

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD  
Meeting of May 12, 2020  
Transportation Committee Report  
March and April 2020 Activities**

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**NJTPA Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) Program and Internship Programs Third Quarter Progress and Financial Reports,**

Completed and Submitted to NJTPA the FY 2020 Subregional Transportation Program and Internship Program invoices and all required financial documentation for the period from January 1 to March 31 and coordinated Invoice statement approvals of the two grants by the County Finance Department. To date we have expended approximately 70 percent of our annual STP grant of \$ 182,571.

**Cranbury Completed Streets Technical Assistance Program**

Participated on the Cranbury Complete Streets Technical Assistance (CSTA) Bicycle Network Plan as it affects County roads. In collaboration with our GIS Division, we provided traffic data information on both NJDOT Straight Line Diagrams and to the interactive maps for traffic counts in areas of the State.

**Route 1 Resurfacing, ADA Improvements, Guide Rail Upgrades and Traffic Signal Upgrades, North Brunswick, New Brunswick, Edison**

Received from NJTPA notice for comments on the Route 1 project from Route 130 – Georges Road, North Brunswick to East Side Avenue, Edison; and requested comments from North Brunswick Township Planner, the Edison Township Engineer, and our County Engineer Ron Sendner to submit to NJTPA. The NJDOT Division of Project Management is recommending reducing the scope (removing resurfacing component) and continue working on all the other components (ADA improvements, Guide Rail upgrade and Traffic Signal upgrades) of the project. This is a limited scope resurfacing project which also includes ADA improvements, Guide Rail upgrade and Traffic Signal upgrades. Midway through the concept development phase of this project, it was revealed that resurfacing of Route 1 within the project limits is slated for construction by Operations and Maintenance in FY 2021.

**Destination 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan**

Reviewed the Destination 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan Draft Final Goals, Objectives and Actions relating to the Transportation Element and submitted comments to the consultant staff of the Voorhees Transportation Center.

### **NJTPA Virtual RTAC Meeting**

Attended virtual NJTPA RTAC Meeting on April 13, 2020. Discussion items included: Impacts and guidance on the NJTPA Subregional Transportation Work Programs; a power point slide presentation on considerations regarding the NJTPA Long Term 2050 Plan; reports on ongoing NJTPA activities including an extension of the CMAQ Program deadlines; a report on activities of Transportation Management Agencies throughout the State. The meeting also included a review of Standing Committee Action Items that will eventually be presented for Board action. These include minor Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments in Ocean, Monmouth and Hudson counties.

### **Middlesex County Bike – Ped Proposals / Initiatives**

Began development of a draft list of outstanding bike - ped proposals and initiatives from the last 2013 Transportation Plan Element and from subsequent sources including public input received through TCC meetings, NJTPA Subregional Studies, County portal and other channels.

### **Central Jersey Transportation Forum Steering Committee**

Attended the Central Jersey Transportation Forum Steering Committee Video Conference held on April 16, 2020. A key purpose of this meeting was to get input for the next full meeting of the Central Jersey Transportation Forum (CJTF) which is being considered for the end of June.

Discussions centered on having two or three possible speakers such as Dean James Hughes and a State level or regional level representative(s) at the next CJTF meeting to address the impacts of the Covid 19 virus on the local and regional economy, demands on street space for pedestrians and bicyclists, effects on public transportation facilities; including ridership on buses and trains, the paradigm shift that Covid 19 has caused requiring some major changes in the way we address transportation accommodations, and priorities that we will need to advocate in the national infrastructure bill.

### **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) FY2021 Subregional Transportation Planning Program Grants**

As part of the NJTPA's Unified Planning Work Program under which the County receives federal funding for transportation planning activities we received the annual request to provide NJTPA with the required pre-award staffing plan and financial information for the receipt of the FY 2021 Subregional Transportation Planning Program and contracts by May 27. We submitted a request to the County Finance Department for attaining and certification of pertinent information by Joe Pruiti.

Pending authorization of federal funding, the allocation for Middlesex County includes a total program amount of \$228,213.75 which consists of \$182,571.00 Federal Share and a \$45,642.75 County In-kind match. In accordance with past practice we are also allocated an additional \$15,000.00 annual supplemental grant for Internship support services towards activities related to the STP Program. These amounts are the same as the prior year. The Internship grant requires no County share. For fiscal year 2021 these grants become effective July 1, 2020 and will extend to June 30, 2021.

### **MCAT JARC APPLICATION**

Reviewed the Job Access Reverse Commute application by MCAT and submitted my initial comments to Sandra Decarlo along with data on household vehicle ownership in Middlesex County provided by Alex Zakrewsky. Also coordinated with Ryan Rapp for additional input on this application.

### **NJDOT Proposal for Improved Safety and Accessibility at Route 9, Throckmorton Lane/Ticetown Road to Poor Farm, Old Bridge**

Responded to request from NJTPA for Comments on a notice relating to a NJDOT proposal to advance to the concept development stage a NJDOT project to improve safety, security, mobility, accessibility and reliability at Route 9 from Throckmorton Lane/Ticetown Road to Poor Farm Road. We responded in support of this with the recommendation that its scope be expanded to include a proposal from our 2013 Transportation Plan to improve the bus transfer/connection accommodations at the Route 9 intersection with Throckmorton Lane-Ticetown Road to facilitate bus transfers Route 9 and Route 18 corridor bus routes.

### **NJ Turnpike and Port Authority Bridges Recent Traffic and Toll Revenue Changes**

An April 29, 2020 Star Ledger report stated that toll revenues in the first three months of 2020 for the New Jersey Turnpike were down \$23 million dollars. During this period the Turnpike experienced a 29 percent decline in traffic. However, the decline in truck and commercial traffic was down only three percent. Traffic at Port Authority Bridges and Tunnels declined by 61%.