



BPAC General Meeting
February 2, 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 (NJDEP) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Eric Heitmann (DHTS) | Keith Hamas (NJTPA) | Alan Huff (SJTPO) | Karen Alexander (NJTIP) | Yvonne Mikalopas (NJDOH) | Peri Nearon (NJDHS) | Jessica O'Connor (MVC) | Linda Rapacki (TMA rep) | Sonia Szczesna/ Janna Chernetz (TSTC) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Leigh Ann Von Hagen (BPRC)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Jennifer Buison, Chair, Safety Subcommittee
Betsy Mastaglio, Chair, Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee
Sonia Szczesna, Chair, Policy and Legislation Subcommittee

Meeting Notes:

Meeting began at 9:30am with **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** by welcoming everyone and summarizing the agenda.

Elise Bremer-Nei provided NJDOT Updates

- **Complete Streets and Freight Workshop with NJDOT & FHWA**
 - On January 25th, NJDOT and FHWA hosted a workshop titled *Advancing Freight in Complete Streets*. The workshop featured sessions exploring the intersections between freight needs and the Complete Streets approach to roadway design and safety. Representatives from NJDOT, FHWA, DVRPC, the City College of New York, and the Town of Westfield presented on a range of topics including the needs of both freight and vulnerable road users, inter-agency coordination, public engagement, and street design solutions that can improve safety for all road users. The workshop started important conversations about how to accommodate freight operations without sacrificing the safety of others who use the road.
 - Session recordings will be made available.
- **Safe Passing Law Coordination**
 - NJDOT has asked the Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center to coordinate with all the New Jersey safety partners already working on roll out of the new NJ Safe Passing Law, which requires motorists to slow down to 25mph and switch lanes or pass with at least 4-feet of space when approaching vulnerable road users.
 - This Safe Passing Law Core Coordinating group has been meeting biweekly to share the status of actions and has set up a SharePoint database to share documents.

- NJ Bike Walk Coalition is leading efforts on media and communication plans. They are applying to the Division of Highway Traffic Safety for a grant to do so.
- The BPRC has been actively following up on tasks to help ensure preparations are ready for the law to go into effect in the first week of March with a goal of a full roll-out for bike month in May.
- We are adding to a list of people and groups to be updated with the progress for two upcoming “Partners Network” meetings. If you would like to be included in the meeting invitation to hear more about the Safe Passing Law plans, please add your name and email in chat or email Sam Rosenthal at samuel.rosenthal@ejb.rutgers.edu.
- **E-bike, E-scooter law flyer**
 - The BPRC has produced a flyer explaining the new update to Title 39, which updates the rules for e-bikes and e-scooters.
 - The BPRC is hosting the flyer on a new micromobility page on the NJ Bicycle-Pedestrian Resource Center website, so please take a look, and feel free to download and share it. <http://njbikeped.org/micromobility/>
- **Transit-Friendly Planning Presentation Registration**
 - NJ Transit is hosting a virtual event Friday, February 4th at 11:00am to present the new "Transit Friendly Planning: A Guide for New Jersey Communities." The Guide is designed to provide recommendations to community members, elected and appointed officials, municipal staff, and others interested in improving the relationship between land use planning, circulation, and access to transit.
 - The first half of the virtual event will be an overview of the Guide and a Q&A session. In the second half, attendees will have the opportunity to chat with NJ Transit staff and state agency representatives in Zoom break-out rooms about current or future transit-friendly planning projects in their communities.
 - Registration link: https://events.zoom.us/ev/AKoKPPUFyyed0wKMhe3lXO9vqjYVbA3RCSbKlSvhZ7mv2D3LTfyZY_ADxt6FnWxqctiH5H8
 - Please reach out to Transit Friendly Planning at transitfriendly@njtransit.com if you have any additional questions.
- **Federal Grant Updates**
 - Everyone at NJDOT, at the MPOs and at the resource centers is still sorting through the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We are waiting for updates from FHWA and will provide updates when we can.
 - Applications for federal Safe Routes to School infrastructure grant funding have been scored by NJDOT staff, and there are some great projects being proposed. We anticipate the announcement of recipients later this spring.
- **NJ Safe Routes to School Recognition Program**
 - Applications for the 2022 New Jersey Safe Routes Recognition Program closed on January 31, 2022. A total of 264 online applications were submitted through the saferoutesnj.org website. Through this program, NJDOT recognizes municipalities and schools for their hard work and commitment to enabling and promoting safe walking and bicycling throughout their communities. Based upon their achievements, communities are recognized at one of four levels: First Step, Bronze, Silver, or Gold. Contact your NJ Safe Routes Regional Coordinator at Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) throughout the state to learn how they can assist with nominations

or help your school or municipality qualify for next year's program. TMAs will contact those who have earned recognition in spring 2022.

- **LTA Updates**

- Our study of the **Perry Street corridor in Trenton** is essentially complete. Our consultant is assembling deliverables to NJDOT and the City.
- Our **Passaic County LTA** is a partnership with the County and the City of Paterson. The City and County will receive draft network recommendations this week, and policy and planning recommendations are underway.
- In our **Camden** study, we are working internally on the draft plan, technical memos, and plan map. We hope to discuss them with the planning director soon, as well as the most effective way to hold a public information center.
- In **Eatontown**, a final draft of the study is under review by NJDOT. After that, the city will have an opportunity to review.
- In **Woodbine** we are having discussions with the local administration on a final public meeting.
- Our **LTA Program Evaluation** is under review within NJDOT. We are looking at ways to improve the program.
- We are still registering interest for new participants in the program and have had discussions with several towns in Hudson and Atlantic Counties.

- **New Complete Streets Policies**

- I would like to congratulate the municipalities of Washington Township in Bergen County, and Holmdel and Bradley Beach in Monmouth County, which have all recently passed Complete Streets policies. Washington Township and Bradley Beach used the model Complete & Green Streets policy language, and all three towns included checklists to be used by project managers and designers. I would like to thank the representatives of those communities as well as the amazing Lisa Lee and EZ Ride TMA, who helped get these three policies adopted.

- **SHSP Updates**

- **ACTION NUMBER 1.A.1.b. Complete Streets Task Force**
 - **Leader: Paul Lenarczyk, NJDOT**
 - Since the last check-in, the team held a meeting to welcome new members. An updated Complete Streets policy and checklist are currently being developed by the Department and the action team has contributed.
 - The Task Force met on January 26th to review research on best practice in Complete Streets policy and implementation from around the country. During this meeting, members discussed some key issues such as the increased focus on equity and sustainability, the integration of checklists and design guidance in project development, and the need to clarify the Complete Streets exemptions process.
 - Information gathered from interviews and surveys is being compiled.
 - The entire action is now 40% complete.
- **ACTION NUMBER 1.A.3.a. - Automated Speed Enforcement & Vulnerable Road Users**
 - **Leaders: Joseph Rapp, NJDOT BSBPP and Sonia Szczesna, Tri-State Transportation Campaign**
 - The work group is completing their deliverables. The interviews for the Automated Speed Enforcement and Vulnerable Road User Laws will be conducted in the coming weeks.

- This action is now 75% complete.
 - **ACTION NUMBER 1.B.1.a. Bike Ped Design Guidance**
 - **Leader: Patrick Farley, Cross County Connection TMA**
 - The group had a meeting to discuss re-opening the design guidance inventory to include more examples of State DOT level guidance and will submit a memo outlining this in February 2022. The group proposed including a question about design guidance in interviews being completed for Action 1.A.1.b to consolidate efforts.
 - This action is now 45% complete.
 - **ACTION NUMBER 1.C.4.a Street Smart Action**
 - **Leader: Keith Hamas, NJTPA**
 - The team developed a methodology for prioritizing communities for the Street Smart program by looking at equity alongside pedestrian and bicycle crashes. The final deliverable will be a report that identifies priority locations, funding options, and a statewide communications plan.
 - This action is now 80% complete.
 - **ACTION NUMBER 1.F.1.c. and 1.F.2.c. Transit Inventory & Equity Prioritization**
 - **Leaders: Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA**
 - The working group added new members and met to discuss methodology and criteria, review proposed site visit locations, and finalize the 12 audit locations. The next step is virtual site visits and then a follow up with a physical site visit performed by the consultant team.
 - This action is now 20% complete.
- **Complete Streets Training in 2022**
 - Update to training materials are underway
 - A first test of the new materials is anticipated in Spring 2022
- **NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance**
 - I also want to mention that NJDOT is supporting NJTPA's Complete Streets Technical Assistance program, which is currently taking applications. This program is a joint effort between NJTPA, Sustainable Jersey, and the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center at the Voorhees Transportation Center that offers free technical assistance services to communities for specific projects to advance Complete Streets. Applications are due February 11, so if you're interested, please visit the Sustainable Jersey website for information (including webinar recordings) to help you through the application process. <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/grants/free-complete-streets-technical-assistance-services/>
- **USDOT National Roadway Safety Strategy**
 - The US Department of Transportation has just released its National Roadway Safety Strategy, which outlines FHWA's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on the nation's roadways. We will post the link in the chat box for the USDOT webpage where you can read more about this strategy. <https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS>
- **NJ Trails & Greenways Webinars for 2022**
 - Capitalizing on the success of the New Jersey Trails & Greenways Summit, the New Jersey Trails Action Network is now hosting webinars every other month. The January webinar, titled "Happy Trails: From Vision to Implementation," included panelists from Delaware, New York, and Pennsylvania who discussed how to advance multi-use trails at

the state level. The webinar was attended by more than 130 people, showing that trail planning is clearly a hot topic, and many people are excited about the future of trails in New Jersey.

- It is worth mentioning that NJTAN is a volunteer effort. I would like to extend my thanks to people like Sonia, Eleanor, and Brandee for their work to give this topic the attention it deserves.
- If you're interested in being a part of the conversation, sharing knowledge and best practices, or are curious to learn more, please join the New Jersey Trails Action Network at njtrailsaction.org! We will post the link in chat. <https://njtrailsaction.org/>
- **Internal NJDOT Complete Streets Policy Assessment**
 - An Internal NJDOT Complete Streets Policy Assessment is underway. I don't have any updates to share at this time but I will let you know when there is more to report.
- Finally, there are a few changes to the BPAC Executive Council
 - One is exciting news that our NJDOT Assistant Commissioner Mike Russo may be joining the Council. It would be an important accomplishment to have Mike's leadership on the EC.
 - I would also like to welcome Peri Nearon to the Executive Council. Peri represents the Division of Disability Services at the NJ Department of Human Services, and we are excited to have her join BPAC and share her expertise. Peri's perspective will be incredibly valuable as we seek to ensure that all the work we do at BPAC addresses the needs of everyone, regardless of ability. Please join me in welcoming Peri to the Executive Council.
 - In addition, there are two people whom I'd like to thank for their years of service and engagement who are stepping down.
 - First, Jennifer Buison at NJ Transit will be stepping down as the Chair for the Safety Subcommittee. I'd like to thank her for her years of service to BPAC. Luckily for us, she will still be attending meetings and providing valuable feedback. Thank you, Jennifer! On that note, we will need a new chair for the subcommittee. Please let Leigh Ann or James know if you are interested in the position.
 - Second, our friend and colleague Brandee Chapman has been the NJDEPs Trails Coordinator and has served on this council for many years. Her role at NJDEP is ending, but I'm absolutely thrilled that she will be my new colleague at NJDOT. Brandee will be working on Everyday Counts projects as a new Innovation Coordinator in the Bureau of Research. Let's congratulate her on her new position at NJDOT!
 - On a special note, I'd like to thank my colleague Joe Powell for all his work on bicycling and pedestrian issues for the State of New Jersey over the years and ask that you all join me in congratulating him on his retirement at the end of February.

Peter Kremer with Michael Baker International provided an update on the Bike/Ped Design Guide.

- Action Item 1.B.1.a. is intended to investigate new design guidance for the state, counties, and municipalities to improve the movement, safety, and visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Updates to Complete Streets training materials are underway.
- MBI has conducted one-on-one interviews and roundtable discussions with engineers, planners, elected officials, and advocates.

- Some topics discussed included the NJ Complete Streets Design Guide, related plans and studies, project development, capital programming, zoning, and land development review.
- The NJ CS Design Guide is frequently seen as a pattern book of designs.
 - NJDOT is looking to include more guidance on design decisions, such as where and when to calm traffic, roundabouts vs. signals, leading pedestrian intervals, and increased flexibility on bicycle facility selection.
 - There is also a desire to include content covering liability, freight, equity, inclusion, sustainability, and resilience.
- Many people don't have a strong understanding of the reasons behind specific design elements. It's important to have master plans and other documents to provide the rationale and justification, and drive project development and capital programming.
- There have been missed opportunities:
 - Limited consideration of complete, safe, green, equitable improvements, etc.
 - Outdated circulation elements
 - Mobility considerations ignored in affordable housing locations
 - Lack of review by land use boards on large developments regarding mobility and access for transit and vulnerable road users
- There are many misconceptions about Complete Streets.
 - People think adopting a CS policy means they have to upgrade all of their infrastructure.
 - People don't understand terms like equity, green infrastructure, etc.
- What does Complete Streets success look like?
 - You need to have a comprehensive policy, a complete streets champion, and an organizational structure that allows for collaboration when addressing competing priorities.

Meeting moved to subcommittee breakout rooms.

End of Meeting Subcommittee Breakout Report Back:

Sonia Szczesna, Chair, Policy and Legislation Subcommittee, outlined the discussion topics in the Legislative subcommittee:

- Talked about the definition of the term "personal conveyance" in the new Safe Passing Law
 - Considering replacing it with "micromobility"
 - Next steps are to define it and start the process to amend the law
- Presentation on the legal definition of Title 39 and Parking Protected Bike Lanes
- Discussed report on legislation that could be pertinent to BPAC's goals

Betsy Mastaglio, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee outlined the discussion topics in the Design subcommittee:

- Updates on ongoing projects.
- DVRPC opened a webpage for information on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as it comes out.
- Transit-friendly planning work is being done on Route 9.

- Discussed process for seeking approval for innovative design through MUTCD.
- Focus areas from last meeting:
 - Will continue to work with NJDOT on Complete Streets
 - Talked about the importance of commenting on safety measures in DOT projects and how to get involved in public meetings
 - Discussed bike treatments at highway interchanges

Jennifer Buison, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, outlined the discussion topics in the Safety subcommittee:

- Noted that the workplan is twice as long as it was last year
- Update on work that's happening:
 - Statewide analysis of trail crossings has been submitted to NJDOT's research bureau.
 - Safe Passing Law education and outreach is in progress.
 - Zero Deaths Initiatives across New Jersey and how BPAC might provide technical/data expertise

Open Discussion:

- Emmanuel Morgan mentioned an upcoming Jersey City bike group ride in Hudson County.
- FHWA posted the Safe System Brochure: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/zerodeaths/docs/FHWA_SafeSystem_Brochure_V9_508_200717.pdf
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign announced that the solicitation for RAISE grant applications is out and applications are due on April 14 through this link: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/apply>
- TSTC posted RAISE grant mapping, Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities, <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-app-hdc>
- NJDOT staff mentioned a news article urging NJDOT to rethink its safety strategy, and BPRC staff suggested a breakout discussion with the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition and other interested parties.
- NJDOT posted a link to interim approvals issued by FHWA for the MUTCD: https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/res-interim_approvals.htm
- NJDOT posted a link with information on upcoming public meetings: <https://www.nj.gov/transportation/community/meetings/>
- DVRPC posted Guidance for Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities at Expressway Interchanges in Southeastern Pennsylvania at: <https://www.dvrpc.org/Reports/19025.pdf>
- Sonia Szczesna posted the list of bills the legislative subcommittee is monitoring: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KrWeGfDZETshWwLgvK5727vdju4BO5roW_bNdntz1DQ/edit?usp=sharing
- NJDOT staff reiterated the need for all partners to collaborate to reverse the trend of injuries and fatalities on our roads.
- Somerset County asked about information on the new funding opportunities and increased funding for existing transportation projects found in the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- The BPRC shared a link to the public meeting for the West Side Avenue Safety Improvements Project, Jersey City West Side Avenue Safety Improvements Public Information Center

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:30-8:00 pm <https://www.njtpa.org/Get-Involved/Info-Resources/Calendar/2022/February/Public-Meeting.aspx>

- Middlesex County announced they are about to launch a Vision Zero Action Plan (NJ's first county-wide VZ plan).
- NJBWC asked if there were any “slow streets” plans this spring.
- EZ Ride voiced concerns about COVID-19 remaining an issue going forward.
- The BPRC shared a link for Navigating Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Uncertainty: A Handbook for State & Local Government Leaders, <https://the-atlas.com/iija-handbook-for-local-governments/>

Attendees (88):

- Keith Hamas
- Benjamin Peacock
- Hailey Graf
- Michael Manzella
- Diane Schrauth
- Jennifer Buison
- Ashlynn Shanahan
- Ranjit Walia
- Anne Heasly
- Louis Hoffman
- Paul Lenarczyk
- Elise Bremer-Nei
- Sonia Szczesna
- Denise Nickel
- Laura Cerutti
- Jeevanjot Singh
- Charlie Romanow
- Patrick Farley
- Pam Mount
- Eric Heitmann
- William Riviere
- Jack Molenaar
- Susan Blickstein
- Emmanuelle Morgen
- Sean Meehan
- Katrina Majewski
- Jessica O'Connor, Esq.
- Khalid Shaikh
- Debra Kagan
- Dave Dech
- Yvonne Mikalopas
- Joe Rapp
- Ayla Schermer
- Corey Hannigan
- Jon Dugan
- Paul Drake
- Kayla Bancone
- Andras Holzmann
- Casey Barrett
- Steve Wong
- Ian Girardeau
- Linda Rapacki
- Reba Oduro
- Doug Caum
- John Boyle
- Kayt Hester
- Mohammad A. Islam
- Andrew Tabas
- Bettina Zimny
- Thom Stead
- Dan LiSanti
- Michael Viscardi
- Peter Kremer
- Samantha Donovan
- Leigh Ann Von Hagen
- Jim Hunt
- Aimee Jefferson
- Brandee Chapman
- Liza Betz
- Christopher Paige

- Anthony Durante
- Barbara Rogers
- Alan Huff
- Lisa Serieyssol
- Lisa Lee
- Denise Chaplick
- Claudia Ross
- Andrew Lappitt
- Catherine Bull
- Laura Torchio
- Amy Kaminski
- Vasanti Alvarez
- Kenneth Wedeen
- Janna Chernetz
- Anne Hayton Hayton
- John Wheeler
- Michael Dannemiller
- Kate O'Connor
- Elizabeth Mastaglio
- Sutapa Bandyopadhyay
- Matthew Maher
- Trish Sanchez
- Peri Nearon
- Siennah Yang
- Andrew Besold
- Samuel Rosenthal
- Daniel Hutton
- Michael Popovech