

APPROVED

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

March 27, 2018

Representatives

Freeholder Charles Kenny
Mr. Paul Larrousse, TCC Chairman/ National Transit Institute
Mr. Tom Vigna, TCC Vice Chair/ North Brunswick Township

Municipal Representatives

Sgt. Paul F. Stentella, Carteret Borough
Mr. Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township
Ms. Doriann Kerber, Milltown Borough
Ms. Miriam Cohn, Monroe Township
Mr. Steve Mamakas, Old Bridge Township
Ms. Cynthia Urbanik, South River Borough
Mr. Tom Cornell, Woodbridge Township

Others

Mr. Michael Beltranena, COACH USA/Suburban
Ms. Jael Davis, 6th Congressional District
Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District
Ms. Laila Caune, County Office of Aging and Disabled Services
Mr. John Ferguson, County Office of Emergency Management (Presenter)
Mr. Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Ms. Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Mr. Morteza Ansari, Keep Middlesex Moving
Mr. Tom Clark, NJ Transit
Mr. Peter Bilton, NJTPA
Mr. Brendan Torres, Rutgers University

Staff

Mr. Louie Greenwell, County Division Head, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. George M. Ververides, Director, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Anthony Gambilonghi, Supervisor, Transportation Division
Mr. Bruce McCracken, Principal Planner, Transportation Division
Mr. Nick Tufaro, Middlesex County Office of Planning
Mr. Devin Hayes, Information Technology Department

Total in Attendance – 27

I. Call to Order

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

II. Minutes

Meeting minutes of February 27, 2018 were distributed for approval for the next meeting. Motions to approve the January 23, 2018 minutes were made and seconded. Motion carried.

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.

Chairman Larrousse welcomed Louie Greenwell to the TCC. Mr. Greenwell was introduced as the Director of Comprehensive Planning. Mr. Greenwell expressed interest in TCC meeting activities, and provided an overview on his main role involving the upcoming activities on the update of the County Comprehensive Master Plan.

Sign in Reminder

Chairman Larrousse reminded the public to sign the attendance sheet.

Correspondence – Mr. Gambilonghi announced the recent solicitation received by the Office of Planning from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and Together North Jersey for municipalities and community organizations to apply for selection in a Transit Hub planning study that will involve three pilot communities in with urban, suburban and rural characteristics. In Middlesex County, the Borough of Carteret requested County support on their proposed application to participated on this study. Following review of the Carteret application, a letter of support from the Office of Planning was subsequently submitted to Borough officials.

Freeholder Comments – Freeholder Kenny noted that he received an invitation from NJTPA to serve as chairman of the NJTPA Freight Initiatives Subcommittee and that he accepted. The first meeting of this committee is scheduled for April 16, 2018.

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 Emergency Management Strategies Affecting

Transportation. Presented by: Mr. John Ferguson, Deputy Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management

Mr. Ferguson introduced himself as the Deputy Coordinator of the County's Office of Emergency Management (EM), located at the Fire Academy in Sayreville. He stated tonight's presentation will focus on emergency management strategies that affect transportation in the County.

The design and hierarchy for EM's begins on the federal level with the Department of Homeland Security, where the Federal Emergency Management Agency is located. The Office of the Governor is next, followed by the New Jersey State Police Emergency Management (managed by

the Deputy Superintendent of Homeland Security). Next is Middlesex County's Office of Emergency Management, and last is the Municipal Office of Emergency Management.

Disaster is defined as a sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe that causes great damage or loss of life. Mr. Ferguson stated Middlesex County is no stranger to severe weather patterns such as coastal and river flooding, power outages/utilities emergencies, health emergencies (i.e. airborne and flu viruses), Hazmat's and terrorism. A Power Point presentation was used to illustrate and analyze points of concern. Mr. Ferguson discussed the Prevention Plan that identifies the most likely hazard areas. The emergency management process achieves two major goals: 1) protect the public by sheltering people inside or outside the home, and 2) the actual safe evacuation of people on our roadway network. Examples of operational tasks include written plans for evacuation, personnel training, and improving public information and communications systems. Other items of the emergency process include:

Response – The actions taken to save lives and protect property includes disseminating warning, emergency public information and issuing other advisories and action instructions to the public. Also, surveying and evaluating the emergency situation. Marshaling, allocating, and positioning personnel and equipment. Mobilizing necessary resources. Also activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) using established guidelines to evacuate the community, when necessary.

Mitigation – Mr. Ferguson said once the emergency alarm goes off, the EM office will notify the public. A new state regulation called 'Code Blue' requires the public to be notified of extreme cold temperatures (25 degrees of below) and snow (32 degrees with precipitation) or a wind chill factor of zero for more than 2 hours. Shelters across each county have an obligation to take-in the homeless. The goal is to reduce the community's vulnerability in ways that minimize the adverse impact of a disaster or other emergencies.

Traffic Diversion – Mr. Ferguson explained that the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) have done studies on traffic movements. Traffic diversion is used on local roadways to get around conditions that affect local traffic, such as snow storms. The Traffic Diversion scheme has been used on Route 1 in South Brunswick and Woodbridge Township. NJDOT, NJSP and the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection (NJDEP) have done surveys to identify weather events and related storm surge. Once the County opens its Emergency Operation Center (EOC), we wait for requests from municipalities for assistance, such as plowing and salting county roads or local roads because municipal trucks may not be big enough. If there are problems on state roads, the county reaches out to NJDOT through the state EOC.

Mr. Ferguson discussed the latest project; the Evacuation Plan, which conducts exercises to validate the planning process. The plan was reviewed, revised and is currently being implemented.

FEMA Region II started a program to create and sustain local commodity distribution. Each municipality had to establish a place where supplies such as water could be distributed to get as many cars off the road each hour. The problem was finding locations that could handle the vehicle traffic as well as storing trailers with supplies and near major roadways. Another concern

was accommodating residents without cars, where ‘walk-up’ locations are needed in those municipalities.

In the event residents need to be move out-of-state, the transportation reception center is where people assemble and load onto buses and move to a safer location. The problem has been developing a local collection plan to get residents to the transportation reception center and obtaining adequate buses.

Mr. Ferguson emphasized that evacuation procedures utilizing the transportation network is vital to the Office of Emergency Management. The County has transportation equipment from Middlesex County Area Transit (MCAT), Parks, Public Works, and Emergency Management offices. There are also contacts with outside agencies. Currently the EM Office has two evacuation buses as well as two high water vehicles and a medical ambulance bus.

Mr. Ferguson stated that additional information can be found on the NJ Office of Emergency Management website: www.ready.nj.gov/plan-prepare/evacuation-routes.shtml

Questions/Answers:

Mr. Gambilonghi inquired as to the number of major shelters and locations in the County. Mr. Ferguson was unsure of the actual number of facilities but said he knew of five locations that would be used to transport and shelter people in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Vigna asked how can we assure that gas stations along certain routes have enough fuel for vehicles seeking to move to a safer location during an emergency. Mr. Ferguson said the state passed appropriations to fund gas stations along evacuation routes to enable them to provide additional fuel which would include generators.

It was suggested for municipalities to create a separate page on their website that would directly link to the County’s Emergency Operation Center for ‘real-time’ evacuation information such as nearest shelter location, survival guidelines, transportation resources, etc.

Staff Reports

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

B. New Jersey Transit –Thomas Clark

Mr. Clark stated the County Yard Rail Project is moving forward. Engineering work is completed. NJ Transit is working with New Brunswick and North Brunswick with regards to sanitary lines that run with the property. Later this year work will be done underground on the utilities and water sewer lines.

City of Perth Amboy has plans to build a park along the waterfront of Second Street. AT&T has a contract with the City to allow for equipment staging for a new located fiber lines, work will begin next week. The Second Street Park will be built after AT&T work is completed.

The Positive Train Control project on the Northeast Corridor is moving forward. There is a mandate for this project to be completed by end of year 2018.

Mr. Clark stated that Congress appropriated \$ 900 million for the Gateway program towards design and engineering of the additional tunnel.

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

Mr. Bilton reported this week NJTPA will conduct a Street Smart campaign training workshop at the Middlesex County Police Academy in Edison.

On April 16th at 1pm, there will be a Freight Initiatives Committee meeting to discuss updates on Freight and Rail. Representatives of the different freight operators such as Conrail and Norfolk Southern, and Port Authority will be in attendance to give an updated synopsis.

D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority – Kevin Dunn

Not Present.

E. Rutgers – The State University – Jennifer Stuart, Leigh Ann Kimber (Brendan Torres)

Mr. Torres stated that the Bike Share Program is moving forward.

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

Free registration is open for the New Jersey Electric Vehicle Conference sponsored by Keep Middlesex Moving and St. Peters Hospital on April 23, 2018.

G. Middlesex County Area Transit Services – Laila Caune

Ms. Caune said there was a public hearing on March 20th to discuss the possible elimination of the M6 and M7 shuttle services.

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 14 th	Freewalkers Great Canal Walk from Princeton to New Brunswick.
April 16 th	Lower Raritan Watershed meeting at 10am.
April 22 nd	Earth Day – Freewalkers Tween Walk from New Brunswick to Metro Park (Metuchen). Also in New Brunswick is Cyclovia today.
April 25 th	911 Memorial Trail Bike Ride from New York City to New Brunswick, NJ.
April 26 th	911 Bike Ride from New Brunswick to Franklin.
April 29 th	Tour de Franklin. Event supports Franklin Food Bank.
May 5 th	CJBC Farmlands Bike Tour – Brookdale Community College, Lyncroft, NJ.
May 19 th	Freewalkers Big Walk, 50 miles from Metro Park (Metuchen) to New York City.
May 20 th	26 Mile Bicycle Tour of Edison/ Metuchen.

J. Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management – John Ferguson

No Report. Gave presentation.

K. Academy Bus Co – Chuck Kassinger

Not Present.

L. Suburban Transit / Coach USA – Michael Beltranena

Mr. Beltranena reported on changes within the company's organization structure. He asked for the County to help advertise services of the bus company and direct commuters to access and utilize the revamped Suburban Transit website.

M. Business Development and Education – Kathaleen Shaw, Carla Cefalo (Denise Nickel)
Not Present.

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 informed the Committee that the Capital Transportation Program State Aid is on the April 5, 2018 Board of Chosen Freeholder meeting agenda.

V. Public Comments – Ms. Kerber, Milltown Borough, informed the committee of her role and participation with the NJTPA Street Smart Program on behalf of the Borough of Millotwon, and that she will be attending the upcoming Street Smart campaign training workshop in Edison that was mentioned in the report by Peter Bilton. Ms. Kerber mentioned that Milltown Borough will host Middlesex County's Middlesex County Walk for Better Health in conjunction with M.C.F.O.O.D.S. on April 21, 2018 from 9 a.m. until noon at the American Legion Post 25 Pavilion. A health fair will also be a part of the event.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle A. Britton, Secretary
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee