



**BPAC General Meeting**

**December 7, 2022, 9:30 am to 11:30 am**

**Zoom Online Meeting**

**Executive Council:**

Elise Bremer- Nei (NJDOT) | Cassidy Boulan (DVRPC) | John Boyle (BCGP) | Jen Buison (NJT) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Michael Dannemiller (Middlesex County) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | TBD (DHTS) | Keith Hamas (NJTPA) | Alan Huff (SJTPO) | Karen Alexander (NJTIP) | Peri Nearon (NJDHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (MVC) | Linda Rapacki (TMA Rep) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Leigh Ann Von Hagen (VTC-Rutgers)

**Subcommittee Chairs:**

Aimee Jefferson, Chair, Safety Subcommittee

Thom Stead, Chair, Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee

*Vacant*, Chair, Policy and Legislation Subcommittee

**General Meeting Notes:**

The meeting began at 9:30 am with **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** welcoming everyone and summarizing the agenda and open space for general announcements and questions.

**NJDOT Updates – December 2022**

**Elise Bremer-Nei** shared updates from the NJ Department of Transportation on the following topics:

NJDOT Complete Streets Training

- Three virtual NJDOT Complete Streets trainings were held in October. Each training lasted three hours and consisted of three modules: Complete Streets Benefits, Planning, and Design.
- The design module involved an interactive exercise where participants in breakout groups engaged in a guided discussion on proposed Complete Streets changes to real examples of New Jersey Street corridors. Each of the three trainings focused on a different region of the state, and design exercise examples were drawn from North, Central, and South Jersey.

- PDF versions of the training slides, including all three design exercises, are currently up on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).
- The three trainings had a total of 317 registrants from across the state, including state, county, and municipal planners and engineers; police officers; university students; and community advocates.
- The training team recently closed a post-training questionnaire and the trainings and feedback will be summarized in a post-training report, which will eventually be available on the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website.
- NJDOT thanks the trainers (Susan Blickstein, Laura Torchio, Matt Ludwig, and Corey Hannigan), staff from VTC and Susan Blickstein who helped facilitate the training and breakout sessions (Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Sam Rosenthal, James Sinclair, Jon Dugan, Greg Woltman, Sean Meehan, Catherine Bull, Siennah Yang, Liz Ward, and Julian Wexer), Pete Kremer for his work on training slides and content, and Bill Riviere for representing NJDOT during the trainings.

#### Other Complete Streets Updates

- FHWA is currently conducting a national Complete Streets assessment. NJDOT is providing information to FHWA and a report on state DOT Complete Streets efforts is expected in spring 2023.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires a Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment due next fall. Michael Baker is assisting NJDOT with a study that collects data required for the assessment.

#### NJ Safe Routes Academy

- The 2022 New Jersey Safe Routes Academy, sponsored by NJDOT, hosted a series of “lunch and learn” webinars that are now available on the NJ Safe Routes YouTube channel or on the [NJ Safe Routes website](#).

#### NJTPA Regional Active Transportation Plan

- The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) is developing a Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP) that aims to increase non-motorized travel by strategically addressing critical gaps in the regional active transportation network. This effort is using data and outreach to identify a conceptual active transportation network that prioritizes equitable access.
- From August through October, the NJTPA conducted outreach at several public events throughout the region and collected feedback through an online survey and interactive map. To help capture the region’s diverse public perspectives, the project team will be conducting focus group interviews with people from traditionally underrepresented population segments in December. The final plan will also include an implementation strategy guide and up to three case studies, all of which will be completed by June 2023. For questions or more information about the ATP, please reach out to Keith Hamas at [khamas@njtpa.org](mailto:khamas@njtpa.org).

#### NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates

- Safety Summit #4 for the 2020 New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan was held online on October 11th. The Summit featured New Jersey leaders in highway safety speaking about new

priority actions in the plan and the implementation efforts already underway. Summit presentations and a recording of the event will be uploaded to the [NJ SHSP website](#).

- As announced at the July BPAC meeting, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area team will be working on 5 new priority actions for the SHSP in the coming year.
  1. **Nazhat Aboobaker from NJDOT** will lead a group researching best practices for retrofitting arterial roads to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.
  2. **Debra Kagan from the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition** will guide the development of recommendations for education and outreach related to recent updates to laws and regulations relating to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters. The team will be partnering with the Motor Vehicle Commission on a lot of this work.
  3. Research on best practices for sharing state highway crash data and crash-prone state highway corridors will be led by **Shazia Khizir from NJDOT**.
  4. A team led by **Mike Morris from the Division of Highway Traffic Safety** will review existing school zone speed enforcement programs and develop recommendations for implementation in New Jersey.
  5. **Tara Shepherd from goHunterdon TMA** will lead a group in developing guidance for implementation of a comprehensive traffic safety curriculum in NJ elementary schools.
- All Round 1 actions are complete except for ACTION 1.A.1.b. Complete Streets Task Force. This is an on-going effort with many facets. NJDOT thanks Paul Lenarczyk for his work on this action.
- NJDOT is continuing work on a webpage that will hold all SHSP deliverables. The page will be housed on the website of the new NJDOT Safety Resource Center.
- NJDOT's Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs thanks everyone for their contributions to New Jersey's Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

#### NJDOT LTA Updates

- In 2022, NJDOT completed the Perry Street Future plan in Trenton, an Active Transportation Vision Plan in Camden, a Comprehensive Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan in Eatontown, and a Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan in Woodbine. BikePaterson: Building a Better City is under final review. New studies are kicking off in Palmyra and Long Branch, as well as a Vision Zero Action Plan for West Orange.

#### Resource Center Award Updates

- The Voorhees Transportation Center has once again been awarded contracts to manage both the Bicycle and Pedestrian and the Safe Routes Resource Centers for NJDOT over the next two years. VTC teamed with Rowan University, Civic Eye Collaborative, Susan G. Blickstein and CH Planning to develop their proposals. Congratulations to everyone involved.

#### Award of On Call Consultant Contracts – NV5 & Michael Baker, Inc.

- Three-year agreements have been signed with NV5 and Michael Baker International to do bicycle and pedestrian planning for NJDOT. Sam Schwartz Consulting has also been awarded an on-call safety contract with the Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs.

#### BPAC Executive Council Changes

- Last year, BPAC adopted new by-laws which expanded the number of seats on the Executive Council to include more diverse representation by a greater number of state and regional agencies. Due to this, as well as the changing professional roles of some members, there are now a number of open positions on the Executive Council.
- In 2023, BPAC will focus on identifying representatives from various agencies to fill those open positions.

#### Other Notes

- Eric Heitmann, the Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has stepped down to take on new challenges. NJDOT thanks Eric for his help on BPAC and many other projects, including the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.
- Ed O'Connor and John Strachan will also be leaving DHTS. NJDOT thanks them both for their help over the years.

#### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education and Enforcement Presentation – Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative**

- Both PSEE and BSEE programs have been developed and supported by Civic Eye Collaborative, NJDOT, the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center, and the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety.
- The need for a pedestrian and bicycle education results from a car-centric transportation environment. Many people do not walk or bike in their own communities.
- One of the challenges has been a lack of understanding, including among law enforcement, of the perspective of those who walk and bike. For police officers, this is significant because it is difficult to enforce laws if you don't understand them.
- Over the last 20 years, things have been changing, including more walking and biking, greater support for the Complete Streets approach to roadway design, new technology, and policies such as New Jersey's Stop and Stay Stopped Law and Safe Passing Law. These changes have created an environment for PSEE/BSEE programs to succeed.
- New Jersey's BSEE program involves law enforcement, advocates, and community members to provide education to motorists and bicyclists, as well as enforcement of motorist and bicyclist laws. Trainers train police officers on how to properly enforce bicycle laws, coordinating with community members on enforcement operations and education.
- PSEE operations in New Jersey have been carried out since 2007. The program educates law enforcement on pedestrian laws with a focus on education first and enforcement second. PSEE provides regional training, peer-to-peer training, and resources needed for officers to carry out operations.
- The Safety subcommittee breakout session will discuss PSEE/BSEE programs in more detail, evaluating the programs and charting a course for the programs' future.

#### **Healthy New Jersey 2030 - Jackie Bavaro, Y Alliance, and Loretta Kelly, NJDOH**

- Jackie Bavaro’s subcommittee on the Healthy New Jersey (HNJ) 2030 plan is looking at equitable access to health resources and programs in local communities. The group determined that transportation is essential to accessing healthcare, healthy food, and other essential resources.
- Health in All Policies (HiAP) and cross-agency collaboration is at the heart of HNJ 2030.
- HNJ is modeled after the national Healthy People initiative.
- HNJ has existed since 1990, creating a long-range health improvement plan.
- HNJ has some overlap with the NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).
- HNJ coordinated an advisory council to create the plan and developed four major topic areas:
  - Access to Quality Care
  - Healthy Living
  - Healthy Families
  - Healthy Communities
- HNJ also includes three cross-cutting themes:
  - Equity
  - Policy
  - Resilience (not only environmental, but also individual resilience from personal trauma)
- The HNJ advisory council developed overarching goals for each topic area.
- The second phase of the plan expanded beyond the advisory council and 15 developed action teams across the four topic areas.
  - Action plan templates identify objectives, partners, and how to achieve objectives.
- HNJ’s third phase will involve the implementation of action plans.
  - Action team chairs will gather data, identify objectives and targets, implement actions, and monitor progress.
  - NJDOH will be putting out information about how to support implementation.
- Reach out to Loretta Kelly to join an Action Team: [loretta.kelly@doh.nj.gov](mailto:loretta.kelly@doh.nj.gov)
- To connect with the Equitable Access in Communities ACT for HNJ2030 (and discuss how to better connect health and transportation) please feel free to email Jackie Bavaro for more information: [Jackie.Bavaro@yalliance.org](mailto:Jackie.Bavaro@yalliance.org)

### **Subcommittee Breakout Groups**

At 10:05, the three subcommittee breakout rooms opened. Each subcommittee’s meeting notes were recorded separately and can be found on the BPAC subcommittee pages.

### **Subcommittee Chairs Report Back:**

Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee, chair **Thom Stead, DVRPC**

- The subcommittee hosted presentations on quick-build bicycle and pedestrian demonstration projects. One series of projects for the Essex County 2045 plan was based in low-income communities. Another project by DVRPC in Camden County has become more permanent. The subcommittee discussed some of the issues related to demonstration projects, including liability concerns, ADA compliance, and MUTCD standards.

- The subcommittee is hoping to host a presentation on Jersey Water Works' Green Streets Training in the future. They would also like to host a presentation on a project related to ITS solutions for bicyclists and pedestrians at Route 129 and Lalor Street.
- The subcommittee would like to support the SHSP action regarding retrofitting arterial roadways.
- The subcommittee would like to continue to identify ways to improve equity on bicycle and pedestrian projects, as well as using trails to improve connectivity.

Safety Subcommittee, chair **Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA** (interim, **Ranjit Walia, CEC**)

- The subcommittee discussed PSEE/BSEE programs in greater depth, including the program's history, strengths, and opportunities for improvement.
- The subcommittee discussed their accomplishments for 2022 and identified a list of goals for 2023.

Policy Subcommittee, chair **currently vacant** (interim, **Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC**)

- The subcommittee discussed the next steps for the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) updates report. New Jersey Future and Jersey City will submit the report to the NJDCA Site Improvement Advisory Board.
- The subcommittee discussed goals around access and mobility for Healthy New Jersey 2030, including how to shape some of the plan's goals around transportation.
- The subcommittee discussed goals for 2023, including providing input on Debra Kagan's SHSP action on providing recommendations for education on updates to laws and guidance relating to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters.
- The subcommittee would like to host a presentation by Shazia Khizir from NJDOT on the SHSP action related to state highway crash data. The subcommittee would like to identify ways to support this action.
- The subcommittee would like to create a primer on NJ laws that shape transportation land use and decision-making, including RSIS, Title 39, and the Functional Classification System.

#### **Additional Announcements:**

- The 2023 NJ Planning and Redevelopment Conference (PRC) will be held June 21-23.
- There will be a Trails Task Force meeting on Monday, December 19th at 11am to kick off a new round of updates to the statewide trails geodatabase. If anyone is interested in attending or in volunteering, please email [Trails@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Trails@dep.nj.gov).
- DVRPC has chosen a new executive director, Ariella Maron. She currently runs her own consulting firm in Philadelphia and has previously worked for Buro Happold, NYC Planning, and NYC Economic Development Corporation.
- DVRPC has released the report for Mobility Choices: Transportation Conversations in Three Black and Latino Communities in the Greater Philadelphia Region:  
<https://www.dvrpc.org/Reports/22103.pdf>

## Comments:

- Some members expressed interest in an in-person meeting for the May or July 2023 BPAC meeting. An in-person meeting could be held at Rutgers or another location if available.
- **Corey Hannigan** noted that the New Brunswick connection to D&R Canal is currently difficult to access for pedestrians and bicyclists.
  - NJDEP will look into the access issue.
  - NJDOT will look into updates on the Landing Lane access bridge project.
- **Mark Smith** expressed concerns about pedestrian access and safety at Kean University. Access to the campus from the Union train station is difficult and dangerous for pedestrians. Sidewalks along Morris Avenue are narrow and obstructed, and crossing times are very short. These issues raise equity concerns for professors and students who do not own cars.
  - **Liza Betz** from Union County Planning and Mark Smith discussed the various issues with bicycle and pedestrian safety in the vicinity of the Kean University campus and will maintain communication on these concerns.
  - There is an opportunity to bring this issue to the Connect Union County trails project: <https://unioncountyconnects.org/>
  - **Jim Hunt** would like to find funding to explore these types of issues on more college campuses. **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** noted that state universities are eligible for federal Transportation Alternatives funds.
  - There are many entities with jurisdiction over different portions of this area, including Kean University, Union Township, Union County, NJ Transit, and NJDOT.
  - Union County still lacks a Complete Streets policy.

## Next BPAC Session:

- The next BPAC meeting is January 25, 2023. Please register here: [https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtf-qhrjksH9HSDLhnQ20BAflWpp\\_poB9T](https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtf-qhrjksH9HSDLhnQ20BAflWpp_poB9T)

## Attendees

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Greg Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- Charlie Romanow, WSP
- William Riviere, NJDOT
- Adam Bradford, Somerset County
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
- Maureen Donnelly, APN Cooper Hospital/Safe Kids Southern NJ
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
- Catherine Bull, Rutgers-VTC

- Mackenzie Piggot, NJDEP Green Acres Program
- Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- Ayla Schermer
- Corey Hannigan, NV5
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
- Jackie Bavaro, YMCA Alliance
- Jacob Thompson, Rutgers-VTC
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Jim Hunt, Morris County
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Kimberley Irby, New Jersey Future
- Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Sangeeta Badlani, Families for Safe Streets
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Tricia Dunkak, New Jersey Future
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Courtenay Mercer, Mercer Planning
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Loretta Kelly, NJDOH
- Aashna Jain, WSP
- Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
- Andrew Mikesh
- Anthony Durante, MBI
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- Dan Hutton, Urban Engineers
- Dan LiSanti, NJDOT
- Danielle Baer
- Denise Nickel, Middlesex County
- Jaime Philips, MBI
- Jesse McGowan
- John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- John Wheeler
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Lisa Leone, Avenues in Motion
- Mark Smith, Kean University
- Martin Balcazar, Rutgers
- Michael Popovech
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit



- Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
- Pete Kremer, MBI
- Polli Schildge, Asbury Park Complete Streets
- Reba Oduro, NJDOT
- Tanner Thul