Brunswick. There are many challenges ahead but hopefully things will turn around for the better. Mr. Ververides stressed that transportation drives the economy.

V. Public Comments – None.

VI.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee