



BPAC Policy Subcommittee Meeting

September 28, 2022, 9:50 am to 10:50 am

Online Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

- Sonia Szczesna, TSTC (chair)
- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, VTC
- Greg Woltman, BPRC (VTC)
- Adam Iaccheo
- Anne Heasly, Sustainable Jersey
- Andrew Mikesh
- Andrew Swords, NJDOT Division of Statewide Planning
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Corey Hannigan, NV5
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Eleanor Horne, Lawrence Hopewell Trail and New Jersey Trails Action Network
- Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
- Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- John Strachan, NJDHTS
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Kim Irby, New Jersey Future
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Michael Manzella, City of Jersey City, Director of Transportation
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Tricia Dunkak

Meeting notes:

RSIS Recap - last meeting was July 26th

- Initial Comments/Thoughts
 - Since July, members of the previous subcommittee have been making comments to the working documents, with the intent of addressing those comments today.
 - **Working Document:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KRllIRM-SWZUEHalY0gltlwyMDwX3A6FSs7eLBv35S4/edit?usp=sharing>



- **Notes/Additional thoughts:**
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yOnu7Traf3L3oYCOrBSvrxO5tFUpDA3B3mNdAQ365bl/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Since the last subcommittee meeting, there have been multiple changes to the RSIS working document. While developers rely on RSIS for their standards, this subcommittee may consider going back to other documents that impact trip generation rates, such as the ITE Parking Generation Manual.
 - Individual subcommittee members have spoken to members of the RSIS Board who mentioned that they had just revisited the parking minimum standards and were not interested in making more changes to them in the near future. However, they may be interested in looking at other aspects.
 - Municipalities are encouraged to bring in other considerations, but under the current RSIS, they must go through a waiver process to opt out of the parking minimum standards.
- Everyone should review the recommendations and help decide on short, medium, and long-term revisions.

Categories of Updates to RSIS Report

- Leave out Parking for now
 - If anything is to be said about parking minimums, the subcommittee should acknowledge the new California law which eliminates parking minimums for transit-rich areas.
 - Currently, there is a sizable increase in the amount of housing being built in the state during an affordability crisis. Developers are trying to wedge in housing in areas and they should have to consider how new residents will be able to walk/bike from new development to, for example, the train station or other destinations. Perhaps developers should be required to have a circulation plan, as in other states.
 - Talk about stormwater as another package
 - Focus on the bike/ped standards
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- The focus on RSIS is due to the clearer process through the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to change the standards, as opposed to other significant policies in the state, such as the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) and Title 39.
 - A good, new suggestion is to ask developers to include bicycle and pedestrian mobility when they conduct their traffic studies. Municipalities have the ability, through the zoning ordinance, to set requirements for conducting a traffic study and the suggestion is for RSIS to require bike/ped analysis whenever a traffic study is required.



- Title 39 is the motor vehicle statutes. It is a broad category of statutes which encompasses a large number of regulations. It is enforced through police and changes are enacted through the state legislature.
- There is a need for a resource which explains the various policies and legislation in NJ which regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, including RSIS, MLUL, Title 39, NJ Access Code, Functional Classification System.
- RSIS talks about new roadways and what developers are required to build with respect to new residential units being built.
- Next Steps
 - Develop a document with short-term changes (or share PDF with notes about which items are our priorities)
 - Share with RSIS Transportation Committee
 - Ask if NJDOT can officially submit a request for revisions – could BPAC do an action of any kind?
 - The role of BPAC is to advise the department. NJDOT Planning Director Andrew Swords agrees. BPAC should provide advice for the changes of RSIS to NJDOT, who would submit the recommendations officially. Prior to submitting an official request for Board action, informal communication with the RSIS Board members is a good idea.
 - Janice Tally (RSIS Board Member, Planner in Montclair) from Department of Consumer Affairs is accepting of the idea of shepherding the recommendations through the RSIS Board approval process, but the revisions will need a champion or champions, which may include one or multiple non-profit organizations. The RSIS Board votes on and makes changes to the RSIS.
 - The report should be sent to NJDOT (Andy Swords). The full report is available in the link above. It will be disseminated across his team for review and NJDOT support, including from higher ranks, up to and including the Commissioner.
 - If NJDOT does not wish to support the proposed recommendations, there may be a less official route through the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition (Deb Kagan) and NJ Future (Tim Evans) to make the case to the RSIS Board.
 - NJDOT can take their review of the proposed changes to prioritize specific recommendations as issues that NJDOT can champion versus those that the non-profit organizations would be better to champion.
- Next meeting: December 7. NJDOT will review the recommendations by the next meeting.

BPAC Policy Additional Items

- Corey Hannigan is nominated to take over as Subcommittee chair.



- What would we like to explore for the next year of BPAC?
 - See [Priorities](#) Jamboard
 - Topics
 - California - eliminating parking minimums in transit-rich areas

Legislative Updates

- Vision Zero Task Force Bill will be in front of Senate Transportation Committee Thursday 9/29
- Assembly Hearing on Traffic Deaths is set for 10/17
- [Tri-State Transportation Campaign Legislation Tracker](#)