

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT
MIDDLESEX COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
Meeting of June 9, 2020
Transportation Committee Report
May 2020 Activities**

- **NJTPA Pre-award of the FY 2021 Subregional Transportation Planning (STP) Program and the FY 2021 Supplemental Support (Internship Program)**
 - Completed work on preparation / compilation of budget related materials / review coordination and obtaining Finance Department certifications of material for submission to the NJTPA Department of Finance and Administration. Submitted package of information to the NJTPA Department of Finance and Administration. Our submission of the Pre-Award documentations will begin the process for NJTPA to generate the subcontracts for the FY 2020 STP and Internship grants of over \$197,000 of federal funding effective July 1, 2020.

- **NJTPA Notice on Landing Lane (CR 609), Bridge over D & R Canal**
 - Received notice from NJTPA that the NJDOT Capital Programming Screening Committee (CPSC) is considering advancing to preliminary engineer the Landing Lane (CR 609), Bridge Rehabilitation project over the D & R Canal.
 - At request of Department Head and Planning Director coordinated a meeting with representatives from Rutgers University, the City of New Brunswick Engineering and Planning Departments, the County Transportation Department Head, County Engineer, Planning Director, and Deputy Planning Director to re-evaluate the alternative detour plans for this project. Ron Sendner to draft letter to NJDOT on an alternative improved detour plan from the one they developed.

- **NJTPA Notice on Route 18 Adaptive Traffic Signal System (ATS) Project, New Brunswick and Piscataway**
 - Also received notice from NJTPA that the NJDOT Capital Programming Screening Committee is considering advancement of the Route

18 Adaptive Traffic Signal System (ATS) Project in New Brunswick and Piscataway. This project involves a limited adaptive traffic signal system to be advanced to final design and construction with federal funding eligibility.

- The project involves application of adaptive traffic signal system technology at 11 intersections along Route 18 to improve traffic flow and mobility.
- The limits are from the Paulus Blvd intersection in New Brunswick to the Ramp to the intersection with the I-287 in Piscataway.
- This notice was shared with the Engineering and Planning Departments of the City of New Brunswick and Township of Piscataway, and with the County Engineer and Planning Office Director and Deputy Director.

- **NJTPA 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study**

- Participated in the NJTPA 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study Middlesex County Web Meeting with the NJTPA Freight Planning Department and their consultant. NJTPA requested this meeting as one of their outreach meetings that are being held with NJTPA subregions to obtain input and information on key business establishments in throughout the region and help validate NJTPA initial projections and e-commerce trends. This meeting is one of a series of subregional meetings that will also help support the NJTPA's next long-range regional transportation plan and the rapidly growing e-commerce activity.

- **Together North Jersey (TNJ) Efficient Task Force Meeting**

- Attended the TNJ Efficient Task Force Meeting held on May 7. Key agenda items included activities updates on Micro-Mobility Working Group, 2020 actions, upcoming workshops such as the Micro-mobility workshop in June 2020, Brownfields Workshop in late 2020, and a Pedestrian Safety Vision Zero Jersey City workshop on a date to be determined. General discussion items and input from the members included recently completed projects such as the Greenways Guidebook, focus area on transit hubs, micro-mobility, brownfields, complete streets, vision zero, roundabouts, and post Covid 19 considerations and new accommodations including social distancing, deep cleaning, online deliveries, curbside pickups, employee safety planning, and the need for more pedestrian and bicycling public spaces, as is being done in various cities throughout Europe.

- **NJ Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Application Meeting with NJ Transit**

- Participated in a meeting with our Transportation Department Head, County Planning and MCAT and NJ Transit representatives held on May 7 to discuss the New Jersey Job Access Reverse Commute program for using State funding towards providing shuttle services to get low income workers to jobs. The online application to NJ Transit has been prepared by the MCAT Office staff in collaboration with NJ Transit.
- In 2014 NJ Transit responded to the discontinuation of the Federal Transit Administration Section 5316 (Job Access Reverse Commute) program with the creation of a new program, NJ-Job Access and Reverse Commute (NJ-JARC), using their own operating funding. NJ-JARC provides operating assistance to localities for the development of transportation shuttle services to connect low income persons to jobs and other employment related services. Eligible services include shuttles and connector services to public transit or job locations.

- **NJ Department of Transportation Bikeways Grant Program**

- Participated in staff meeting held on Friday, May 8, 2020 with County staff from Offices Planning, Engineering and Parks to review the recent NJDOT Bikeway Grants Program for possible county sponsored projects and submitted to the NJDOT consultant questions on the application process for county eligibility to use these funds for design and construction work.

- **KMM Electric Vehicle Conference - May 20, 2020**

Attended KMM Electric Vehicle Virtual Conference - May 20, 2020 at which Andrea Friedman of NJDEP Electric Vehicle Programs and Mark Warner - Vice President Gabel Associates discussed funding programs available for Electric Vehicle Charging stations to help in achieving cleaner air and positive steps towards addressing air quality climate change.

NJ to invest \$ 45 million in program to fund 400 Fast Chargers in 200 Locations along major corridors. (Toll roads, Interstates, US highways, NJ State highways)

Eligible projects:

1. EV Charging stations (priority corridors: public level 3 fast chargers)
2. Heavy duty electric vehicles/equipment (priority: EJ communities)
3. Electric shared mobility programs (priority: Environmental Justice communities)

- **NJ Transit Covid 19 Bus Boarding Requirements**

NJ Transit bus passengers are asked to purchase passes and tickets prior to boarding the bus. Cash fares are not being accepted during the Covid-19 pandemic. For rear door boarding, passengers should show their pass, tickets, or the NJT app on their phone. The operators should be looking back to properly register each passenger. Tickets and fares currently are not being physically collected.

- **Proposed NJ Turnpike Authority Toll Hike**

- The New Jersey Turnpike Authority is proposing toll hikes that would raise \$525 million a year and create a new capital plan that will cost \$24 billion over the next eight years. The plan includes major projects, with 24 on the Turnpike and another 29 on the Garden State Parkway. The work ranges from pavement “preservation,” lighting upgrades and median barrier improvements to bridge rehabilitations, widening projects and a \$900 million effort to convert all tolls on both highways to E-Z Pass and pay-by-mail.
- Toll increases would be 27 percent on the Garden State Parkway and 36 percent on the Turnpike applied equally across all the exists. Tolls would rise an average of \$1.30 per trip on the Turnpike and 30 cents per trip on the Parkway. The average Turnpike trip costs \$3.50 and the average Parkway trip costs \$1.11. The cost of traveling the entire New Jersey Turnpike would rise from \$13.85 to \$18.85, and the price of traveling the full Parkway would increase from \$8.25 to \$10.45.