

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Meeting of January 22, 2019**

MINUTES

Attendance

Officers

Acting Chairman, Tom Vigna - North Brunswick Township

Municipal Representatives

Sanford Gardner, East Brunswick

Jason Delia - Metuchen

Jeffrey Rauch -Perth Amboy

Maximo Vazquez – Perth Amboy

Timothy Dacey - Piscataway

Robert Bengivenga – South Plainfield

Bask Patel – Woodbridge

State Legislative/ Congressional Representatives

Paul Onish – Sen. Linda Greenstein – 14th District

Brian Tobin – Asm. Wayne DeAngelo – 14th District

Kate Bradley – Asm. Benson – 14th District

Michelle Timani – Asm. Freiman - 16th District

Dorothy Power – Assemblyman Joseph Egan, 17th District

Jael Davis – US Representative Frank Pallone Jr. NJ 6th District

Special Guest / Presenter

Chris Gonda - KMM Inc.

Others

Mike Beltranena – Coach USA Suburban

Morteza Ansari – KMM Inc.

Peter Bilton – North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Andras Holzmann - Somerset County Planning Office

Mike Kruimer - East Coast Greenway Association

Anne Kruimer - East Coast Greenway Association

Donald Drost – Middlesex County College

Middlesex County Staff

George Ververides – Director Middlesex County Office of Planning

Louie Greenwell – Director of Comprehensive Planning

Anthony Gambilonghi – Office of Planning, Transportation Division

Bruce McCracken – Office of Planning, Transportation Division

Denise Nickel – Office of Planning, Transportation Division
John Ferguson – Office of Emergency Management
Laila Caune – Office of Aging and Disabled Services
Ron Sendner – Office of Engineering
Runyon Barkelew - Office of Information Technology

Total in Attendance: 30

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman, Tom Vigna.

- **Statement on Open Public Meetings Act**

Mr. Vigna noted that the meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and that appropriate notices have been sent.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

Acting Chairman Vigna called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **Moment of Silence**

Acting Chairman Vigna commented that having a moment of silence for prayer or quiet reflection at our meetings would be kept on the agenda. These times with hurricanes, weather events, homelessness, mass shootings, government shut downs in our thoughts make these moments of reflection an opportunity to stop and be grateful for our many blessings.

- **Parking Validation**

It was noted that Bruce will collect tickets now from those of us who parked in the Wellness deck to get them validated, and that they could pick them up at the end of the meeting from him.

II. November 27, 2018 Minutes/ Highlights

Mr. Vigna noted that when we complete our reorganization we will have a new signing in system where voting members could just check next to their respective name on the sign in list that they are in attendance. For today's vote anyone who attended the November 27 meeting will vote. Approval of the minutes was moved by Paul Onish, Senator Greenstein's office, second by Mike Krumier. Vote unanimously approved.

III. Welcome Remarks

Acting Chairman Vigna reported that the bylaws of the Committee have been revised and approved.

IV. Correspondence

Mr. Gambilonghi reported there will be a Bike and Walk Summit on Saturday, February 23rd at Mercer County College starting at 8:30 a.m., featuring New Jersey DOT Commissioner, Diane Guturney-Scaccetti who will give the opening address.

Mike Kruimer said for 10 years it has been an opportunity to learn about the tactics on urban and rural design projects and safety actions as well communicate to the NJDOT Commissioner about the DOT commitments to Bike/Ped issues and bike friendly leadership. NJDOT is the place to go for New Jersey Bike/Ped information. Mr. Gambilonghi said of particular interest on the agenda of the February 23rd Bike Walk Summit is the status of the Complete Streets movement with their new model policy and guide. Mike added along with electric cars we are now getting electric assist bicycles which is one of the topics which will be addressed at that meeting.

Mr. Gambilonghi also added that the starting of new trails, such as our own Middlesex County Greenway, will be featured with information on how to get improvements designed and built.

V. **Special Items Presentation by Chris Gonda of KMM**

A. Numetric Crash Analysis Tool

B. Perth Amboy Walkability Assessment

C. Safe Routes to School Travel Plan

Christopher Gonda, KMM Inc. runs the Safe to School Program serving Middlesex County. Denise Nickel introduced Chris Gonda who showed us the connection between data and the need for improvements with a match for resources available from various sources.

Christopher described the Safe Routes to School Program which he runs for schools in the County. He listed the benefits for school children which mainly has the result of creating responsibility and independence in its participants.

Christopher's presentation then focused on the Numetric: Crash Analysis Tool that he can bring to the schools and municipalities with which he works.

The pedestrian and bicycle crashes are recorded from police reports. Chris collects the data and forwards it to schools. He makes the point that crash data are no longer referred to as accidents. They are called crashes. The analysis tool facilitates having the format of crashes be measured with roadway data, and various safety layers. The tool identifies crash patterns, and within the data, distinctions such as crashes by time of day, by month, day of the week, during dismissal times, arrival times, school days.

Attached is a copy of the Numetric: Crash Analysis Tool-Pedestrian and Bicycle Level Summary. The data presented is from Perth Amboy: January 2015 through December 2017.

The findings of this report are the following:

Improving infrastructure, transportation and pedestrian access can affect attendance and student attitudes in classrooms. In addition, physical activity is positively linked to academic achievement.

Using the findings of Numetric Crash Analysis is useful in clarifying locations that require action and support project funding applications. New Jersey data is available from 2006 to 2018 from NJDOT. By typing in the search bar and focusing on recent data relevant to the

program, the tool shows data by age, day, and times, all of which assists in making a Bike Travel Plan for the school. The data shows local maps as well to show hot spots. Rutgers CAIT (Center for Advanced Infrastructure Technology) located in Piscataway Campus, trains users who intend to implement Safe Routes to School Programs.

Acting Chairman Vigna and Denise Nickel thanked Chris for a clear and useful demonstration of the Numetric: Crash Analysis Tool and its possible use in making School Travel Plans in Middlesex County. Such plans can be used to secure funding.

VI. Staff Reports

A. Transportation Funding Notices and Programs -- Denise Nickel

January resources focus was on programs from NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, which provides educational material for police departments, municipalities, school districts, and anyone willing to distribute material. Ms. Nickel referred to a packet of information provided including a flyer entitled Ice & Snow Remove It Before You Go, and the availability of posters and palm cards.

The Division of Highway Traffic Safety has ongoing campaigns focused on holidays in particular and small grants for police overtime during high accident times of the year. These include such campaigns as Mothers Against Drunk Driving initiatives, the seat belt campaign, Click It or Ticket, You Drive You Text You Pay, or Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Over the years, about half of our municipalities participate in these campaigns and 90 percent of the ticket revenues go to towns for participation in these programs.

Grants typically available to applicants start from \$ 5,500. At least 50 % of this amount must be used for overtime for officers, and the rest for a broad range of activities.

Three years of crash data are required for showing the safety situation in the town. Application dates open in October and run until the end of April.

The Division also has a video library with 27 videos which can be accessed on-line.

In 2018 seven Middlesex County municipalities participated (Dunellen, Edison, Middlesex, North Brunswick, Spotswood, Plainsboro and South Brunswick).

B. Laila Caune – MCAT – Office on Aging and Disability Services

Ms. Caune reported that staff turnover continues to be an issue with MCAT drivers and organizational changes. Ms. Caune in addition reported that the Freeholder Director is considering the creation of a Department of Transportation in 2019. Mr. Vigna asked what that might look like. Ms. Caune said MCAT is currently operated under the Office of Aging and Disabled Services and it could be put on its own as a separate department.

C. Denise Peck – NJ Department of Transportation

Not present

D. Tom Clark – NJ Transit

Not present

E. Pete Bilton – North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (TNJ)

Mr. Bilton reported that there will be a Together North Jersey Forum meeting on January 31st at NJTPA at 8:30 a.m. The agenda includes state officials from the Governor's Offices, NJDEP, DOT, NJ Transit in panels with Together North Jersey Task Forces spokespersons representing the Task Forces plans and at the alignment of work programs.

NJTPA will host a stormwater workshop dealing with Sustainable designs for stormwater management using vegetation, soils, and other practices including natural processes to restore stormwater. There will be case studies from project managers or designers from Philadelphia, Hoboken, and Jersey City who will present their work on these issues.

F. Kevin Dunn – NJ Turnpike Authority

Not present

G. Brendan Torres – Rutgers Planning and Development

No report, and no word yet on Rutgers Bike Share proposal.

H. Morteza Ansari – KMM Inc.

No report

I. Ron Sendner – Acting Middlesex County Engineer

Mr. Sendner was introduced as the new Acting County Engineer following the retirement of Richard Wallner. Mr. Sendner deferred a report until the next meeting.

J. Mike and Anne Kruimer – East Coast Greenway NJ Alliance

Mr. Kruimer announced that the New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019 at the Mercer County Community College at 8:30 a.m. Keynote speaker at 8:45 a.m. sharp NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez Scaccetti.

Mr. Kruimer also announced the following bicycling related events:

- National Bike/Ped. Summit in Washington, DC is March 9 through 12 will be in Arlington, VA.
- East Coast Regional Summit in Philadelphia on April 4th through 6th lots of guests.
- Tour De Franklin will be Sunday, April 28th a fundraiser for the Franklin Food Bank

- Farmlands Bike Tour out of Brookdale County College – Saturday, May 4th
- Borough Bike Tour – Sunday, May 5th with 35,000 participants
- Bike MS Bike Tour from Monmouth University to Belmar May 18 – 19. Denise Nickel will be involved in this ride. It; it is for a good cause, it is along the oceanfront with a flat terrain, and makes for a nice spring day ride and is flat.
- Bike Tour of Edison – 3rd Sunday in May week after Mother’s Day.
- High Point to Cape May – June – Saturday after Father’s Day

K. John Ferguson – Office of Emergency Management

Mr. Ferguson reported that there has been several Code Blues in response to the freezing weather in January which requires the Office of Emergency Management to set up warming centers in towns where there are documented 10 or more unsheltered homes. We have three towns open up their police departments to house homeless people in the cold weather.

Mr. Ferguson also mentioned Hazard Mitigation funding that the County receives to redo our hazard mitigation plan. The new plan will list all hazard mitigation projects which must be on the list in order to get funded.

L. Mike Beltranena – Suburban Bus, Coach USA

Mr. Ververides asked what impact the merger with the Canadian Bus Company will have on operations in Middlesex County. Mr. Beltranena said there will be no effect on the operations in New Jersey.

M. Kathaleen Shaw – Middlesex County Business Development and Education

Not present

N. Bruce Mc Cracken – Events/News Update

Mr. McCracken reported that the Annual statewide transportation TransAction Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 16th through Thursday, April 18th in Atlantic City at the Tropicana Hotel. A list of sessions will be available at the February 26th meeting.

Mr. McCracken also noted that the TCC schedule for 2019 will include nine meetings that will be held on an alternating 3 pm - day and 7 pm - night sequence to accommodate a greater attendance from Committee membership and the public. Interest and participation are creating new areas of relatedness with local municipal officials as well as a focus on the context of traffic safety. As exemplified by the vision zero movement

in developed countries and cities like New York, the work of the State Division of Highway Safety, Middlesex County, and Keep Middlesex Moving (KMM Inc.), and help from our legislative representatives on Transportation Committees – important safety programs, and the County’s needs and interests can continue to be addressed on the TCC forum.

O. Staff Activities

Acting County Engineer, Ron Sendner, commented that if anyone can assist him in getting a Categorical Exclusion document complete for the Livingston Avenue Complete Streets Project that would be helpful. The work of the TCC in creating the context for transportation is moving forward.

George Ververides commented, the Gateway Portal Bridge and Hudson Tunnels are being pressed for federal funds. He thanked Andras Holzmann of Somerset County and Runyon Barkeley - Office of Information Technology support staff for attending the meeting.

P. Member Comments

Mr. Onish asked Mr. Greenwell about the Plan 2040 status. Mr. Greenwell responded that the initial work has been a “soft-kick off” in the area of transportation. Most of the many outreach events have been in large venues and have reached 1500 people. The Rutgers University outreach team is considering offering stipends to people to host events. An emphasis on Housing has been showing up as important to people who want to participate.

Jason Delia was introduced as the new TCC representative from Metuchen. Metuchen Councilman said he had reviewed the minutes and stated that traffic mitigation and the Middlesex Greenway and its extension will continue to be important to Metuchen.

Dorothy Power commented that Middlesex County College is very friendly and open for any TCC special events or ways to involve students in the work of the Committee.

Q. Next Meeting – Evening

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Attachment

Keep Middlesex Moving

Safe Routes to School

Numetric: Crash Analysis Tool - Pedestrian and Bicycle Level Summary

Perth Amboy: January 2015 through December 2017

Numetric

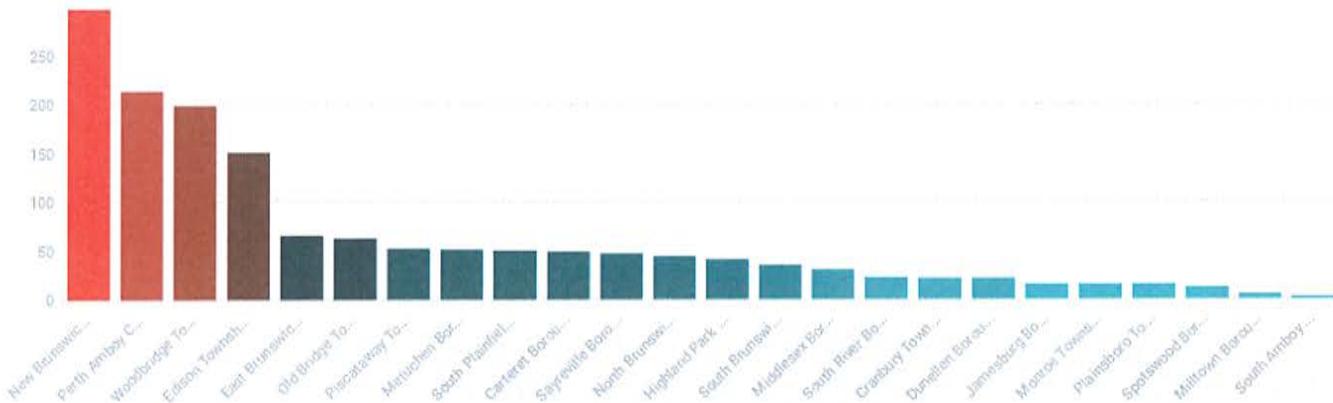
The Crash Analysis Tool, is a powerful analysis tool designed to allow engineers, planners, designers, and executives to perform analysis, reporting, and crash data review in one streamlined, easy to use platform. The tool allows merging of multiple data sets including crash data, roadway data, and various safety layers for a seamless experience, referencing data from various sources and using it to make data driven decisions regarding roadway safety. The tool includes the ability to quickly identify crash patterns, drill down within the data and analyze segments at varying levels.

Data Background

The data included in the Crash Analysis tool originates from the individual crash reports which are completed by local police officers. The Police Departments supply the data to the NJ Department of Transportation, who then shares it with Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT). Also supplied to CAIT, and included in the Crash Analysis tool, is data on fatal crashes as provided by the New Jersey State Police Safe Corridors.

The visualizations in this report are generated by building queries to identify trends in the crash data. The scale and measurements of the graphs have not been tampered, and only aesthetic formatting was performed to enhance the users' experience of the report.

Middlesex County Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes by Municipality (2015 – 2017)



Five Municipalities with the Highest Number of Bike/Ped Crashes (2015 – 2017)

Municipality	Number of Crashes (1,518)
City of New Brunswick	298
City of Perth Amboy	214
Township of Woodbridge	199
Township of Edison	151
Township of East Brunswick	66

From January 2015 through December 2017, 1,518 crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists occurred throughout Middlesex County. Of this total, 214 took place in the City of Perth Amboy. In consideration of the timing of the

academic years for Perth Amboy Public Schools, crashes which took place during the summer months, (July 1st and August 31st) were omitted from the data in the following charts and graphs. Likewise, crashes that occurred on Saturdays and Sundays were also excluded from the data sets in the charts and graphs below.

When the data is depicted by month, those months with the highest number of crashes were during the academic year, though the times of the crashes and the ages of the pedestrians do not indicate a direct trend that is related to school travel. Furthermore, crashes by each day of the week reveal no significant trends in school days.

Crashes by Month (2015 – 2017)

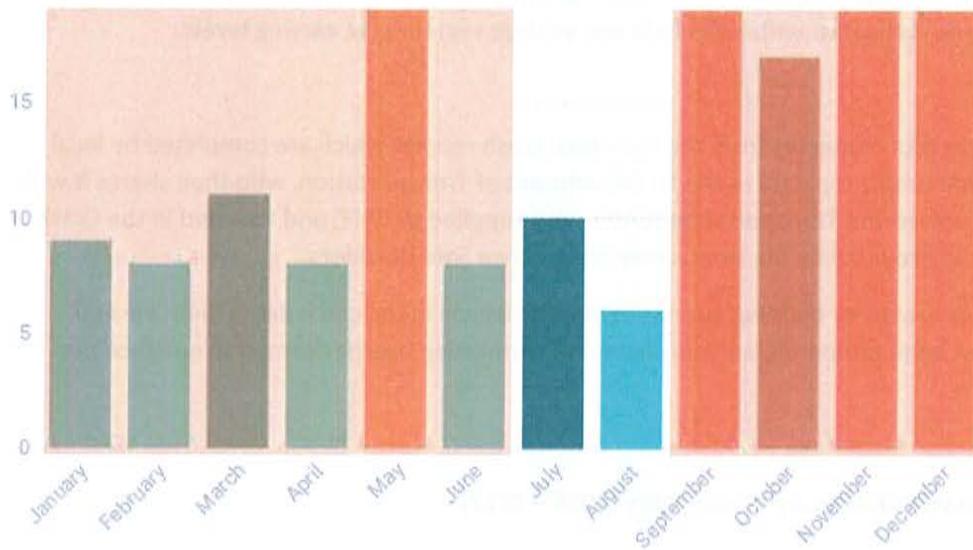


Figure 1: Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes by Month from January 2015 through December 2017

Crashes by Day of the Week within the School Year (2015 – 2017)

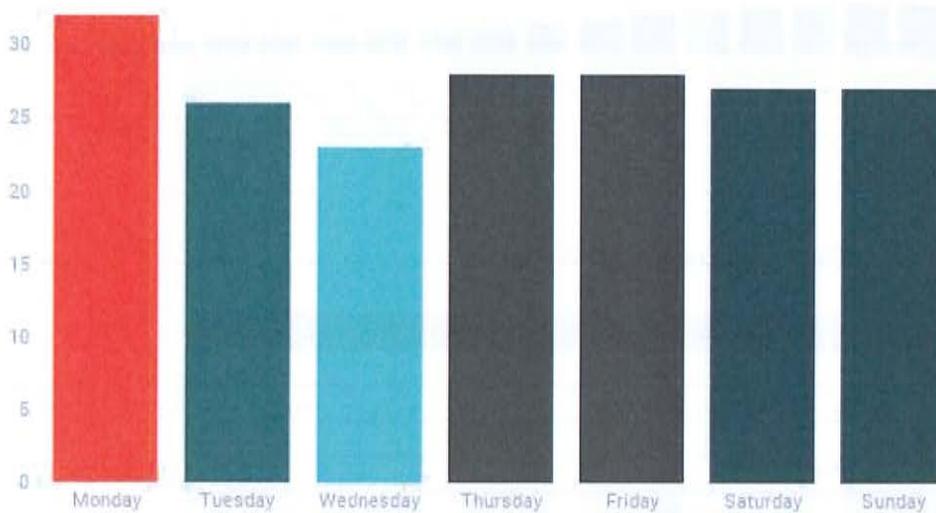


Figure 2: Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes by Day of the Week from January 2015 through December 2017

When analyzing the graph of these crashes by the time of day, there is an initial rise in crashes between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Within this time, 7 of the 21 crashes involved school-age children, between the ages of 11 and 19 years-old.

Another significant increase occurs during dismissal time, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Of the 28 crashes, 9 of them involve school-age children. The crashes with school age children, during arrival and dismissal times, make up over 11 percent of all crashes that occurred during the school week. While the morning travel time coincides with peak commute times, it is worth considering that a number of crashes which include older pedestrians may include family members who accompany children to or from school.

Number of Crashes During the School year by Time of Day (2015 – 2017)

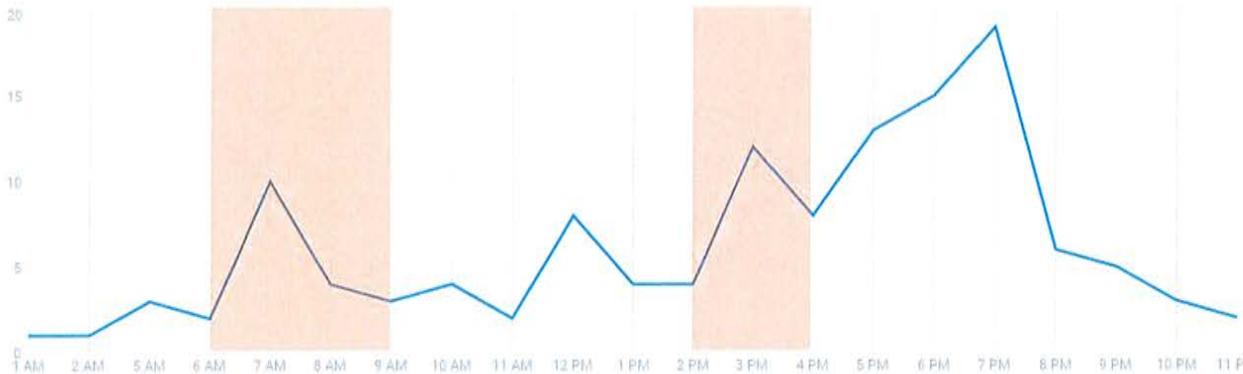


Figure 3: Total Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes during school days within the academic year, charted by Time of Day. All age groups are represented.

Number of Crashes by age for Morning Arrival and Afternoon Dismissal

Student Arrival Times	
Ped Age	Number
11	2
13	1
16	1
17	2
19	1
Total	7

Student Dismissal Times	
Ped Age	Number
5	1
9	1
13	1
15	1
16	4
18	1
Total	9

While many of the crashes involve individuals over the age of 18, and occur outside of school hours, it is important for us to consider the safety of all road users. Through the School Travel Plan and other initiatives, Keep Middlesex Moving aims to prevent future crashes by offering education to the communities through various sectors, and working with the City to improve the infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists. As it relates to Perth Amboy Public Schools, improving transportation and pedestrian access can affect student attendance and students’ attitudes in the classrooms. Physical activity is also positively linked to academic achievement (Donnelly and Lambourne, 2011) (Hillman et al., 2009).

