

APPROVED

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

April 24, 2018

Representatives

Freeholder Charles Kenny

Municipal Representatives

Jeff Van Woeart, Carteret Borough

Mr. Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick Township

Mr. Brian Tobin, Metuchen Borough/ 14th Legislative District - Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo

Mr. Lester Varga, Plainsboro Township

Mr. Michael Leung, South Brunswick Township

Sgt. Gary Holsten, South Brunswick Township

Lt. David Delair, South Plainfield Borough

Mr. Mike Gelin, Woodbridge Township

Mr. Thomas Flynn, Woodbridge Township

Others

Mr. Paul Onish, 14th Legislative District – State Senator Linda R. Greensten

Mr. Michael Beltranena, COACH USA/Suburban

Ms. Laila Caune, County Office of Aging and Disabled Services

Mr. Mike Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance

Ms. Anne Kruimer, East Coast Greenway Alliance

Mr. James Karamanos, Highland Park Resident

Mr. Bill Neary, Keep Middlesex Moving

Ms. Julia Gerdes, Middlesex County

Mr. William Yarzab, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (Presenter)

Mr. Tom Clark, NJ Transit

Mr. Brendan Torres, Rutgers University

Mr. Louis Hoffman, Rutgers University (NJ TIP)

Ms. Pam, General Public

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

Ms. Denise Nickel, Middlesex County Office of Planning

Ms. Rachel Fanaro, Information Technology Department

Total in Attendance – 29

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

Motion to approve the February 27, 2018 minutes were made and 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. Gambilonghi said a letter was sent to County Engineer Richard Wallner from Woodbridge Township Engineer Michael Gelin in regard to safety concerns involving hazardous conditions for pedestrians crossing Route 27 to get to the Metropark Train Station from the Iselin section of Woodbridge.

He noted a Route 27 Metropark Station Pedestrian Mobility Study that was completed January 2007 for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and that this study could help towards initiating some of the safety improvements that are sought by Woodbridge officials.

Freeholder Comments – No comment.

Introduction of TCC Members

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

IV. Special Item: Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Program. Presented by: Mr. William Yarzab, Senior Planner, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.

Mr. Yarzab stated that the Street-Smart NJ program is coordinated by the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) in a collaborative effort between public, private and non-profit organizations that aims to change pedestrian and motorist behaviors through education and enforcement. The program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and receives contributions from various stakeholders. Street Smart NJ campaigns currently are being conducted by transportation management associations (TMAs) that receive funding from the NJTPA such as Keep Middlesex Moving. TMA's provide resources in improving mobility, sustainability, and roadway safety in New Jersey.

Mr. Yarzab stated New Jersey was ranked 15th in the nation in pedestrian fatalities in 2015 according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. New Jersey is designated as a focus state, placing extra emphasis on aiding New Jersey in combating higher than average pedestrian fatality rates. Between 2011 – 2015 there were 765 people killed in motor vehicle crashes in New Jersey of which 30 percent of those killed were pedestrians. Goals of the campaign include behavioral changes in pedestrian and motorist, educating the public on roles

and responsibilities in sharing the road, and increasing the enforcement and awareness of pedestrian safety laws to make users aware of the effort and penalties.

The breakdown of the campaign focuses on evaluation (pre-campaign) of the existing traffic conditions in a municipality. Within a two-week process, observation of intersections and surveying occurs. During the actual campaign, education outreach, signage, enforcement of safety laws and overall media support will kickstart the campaign to bring awareness to your municipality, this effort should last four to six weeks. The focus should be on high traffic locations which may include schools and universities, community centers, and various employers to name a few. Safety campaigns are advertised outdoors, on trains and at train stations, and online social media outlets.

During the duration of the campaign; street signs, posters, tip cards and other educational materials should be posted or distributed throughout the participating municipality. Highly visible press events are ideal to bring attention to pedestrian safety, and providing enforcement activities can encourage public involvement. After the campaign, observation of intersections, more surveying and overall examination of data is necessary to get a clear picture of the information gathered during the event. The continuance of analyzing pedestrian – motor vehicle crashes, injury and fatality to identify behavioral changes in that corridor.

Mr. Yarzab noted the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety may still have funding available to assist municipalities with campaign efforts. Deadline to submit applications is April 30, 2018. Crash data, marketing material, and police department reports are provided.

Bill Neary Executive Director of KMM also made some remarks on the work that KMM has been doing in promoting pedestrian safety in Middlesex County, and that the Borough of Milltown will be having a Street-Smart Kick Off Campaign ceremony on May 10th.

Mr. Yarzab concluded the end of a campaign involves determining if goals were met, identifying problems, and reporting on what can be taken from the campaign experience in continuing efforts to alter traffic and pedestrian behavior. Mr. Yarzab also noted that the NJTPA assists municipalities with campaign efforts. Additional information on the program can be found at www.beststreetsmartnj.org . There was a question and answer session and further discussion on the presentation among the committee.

Middlesex County Comprehensive Master Plan Update. Presented by: Mr. Louie Greenwell, Director, Comprehensive Planning

Mr. Greenwell explained the need to update elements from the 1970 Comprehensive Master Plan in order to deliver a thoughtful layout of how to address the needs of our 25 municipalities in a way to facilitate and support the vision, initiatives and request for service from municipalities. One current challenge of the Planning Office relates to how the County ‘reacts’ to municipal inquiries without having an established plan of how (and when) to respond/react. The Master Plan must address how the County operates within all its departments. The target date for adoption of the Master Plan is 2020.

Staff Reports

- A. New Jersey Department of Transportation** – Scott Stephens
Not Present.
- B. New Jersey Transit** –Thomas Clark
No Report.
- C. North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)** – William Yarzab
Mr. Yarzab noted that electric vehicles and charging stations are on the rise.
- D. New Jersey Turnpike Authority** – Kevin Dunn
Not Present.
- E. Rutgers – The State University** – Jennifer Stuart, Leigh Ann Kimber (Brendan Torres)
No Report.
- F. Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM)** –William Neary, Morteza Ansari
Mr. Neary commended the efforts of NJ’s Street-Smart Pedestrian Safety Program. He stated that KMM as the County’s TMA attends the various campaign events to educate the public on pedestrian safety.
- Mr. Neary reported that KMM is working with the Central Jersey Forum and attended the TransAction Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. He noted that development along the Route 1 Corridor between New Brunswick and Trenton will have the largest potential family and job growth in the area and state. There is collaboration with NJ Transit and municipalities to strategize for smarter planning and zoning practices.
- KMM hosted another Electric Vehicle Conference at Saint Peters Hospital on April 23, 2018.
- An event entitled, “Healthier Middlesex” was announced and will occur sometime in the fall. The symposium will discuss the needs of residents with regard to transporting persons to various medical locations.
- Mr. Neary noted the safe routes to school program once again will have activities for grade-school children to educate them on safety measures when walking and bicycling.
- G. Middlesex County Area Transit Services** – Laila Caune
Ms. Caune reported that one of her staff members went to the TransAction Conference in Atlantic City and attended a seminar on Transit Asset Management (TAM). She explained TAM has new requirements, and community transit agencies who receive pass-through funds administered by NJ Transit’s Local Programs/ Community Mobility Department must comply with regulations by October 2018.
- 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 26th 911 Bike Ride from New Brunswick to Franklin.
- April 29th Tour de Franklin. Event supports Franklin Food Bank.
- May 5th CJBC Farmlands Bike Tour – Brookdale Community College, Lyncroft, NJ.
- May 19th Freewalkers Big Walk, 50 miles from Metro Park (Metuchen) to New York City.
- May 20th 26 Mile Bicycle Tour of Edison/ Metuchen.

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

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 highlighted popular transportation topics and things to consider moving forward.

V. TCC Member Comments –

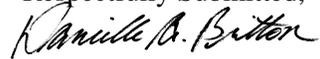
Mr. Neary expressed gratitude and support for the implementation of the Street-Smart Pedestrian Safety Campaign in Middlesex County. Communities including Woodbridge Township, Metuchen Borough, and Middlesex Borough, thus far, have implemented campaigns. Milltown Borough will kick-off its Street-Smart Campaign on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 1pm at Borough Hall. Mr. Neary announced that KMM has conducted a #BeStreetSmartNJ pedestrian safety education campaign aimed at increasing awareness and education in busy shopping centers. He noted the Street-Smart Pedestrian Safety Program works well at the municipal level.

Public Comments –

Mr. Mike Gelin, Woodbridge Township Engineer spoke about the safety concerns for pedestrians that need to cross Route 27 to get to the Metropark Train Station in Woodbridge. In 2007 the Route 27/ Metropark Study was conducted and many recommendations were made regarding improving pedestrian safety and mobility in that area of Woodbridge. At that time, NJ Transit installed the new HAWK system pedestrian activated signal on Route 27 at Magnolia Road. However, more needs to be done to accommodate the many pedestrians that are crossing Route 27 from Wood Avenue to as far north as north as Correja Avenue. Freeholder Kenny asked if sidewalks would be an initial fix and it was agreed that the installation of sidewalks is attainable. It was determined that a separate meeting will be convened to discuss further these concerns and how to advance them to NJDOT.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle A. Britton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Danielle A. Britton, Secretary
Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee