



BPAC General Meeting

September 28, 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) | Brandee Chapman (NJDOT) | Michael Dannemiller (Middlesex County) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Eric Heitmann (DHTS) | Keith Hamas (NJTPA) | Alan Huff (SJTPD) | Karen Alexander (NJTIP) | Peri Nearon (NJDHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (MVC) | Linda Rapacki (TMA Rep) | Sonia Szczesna/Janna Chernetz (TSTC) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Byron Nicholas (NJTPA) | Leigh Ann Von Hagen (VTC-Rutgers)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Aimee Jefferson, Chair, Safety Subcommittee

Thom Stead, Chair, Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee

Sonia Szczesna, Chair, Policy and Legislation Subcommittee

General Meeting Notes:

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

The new website for the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center will soon be released.

Sonia Szczesna is stepping down from her role as Policy Subcommittee chair. She encourages anyone interested in leading the work of the subcommittee, including its focus on Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS), to reach out to Leigh Ann for further information on becoming the new chair.

NJDOT Updates – September 2022

Bill Riviere shared updates from the NJ Department of Transportation on the following topics:

NJDOT Complete Streets Training:

- Registration is now open for the 2022 New Jersey Complete Streets Training. The free 3-hour online training, sponsored by NJDOT, consists of three modules covering the basics of Complete Streets from the benefits of policies to the planning and design elements needed to implement Complete Streets in your community. This training is designed for planners, engineers, advocates, public health professionals, policymakers, elected officials, and anyone looking to learn more about Complete and Green Streets.
- The dates and times of the three sessions are:
 - Thursday, October 13, 2022, 9 am –12 pm (North Jersey focus)
 - Thursday, October 20, 2022, 9 am –12 pm (Central Jersey focus)
 - Thursday, October 27, 2022, 1 pm –4 pm (South Jersey focus)
- Visit njbikeped.org/nj-complete-streets-training to learn more about what the training covers and to register for a session. If you have any questions, please contact: bikeped@ejb.rutgers.edu.

NJ Safe Routes Academy:

- The 2022 New Jersey Safe Routes Academy has been running “lunch and learn” webinars on Thursdays throughout September. The Academy, sponsored by NJDOT, features free online sessions to help participants make their communities more walk- and bike-friendly for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Recordings of all webinars will be available on the NJ Safe Routes YouTube channel.
- To register or watch previous Safe Routes Academy Sessions, visit: saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy.

TA Set Aside Grant Training:

- The September 15th NJ Safe Routes Academy session was also the final Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Training webinar of 2022. The online session provided information about applying for a TA Set-Aside grant. The program is administered by the NJDOT in partnership with the State’s three Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). To watch a recording of this session, please visit: The NJ Safe Routes Academy website, saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy
- A reminder that grant applications are due November 3rd. Mandatory one-on-one pre-application meetings end September 30th. For more information about applying for a TA Set-Aside grant, visit the NJ Safe Routes (<https://www.saferoutesnj.org/transportation-alternatives-set-aside-program/>) and NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center (<https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>) websites.

Safe Passing Law:

- The Safe Routes Resource Center, along with Civic Eye Collaborative, has produced a Safe Passing Law video for NJDOT, which will not only help to spread awareness about the law, but will also provide a visual demonstration of how drivers can pass vulnerable road users safely. The video is being finalized and will be posted on the NJ Safe Routes YouTube channel when it is ready.
- The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition will be hosting the next Safe Passing Law Partner Network meeting this Friday, September 30, from 11 am to 12 pm. The Partner Network

consists of representatives from a range of public, private, and non-profit organizations around New Jersey who are key to education and outreach efforts related to the Safe Passing Law. At this meeting, the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition will provide information on the availability of new promotional materials and discuss how to tailor future promotional efforts to effectively spread the word about the law.

Residential Site Improvement Standards Report:

- The final version of the Residential Site Improvement Standards report has been posted to the NJ Safe Routes website. See <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/proposed-updates-to-the-nj-residential-site-improvement-standards/>. The report, which offers recommendations to update New Jersey's Residential Site Improvement Standards to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, is based on a presentation given at the May 2022 BPAC Policy subcommittee meeting and is intended to support the subcommittee's ongoing discussions about revisions to RSIS.

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 planning effort is using outreach and data-driven methods to identify a conceptual regional active transportation network that prioritizes equitable access.
- As part of this effort, the NJTPA is collecting feedback through an online survey and interactive map. If you are interested in learning more about the project or completing the survey or map, please visit the ATP webpage. <https://active-transportation-nitpa.hub.arcgis.com/>
- To capture the region's many diverse perspectives, the NJTPA is particularly interested in participating in festivals, farmers markets, and other events in communities that have historically been overlooked in transportation planning. Please share information about these events with Keith Hamas at khamas@nitpa.org.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Pedestrian Safety Month:

- October is Pedestrian Safety Month. NHTSA will feature a different theme every week to increase awareness around pedestrian safety and remind drivers to watch for pedestrians each and every time they are behind the wheel. The four themes for this October are: Everyone is a Pedestrian, Safe Speeds, Safe Vehicles, and Safe Roads.
- For more information and resources, please visit the NHTSA website. See <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/pedestrian-safety> and https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/sites/tsm.gov/files/2021-10/THE%20FINAL%20NHTSA%20Ped%20Toolkit%20Layout_508_9.30.pdf

NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Updates:

- Safety Summit #4 for the 2020 New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan will be held online on **Tuesday, October 11 from 10-12:30 p.m.** This will be an opportunity to hear

from New Jersey leaders in highway safety about new priority actions in the plan and the implementation efforts already underway. For more information and to register for this virtual summit, please visit the NJ SHSP website (saferoadsforallnj.com).

- As announced at the July BPAC meeting, NJDOT will be working on five new priority actions for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area of the SHSP in the upcoming year.
- Action Team leaders for the Round 2 Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area actions are as follows:
 1. Research best practices for retrofitting arterial roads to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists – **Leader: Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT**
 2. Develop recommendations for education and outreach related to recent updates to laws and regulations relating to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters – **Leader: Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition**
 3. Research best practices for sharing state highway crash data and crash-prone state highway corridors – **Leader: Shazia Khizir, NJDOT**
 4. Review existing school zone speed enforcement programs and develop recommendations for implementation in New Jersey – **Leader: Mike Morris, NJDHTS**
 5. Develop guidance for implementation of a comprehensive traffic safety curriculum in NJ elementary schools – **Leader: Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon TMA**
- All the Round 1 actions are complete or nearly complete except ACTION 1.A.1.b. – the New Jersey Complete Streets Task Force. Thank you to Paul Lenarczyk for taking the lead on this action. Elise Bremer-Nei will be working to fold this work into the updated NJDOT Complete Streets Policy.
- NJDOT has identified action team leaders but are in need of working group participants. If you are interested in participating on one of these action teams, please email Bill Riviere at william.riviere@dot.nj.gov.
- NJDOT is working on a webpage that will house all SHSP deliverables. This will be housed on the website of the new NJDOT Safety Resource Center. We will let you know when these documents are posted online.

BPAC Executive Council Changes

- There is a change to the BPAC Executive Council. Sonia Szczesna is stepping down as chair of the Policy subcommittee. Many thanks Sonia for her years of service as Policy chair and best of luck to her in her future endeavors.

Subcommittee Breakout Groups

At 9:50, 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:

Policy Subcommittee, chair **Sonia Szczesna (TSTC)**

- Policy subcommittee discussed the changes to the RSIS report for submission to NJDOT to see if there are any issues with what is proposed. Other organizations are interested in working on the report. Eventually, the goal is to submit the report to the NJ Senate Transportation Committee.
- A small side task for the Policy Subcommittee is to map out regulatory policies and legislation that affect bicyclists and pedestrians, including Title 39, RSIS, MULU, etc. to help people better understand what each policy does and/or controls.
- **Corey Hannigan** has been nominated as the next subcommittee chair.

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

- The subcommittee mainly focused on presentations today. **Sarah Moran** gave a presentation PennDOT Connects bike-friendly resurfacing work in the Philadelphia suburbs. **Matt Lawson** spoke about how Mercer County is using resurfacing to implement new bike facilities. Slides will be available on the BPRC website.
- **Mike Viscardi** is working in Metuchen on a new project to link the Middlesex Greenway with the Downtown. He is also working on designs for a new trestle bridge in Monmouth County.
- **Cassidy Boulan** announced that the Trenton Bike Plan is underway.
- The Trenton Complete Streets Design Guide has been introduced in Trenton.
- **Mike Dannemiller** is working on a Middlesex County Bike Plan.

Safety Subcommittee, chair **Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA)**

- The subcommittee began by talking about updates on past items, including the transit equity SHSP action. There was a lot of interest on the data surrounding bus stops. **Peter Kremer** and his team at Michael Baker took the lead in exploring that topic with Steve Wong and his group at Sam Schwartz. There is now an audit form for bus stop assessments to account for safety data, roadway characteristics, and an equity score. There is an interest in using GIS data for counties and municipalities to do their own plans to improve bus stops.
- The subcommittee also spoke about the trails crossings work, led by **Brandee Chapman**, which is available online. The research team is looking to identify categories of roadway crossings with trails to create official trails crossing guidelines and recommendations to make crossings safer.
- **Lisa Lee** announced exciting demonstration projects in Essex County in the month of October.
- **Andrew Lappitt** spoke about the Middlesex County Vision Zero Action Plan and how it ties in with the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program from FHWA.
- **Paul Mickiewicz** from the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition announced that there will soon be more promotional materials available for the Safe Passing Law.
- **Lisa Lee** gave an update on the NJ Vision Zero Alliance. There will be a NJ Senate Transportation Committee hearing on October 13, and on October 17 a Senate Assembly Information meeting regarding traffic deaths. All of these dates and other information is on the Vision Zero website and in the subcommittee notes.
- **Ranjit Walia** will be leading the Safety Subcommittee at the December BPAC meeting. He will present on Bicycle and Pedestrian Education and Enforcement Training.

Additional Announcements:

- **Will Yarzab** announced that the Brain Injury Alliance ran a class for law enforcement to teach what bicycle laws are truly about and how to enforce them, including the new Safe Passing Law. Six classes were conducted, which instructed 120 officers across the state.
- Although the Safe Passing Law was originally intended to protect vulnerable road users, including on the shoulder, the actual text of the law specifies only between fog lines where painted. The safe passing law is with the NJ Law Revision Commission. The Commission is making suggestions on how to improve the law.
- **Deb Kagan** agrees and notes that NJBWC is also looking to revise the definition of “personal conveyance”.
- September 30 – NJ Bike and Walk Coalition is looking for input from Safe Passing Law partners on what has worked best and what is needed moving forward to promote the Safe Passing Law. The meeting is this Friday at 11:00am
- NJ SHSP – The 4th Safety Summit is happening on October 11th.
- Safe Routes Academy – Final session on school travel plans is tomorrow.
- Complete Streets Trainings are free and open for registration. njbikeped.org/nj-complete-streets-training
- Mike Manzella:
 - Oct 15 - Transportation Camp NYC 2022
<http://transportationcamp.org/>
 - Oct 16 – Bike JC tour to continue Transportation Camp discussions
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jersey-city-and-hoboken-bike-tour-tickets-425132180797>
 - Oct 19-21 – Vision Zero Cities 2022 Conference (virtual)
<https://www.transalt.org/vision-zero-cities-2022>

Comments:

- For the time being, BPAC will continue to meet remotely due to higher attendance and space constraints at the Bloustein School.
- If people are interested in meeting in-person, the purpose of such meetings should be more specific. For example, demonstration projects are an opportunity to have BPAC site-specific events where members can meet in-person to see good projects in action.
- **Peter Kremer** described two demonstration projects:
 - Princeton, NJ implemented a mini-roundabout where there was a road fatality. The site includes multiple treatments.
 - Paterson, NJ implemented a road diet near Little Falls Park where a 5-foot sidewalk with a guardrail and utility poles has been widened to 12 feet on the falls side.
 - NJ Bike & Walk Coalition has mentioned that groups implementing temporary demonstration projects may contact NJBWC to disseminate information about upcoming projects via their mailing list.
- **Next BPAC Session:**
- The next BPAC meeting is Dec 7th, please register here:
https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJckd-2qqTkpGNYPNJUXda4Bzt6yC_hz4xGF

Attendees

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, VTC
- Greg Woltman, BPRC (VTC)
- Adam Iaccheo
- Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA
- Amy Kaminski, FHWA New Jersey
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County Planning
- Andrew Mikesh
- Andy Swords, NJDOT Division of Statewide Planning
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Byron Nicholas, Hudson County Engineering
- Catherine Bull, SEEC (VTC)
- Charlie Romanow, WSP and Trenton Planning Board
- Corey Hannigan, NV5
- Deb Kagan, New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition
- Dan LiSanti, NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
- Eleanor Horne, Lawrence Hopewell Trail and New Jersey Trails Action Network
- Elias Guseman, City of Jersey City
- Erica Henderson-Smith, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Erlea Moldonado, EZ Ride
- Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
- Jacqueline Romney, Bergenfield, NJ resident
- Jasmine Grossman, Middlesex County Planning
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
- John Strachan, NJDHTS
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Kim Irby, New Jersey Future
- Linda Rapacki, RideWise TMA
- Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
- Liza Betz, NJTPA
- Louis Hoffman, NJTIP at Rutgers
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Martin Balcazar, VTC
- Matthew Maher, Stantec
- Michael Manzella, City of Jersey City, Director of Transportation
- Mike Dannemiller, Middlesex County Planning
- Mike Johnson, EZ Ride
- Paul Mickiewicz, New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition
- Peter Kremer, Michael Baker International
- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Reba Odura, NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
- Samantha Donovan, Sam Schwartz Consulting

- Sarah Moran, DVRPC
- Sean Meehan, SRRC (VTC)
- Siennah Yang, SGB LLC
- Sonia Szczesna, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- Sophia Pereira, BPRC (VTC)
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Will Yarzab, NJTPA