Opening Remarks:

Assemblywoman L. Grace Spencer, 29th Legislative District

Assemblywoman L. Grace Spencer was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly in November 2007 and sworn in on January 8, 2008. In January 2010 the Assemblywoman was selected to be a Deputy Speaker for the New Jersey General Assembly. She is Vice-Chair of the Assembly Finance Insurance and Banking Committee and a member of the Law and Public Safety Committee.

Assemblywoman Spencer graduated from Queen of Angels grammar school in Newark New Jersey and is a graduate of Mt. St. Dominic’s Academy in Caldwell, New Jersey. In 1992 she graduated from Rutgers Newark College of Arts and Sciences and earned her Jurist Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law, Newark in 1996. She is admitted to practice Law in New Jersey and before the United States Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

After finishing law school Assemblywoman Spencer clerked for the Honorable Paulette Sapp-Peterson, J.S.C., in the Superior Court of New Jersey and began her career as an attorney working as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Newark. Presently she has her own firm and serves as prosecutor for the Township of West Orange in West Orange New Jersey.

Robert Miller, NJDOT Assistant Commissioner Planning & Development

Since August 2008, Robert Miller has served as Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Development at the New Jersey Department of Transportation, where he is responsible for the divisions of Statewide Planning, Project Development, Local Aid, Environmental Resources and Multimodal Services. Bob was previously Director of Multimodal Services which included oversight responsibilities for the Bureaus of Aeronautics, Maritime Resources, Trucking, Rail Services, and Commuter Strategies. During his 34 year career at NJDOT, he has worked on a variety of assignments ranging from transportation plans, congestion management systems, multimodal projects, air quality issues, energy planning, and capital projects.

Bob is a Professional Engineer, a Certified Public Manager, holds a Bachelors degree from Drexel University and a Masters degree from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT).
Sheree Davis, NJDOT Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager
Sheree Davis is the Acting Manager of the Bureau of Commuter and Mobility Strategies within the New Jersey Department of Transportation and also serves as the State Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Coordinator. She also oversees the Transportation Demand Management Office which includes oversight of 8 Transportation Management Associations.

She is a career state employee with 25 years of service. She has served as New Jersey’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator for the past 9 years. During her tenure, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Program has received the Outstanding Sustainable Initiative Award by the NJ American Planning Association and the State Government Partner Award from the East Coast Greenway Alliance. Under her direction the Department became one of the first states to adopt a Complete Streets Policy. Ms. Davis holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education from Temple University in Philadelphia and a Master’s Degree in Education from The College of New Jersey.

Key Note Speaker:

Michael Ronkin, Designing Streets for Pedestrians & Bicyclists, LLC
Michael Ronkin is a Principal of Designing Streets for Pedestrians & Bicyclists, a consulting firm based in Salem, Oregon that specializes in pedestrian and bicyclist access, mobility and safety. Michael regularly partners with larger consulting firms on projects that range from charrettes and corridor studies to developing bicycle and pedestrian plans and revisions of state DOT design manuals.

Mr. Ronkin was born in France, and lived in Geneva, Switzerland until moving to the United States in 1973. Before founding Designing Streets for Pedestrians & Bicyclists, Mr. Ronkin was employed with the Oregon Department of Transportation for more than 20 years. He started out at ODOT as a transportation engineering specialist before becoming the bikeway specialist in 1989 and eventually the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager in 1993. On top of his duties at ODOT, Michael offered bicycle and pedestrian design courses around the US.

You can learn more about Michael’s work at www.michaelronkin.com or by contacting him at:
Designing Streets for Pedestrians & Bicyclists LLC
1602 Center St NE
Salem OR 97301
541-914-1401
michaelronkin@comcast.net

Policy Session:

Nora Shepard, Supervising Transportation Planner, Monmouth County Planning
Nora Shepard is currently a Transportation Planner for Monmouth County New Jersey. Nora is new to the State (having moved to New Jersey in July 2008) and new to transportation Planning, but has 30 years of Planning Experience. Most recently, Ms Shepard was the Community Development Director for Summit County Utah. Prior to that, she was a senior associate with Bear West Company in Salt Lake City. Nora spent 15 years as a planner with Park City Municipal Corporation in Utah, including 5 years as Planning
Director. Prior to moving to Utah, Nora worked for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Nora’s degree is in Natural Resource Planning from Humboldt State University in northern California.

In addition to her work and educational experience, Ms Shepard has been very active in the American Planning Association, serving 2 terms as Chapter President from Utah and 4 years at the Region V Director on the APA Board of Directors. She received the Planner of the Year award from Western Planning Resources in 1994 and was awarded the 2006 Professional Citizen of the Year by the Park City Rotary Club.

Kyle Wiswall, General Counsel, Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Kyle Wiswall is the General Counsel and Staff Attorney at the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. At TSTC, Kyle leads efforts to remove the Sheridan Expressway in the Bronx, fight large scale highway expansion in NJ and gain better legal protection for bicyclists and pedestrians in NY, NJ and CT. A resident of Newark, NJ, Kyle co-founded the Brick City Bike Collective, a bicycle advocacy group fighting for safer streets for all users and fostering bike culture in Newark. He is a member of the NYC Bicycle Commuting/Bicycle Parking Task Force and Board Chair of Brick City Bicycles, Inc. in Newark, NJ. Kyle earned his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law where he concentrated in environmental and natural resources law. He also holds a B.A. in Religion from Colorado College. Prior to working at Tri-State, Kyle was a legal intern at the New Mexico Environment Department and worked in the wine industry in various capacities. Kyle is admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey and is currently a member of the New York State Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of New York City.

Debra Kingsland, Project Engineer, Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, NJDOT

Debra Kingsland is a Project Engineer with the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs. Her professional experience includes work in Design and Planning. For the past six years, she has worked in the Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs where she has managed multiple Bicycle and Pedestrian studies, Local Technical Assistance projects and worked with in-house units to ensure bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are included in the Department’s projects. She has helped implement a plan to get pedestrian safety projects constructed rapidly. She has also managed the County Road Sidewalk Inventory, where images and data including, sidewalk and shoulder width and condition, pedestrian friendly intersections and signage were collected for every county road in the state to help prioritize bicycle and pedestrian safety projects. And most recently drafted the New Jersey Complete Streets Policy.

Jerry Fried, Mayor, Montclair, NJ

A 21 year resident of Montclair, Jerry Fried was elected Mayor in 2008. The Township has become a leader in sustainability initiatives and was the first Municipality in New Jersey to adopt a Complete Streets policy, something the State itself later adopted. In addition to his duties as Mayor, he currently chairs the Board of School Estimate, is a member of the town’s Planning Board and Library Boards and is a liaison to the Montclair Parking Authority.

He is the founder and former President of Bike/Walk Montclair, which works to make Montclair a safer place for pedestrians and cyclists and has been instrumental in procuring hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants for the Township. Fried also founded TrueJustice, an interfaith outreach group, in the days after 9/11. The group
organized visits, discussion forums, workshops and dinners to bring together members of Muslim and non-Muslim congregations and groups. Active in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, which has a long history of social justice and philanthropic actions in Montclair and beyond, he has delivered lay sermons on topics such as "Building Community Through Cycling" and "A Communion of Gifts", has taught Religious Education, and has chaired several committees.

Cost, Funding, and Maintenance Session:

Lois Goldman, NJTPA

Ms. Goldman is the Director of Regional Planning at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, the metropolitan planning organization for the 13 counties of northern New Jersey. She is responsible for the regional transportation plan, Plan 2035, and for safety activities, bicycle/pedestrian planning, and livability and climate change efforts for the agency. She has been at NJTPA for 12 years.

She has a master’s degree from Boston University in Urban and Regional Planning, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and a licensed planner in New Jersey.

Ian Sacs, Hoboken, NJ

Ian Sacs, P.E. is a transportation (not traffic) engineer currently serving as the Director of Transportation and Parking for the City of Hoboken, New Jersey. He practices a "complete streets" approach on worldwide urban transport and development projects, seeking an appropriate balance between the most suitable modal choices. Ian is a strong advocate for city streets as precious and underutilized urban public space. His contributions to the industry's shift in focus from auto-centric cities to human-scale environments have been featured on Planetizen.com (where he writes regularly) and as a “Transportation Expert” in the National Journal; his efforts to reduce car-dependence in Hoboken have recently been exposed to a broad audience in publications such as the New York Times, Streetsblog, Good Magazine, The Daily Green, Tom Vanderbilt's “How We Drive” blog, Planet Green, The Urban Transportation Monitor, and UC Berkeley's Access Magazine. Ian is a licensed Professional Engineer, holds a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Tennessee, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Florida International University.

Janet Heroux, State Partnership for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention

Janet Heroux is the Physical Activity Specialist with ShapingNJ: The State Partnership for Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity Prevention. She also coordinates the Sustainability Task Advisory Group for the partnership. Before joining the office, she was an independent consultant for over a decade working to promote active, healthy communities and children in New Jersey and across the United States. Among her clients were The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Action for Healthy Kids, the Active Living Resource Center and the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers. From 1992 to 1998 she served as program officer for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Early in her career, she worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Afghanistan; a program development officer for Latin America for a maternal and child health group at Johns Hopkins University; and a Food &
Nutrition Officer for Catholic Relief Services in Djibouti. She earned a B.A. from Harvard College, and Master's degrees from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health and the Wharton School of Business. Lately, she chairs her town’s pedestrian and bicycle advisory committee.

“Liability 101” and the Liability Session:

Suzan Zellman, Freeholder, Sussex County

Freeholder Zellman was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in November of 2000. A resident of Stanhope, Susan served as Chairman of the Stanhope Planning Board, and served on the Sussex County Planning Board, where she was founding Chairman of the Sussex County Planning Awards. She was instrumental in the formation of the Six County Coalition, which coordinates shared resources and initiatives on transportation, human services and shared services issues in northwest New Jersey. She also initiated Youth in County Government Day and MoneySmart Week in Sussex County. Freeholder Zellman was elected Chairman for 2008-2009 of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, which oversees over $3 billion in transportation funding for the 13 northern counties in New Jersey. She is also a Trustee on the Boards of TransOptions and New Jersey Future.

Susan is Executive Director of the Housing Partnership, a United Way Agency serving Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties. The Partnership, which won the Governor’s Housing Award for Excellence as the Community Organization of the Year, works with municipalities, organizations and over 3,000 households a year in meeting their home ownership goals. She serves on the Workforce Housing Task Force of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. A graduate of Bucknell University, she earned her MA in Communication and Education from Columbia University. A Leadership New Jersey Fellow, she has experience in managing small business and in management development training for a Fortune 500 company. An educator for 10 years, she taught in Stanhope and was an adjunct faculty member at Sussex County Community College.

Dorothy Kowal, Attorney, Price, Meese, Shulman & D'Arminio

Dorothy A. Kowal focuses her practice in the areas of commercial and general litigation. She represents corporations, individuals and public entities in Federal and State trial and appellate courts. She also practices in the areas of land use, real estate and municipal law and has served as counsel to a Bergen County municipality, including the defense of Title 59 matters.

Ms. Kowal is a graduate of Binghamton University, where she majored in Economics. She earned her law degree from Rutgers University School of Law - Newark, where she served as a law review editor and instructor of legal research and writing. Ms. Kowal is a member of the New Jersey and Bergen County Bar Associations and is admitted to practice in New Jersey and before the Federal District Court of the District of New Jersey, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.
Tracey C. Hinson, Attorney, Szaferman Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.

Tracey C. Hinson, ESq., is an Associate with the law firm of Szaferman Lakind Blumstein & Blader, P.C., Lawrenceville, N.J. She is an experienced civil trial lawyer in the firm’s Personal Injury Group/Litigation Group. Prior to joining the firm, Tracey served for six years as a Deputy Attorney General in the General Education and Tort Litigation Sections of the Division of Law and Public Safety. In that capacity, she participated in trials, arbitrations, mediations, case management and settlement conferences.

Tracey holds a Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School, and a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University. She is admitted to the New Jersey, New York, and United States District Court, District of New Jersey Bars. She currently serves on the Supreme Court of New Jersey, District Fee Arbitration Committee for Middlesex County.

Ranjit Walia AICP/PP, Senior Project Manager, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center

Ranjit Walia has managed the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (NJBPRC) for the last seven years and has 12 years experience in the fields of urban planning and transportation planning and policy, with specialization in the area of pedestrian and bicycle mobility. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Rutgers University in 1996 and a Master of City and Regional Planning Degree from Rutgers in 2000. He worked for the Hunterdon County Planning Board and The RBA Group prior to joining VTC in 2003. He is a member of the American Planning Association and the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Mr. Walia has managed a broad array of transportation projects in both the public and private sector. Mr. Walia annually carries out bicycle and pedestrian research and education and serves as a technical resource to the state. Key research topics have included the built environment as it relates to bikability and walkability, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, policy and program evaluation, and bicycle and pedestrian policy analysis.

Design/ Safety  Session:

Dana Hecht, Assistant to the Director of Project Management, NJDOT, Division of Capital Program Management

Dana graduated from Temple University in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Construction Engineering Technology. She began her career at the NJ Department of Transportation in November 1991 as Civil Engineer Trainee and currently holds the title of Project Manager. She has previously held positions in Planning and in Capital Programming, where she managed the annual federal program. Dana is currently the Assistant to the Director of Project Management. The division is responsible for delivering the yearly capital program which puts hundreds of millions of dollars of projects on the streets.
Keith Skilton, FHWA

Mr. Skilton has a diversity of professional experience approaching 12 years in traffic and transportation engineering. At FHWA, Mr. Skilton’s team administers the use of Federal Aid funding for local projects, carrying out the Federal-aid highway program in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and local agencies to meet New Jersey’s transportation needs. Mr. Skilton’s additional duties include oversight and leadership in the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program, Transportation Enhancements, Transportation, Community & System Preservation, and Ferry Boat Discretionary Programs.

Mr. Skilton has a background in designing and inspecting ADA compliant roadway / streetscape projects in the private sector prior to joining FHWA as a mid-career hire. Within FHWA, Mr. Skilton works with New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) on ADA related matters during the planning, design, and construction of Local Projects, including Transportation Enhancement projects. Currently, Mr. Skilton is the leader in a Work Plan Program Review of ADA compliance in the design of Local Aid Projects during the Plans, Specifications, & Estimates (PS&E) Phase for FY 2011. This review will focus on the design of pedestrian facilities with respect to ADA compliance with the intent of developing a program for NJDOT to consider which places the responsibility of ADA compliance into the design of projects instead of during construction.

Jim Rutalla, Ocean City, NJ

Mr. Rutala is the Principal of Rutala Associates, a consulting firm which provides planning, energy, economic development and management services. Mr. Rutala has a Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning for Ohio State University and a Master of Business Administration from Rutgers University. Throughout his career Mr. Rutala has assisted communities to plan their futures. His commitment to public participation in planning is central to the ongoing successes of many communities. Mr. Rutala has conducted many public meetings, charrettes, workshops and town meetings to gain useful input and obtain a consensus on public policy issues and programs. As Planning Director in Atlantic County, Mr. Rutala spearheaded the funding and development of an eight mile bikeway that connects the urban core with the rural Pinelands sections of the county. He also assisted in the enhancement of a 6 mile rails-to-trails effort that connects the Route 9 communities of Atlantic County. As Administrator in Ocean City, Mr. Rutala worked with a very energized community effort to convert a 27-block long local street to a Complete Street.

Elise Bremer-Nei, Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator, NJDOT

Elise Bremer-Nei is the Safe Routes to School Program Coordinator and a licensed professional planner with the New Jersey Department of Transportation’s Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs. Originally from the Midwest, she is a Rutgers graduate. She has prior experience with the Monmouth County Planning Board, where she managed a pedestrian facilities improvement project and oversaw a Community Development Block Grant Program. She has also worked for a private engineering and design firm, focusing on bicycle and pedestrian planning. Elise has been involved with the Statewide Pedestrian Safety Study, the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master
Plan, Updates to the NJDOT Roadway Design Manual and the Development of New Jersey’s Safe Routes to School Program.