



BPAC General Meeting
March 30, 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

Meeting Notes:

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

- James Sinclair informed everyone that the Legislative subcommittee would not be held this month and encouraged attendees to attend either the Design or Safety subcommittee during the breakouts. Many in the Legislative subcommittee are at the Bike Summit today.
- Mike Manzella announced an in-person Work Zone Safety Conference event on Thursday April 7th for Jersey City hosted by Safe Streets JC. It will be an open town hall to discuss automated speed enforcement. - <https://cait.rutgers.edu/event/2022/>

Elise Bremer-Nei provided updates from NJDOT:

- **BPAC Meeting Notes and 2021 Summary Report on NJ BPRC Website**
 - Meeting notes from prior BPAC general and subcommittee meetings are posted on the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website - <http://njbikeped.org/nj-bpac/>
 - The 2021 BPAC Summary Report is available on the BPRC website (<http://njbikeped.org/wp-content/uploads/BPAC-Year-in-Review-2021.pdf>). The report explains the purpose and structure of BPAC and highlights the major initiatives and accomplishments from the past year.
- **Safe Passing Law Coordination**
 - Coordination on informational and educational messaging is ongoing. There is a planned awareness campaign rollout for National Bike Month in May.

- The next meeting is May 4th 3:30 pm. Register here: https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMudO-qpiguGtC_yoEcp7EMh0AaK7ZnOU_I
- To be included in the meeting invitation, please add your name and email in chat or email Sam Rosenthal - samuel.rosenthal@ejb.rutgers.edu
- Successful campaigns rely on local champions and broad reach. Reach out to your own contacts and local groups to help increase awareness of the Safe Passing Law. Consider telling five friends about the new law and encourage them to tell five friends!
- **Federal Grant Updates**
 - It is anticipated that a Transportation Alternatives-Set Aside grant solicitation will be announced in May. TA Set-Aside grants fund community-based, non-traditional transportation projects for both land and water. There are 7 eligible categories for funding. The categories of the most interest to BPAC members include the design and construction of on- and off-road trail facilities, the conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails, community improvement activities (specifically streetscaping and corridor landscaping), and environmental mitigation to address stormwater management.
 - According to the NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development, one of the changes to the TA Set-Aside grant solicitation will be that one-on-one application meetings with staff from NDOT and an MPO will be mandatory. These meetings will provide direct assistance to applicants for developing better and stronger applications. The applicant requesting the meeting must be a representative of a Local Public Agency, which is typically a municipality or county, NOT a consultant. Meetings will be held from April 11th to September 30th, 2022. To schedule a meeting, visit the NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center at njdotlocalaidrc.com. An online calendar for scheduling meetings will be available shortly. Safe Routes Resource Center staff will be offering grant application how-to webinars starting in June. More information to follow soon. Please sign up for the NJ Safe Routes and/or Walks & Bikes newsletters to stay informed.
 - NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center
 - <https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/>
 - NJ Safe Routes Newsletter registration
 - https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001C5QOjSvqJgw5ANozt7uYiqw3bZceftyj5I0B208edl4KfiCM6vCovoDEpqkKaXYU9u5ZgO3z6ZqvNXxkcSxkE9RRLy6XsMyQFCx4zwZBfPx2I0f9HHLfwNQ1pTkxA08yUJY3ayA9eii94QauQqi8PFmZLWRsbAjSv10Lmk7bgoELikKbe3k63EZt9FnVv8hP_Qr4F6a4rFY%3D
 - NJ Walks & Bikes Newsletter registration
 - https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001g6CvqRJSkzohczUoz0qXfhie_Jpp2VfewzNw08IM9Cecjx3w8bHP_WwNlyLgi42cGg8y82MchtnWTdcbUe-tFKSdJmppAn-vEz1B8Fgg1eTXET1qWfUzVjHcOrMd6uhf_4RAGxqbVg33wtRdJlC-kQ%3D%3D
- **Bike Month in May**
 - May is National Bike Month and here in New Jersey we hope to celebrate with the rollout of an official Safe Passing Law awareness campaign. As part of Bike Month, there will be events held throughout the month to celebrate, including:

- National Ride A Bike Day on May 1st
 - National Bike & Roll to School Day on May 4th
 - Bike to Work Week on May 16th –22nd
 - Bike to Work Day on May 20th
- In New Jersey, we celebrate May as Walk and Bike to School month through our Safe Routes to School program with the TMAs. Walk and Bike to School events will be happening across the state throughout the month. This year, we are asking everyone that is hosting a Walk and Bike to School event in May to register that event on the national Bike & Roll to School Day website (<https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>)
- If your school or community is interested in planning an event, reach out to your TMA Safe Routes Coordinator for assistance. If you are not sure how to find your Coordinator, visit [saferoutesnj.org](https://www.saferoutesnj.org) to locate the TMA serving your area. <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/find-your-srts-regional-coordinator/>
- **NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Updates**
 - On March 14, 2022, we held a quarterly update meeting for the SHSP Bike/Ped Emphasis Area. In this meeting attendees voted on new actions to prioritize for the next round of SHSP projects. Look for an update to the priority actions in the weeks ahead. If you are not on the Bike/Ped Emphasis Area team for the SHSP and would like to join, please email Paul Lenarczyk at paul.lenarczyk@dot.nj.gov
 - Round One actions include Complete Streets Integration, Automated Speed Enforcement, Best Practice in Bicycle and Pedestrian Design Guidance, Street Smart Program Expansion and Transit Inventory and Equity Prioritization. Thanks to some dedicated action team leaders, most of these tasks are near completion.
- **Plainfield Complete Streets Policy**
 - The City of Plainfield recently adopted a Complete Streets policy. The new policy includes language about green streets design elements and will be instrumental in ensuring that Plainfield’s streets safely accommodate all road users. This policy could not have been adopted without the support and perseverance of Bill Nierstedt from Plainfield and Lisa Lee from EZ Ride. There are now 173 municipal policies in NJ!
- **FHWA Complete Streets website**
 - The FHWA has a new Complete Streets webpage: <https://highways.dot.gov/complete-streets>
 - The page includes a report to Congress detailing FHWA’s commitment to advancing widespread implementation of the Complete Streets design model to help improve safety and accessibility for all users. The report identifies five overarching opportunity areas that will inform FHWA as it moves ahead with its efforts to increase the proportion of federally funded transportation projects that are routinely planned, designed, built, and operated as Complete Streets.
- **Changes to NJBPAC**
 - Aimee Jefferson and Thom Stead are joining the BPAC Executive Committee. Aimee is a Principal Planner for Safety Programs at NJTPA and will be stepping up to serve as the new chair for the Safety Subcommittee. Thom Stead is a Senior Transportation Planner in the Office of Transit, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Planning at DVRPC and will be taking over Betsy Mastaglio’s role as chair of the Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee.
 - BPAC adopted new by-laws last November, which created the opportunity for additional seats on the Executive Council. Thanks to these changes, Mike Dannemiller and Byron

Nicholas are joining as new members of the Executive Council. Mike is a Supervising Engineer at the Middlesex County Office of Planning and Byron is a Supervising Transportation Planner at the Hudson County Office of Engineering.

- Betsy Mastaglio is stepping down as chair of the Design and Infrastructure subcommittee.
- Yvonne Mikalopas has stepped down from the Executive Council. Yvonne served as a representative from the New Jersey Department of Health.
- On a sad note, many of you have worked with Catherine Bull over the years as staff to the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center and as a manager of the NJ Crossing Guard training program. Catherine recently lost her husband in a tragic bicycling crash in Highland Park. Keith Bull was not only a gifted artist and museum curator, but he was also a beloved member of the Rutgers cycling community as a mentor to the Rutgers Cycling Team. Catherine has been an integral part of the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center team for over a decade as a crusader for safer streets. I think we can all agree that when tragedy hits home, its impact is profound and underscores the importance of all our efforts to make streets safe for everyone. Please hold Catherine and her family in your hearts.
 - Leigh Ann informed participants that Catherine has asked that any donations go to the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition's education campaign on the Safe Passing Law.

Peri Nearon presented on her work at the NJ Division of Disability Services (DDS) at the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

- Serving NJ since 1997 within the Department of Human Services, DDS is a single point of entry for people seeking disability-related information in NJ.
- The Inclusive Healthy Communities (IHC) Grant Program is designed to advance efforts to transform policies, practices, systems, and environmental conditions to ensure people with disabilities equitably benefit from efforts to build healthy communities.
- Initial grants (Cohort 1) open as of January 2021, will close in June 2022.
 - \$3 million and 18 grantees
 - Cohort 2 RFP open as of 2/1/22, with grants from 7/1/22 – 6/30/23
- Wide mix of cohort 1 grantees (municipalities, NPOs, counties)
- This is a social justice issue. Disability interconnects with how diverse systems of oppression affect each other.
- Social justice means going beyond compliance with the ADA.
 - It means building on the disability rights movement, taking a more comprehensive approach to help secure rights for disabled people by recognizing the intersectionality of disabled people with others who are underrepresented and marginalized in our society.
 - It means that disability access needs to be everyone's issue and it needs to operate across all sectors. Disability inclusion, access and justice is not a stand-alone goal. It means incorporating a "disability lens" into all our work. It means asking: How does a specific problem play out for people with disabilities?
- Policy Systems and Environmental (PSE) change is a first for this kind of program. The IHC Grant Program incorporates PSE, Health Equity, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Examples of grantee goals for Cohort 1:
 - Expand inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs) in municipal decision-making
 - Provide equitable pre-college programs to Newark youth
 - Address mental health challenges for people hard of hearing

- Expand access to primary care, women’s healthcare, oral health
- Develop tools to assess housing/transportation challenges
- Build replicable strategies to expand access to recreation, community assets, etc.
- DDS is initiating Cohort 2 after evaluating lessons learned from Cohort 1. DDS plans to:
 - Encourage sister agencies to use IHC as a platform for community-based disability-related work
 - Enhance partnerships (e.g., NJ State League of Municipalities, Healthy Communities Network, philanthropy)
 - Expand program reach and resources
 - Standardize best-practices based on early experiences
- Website provides more information: <http://eac.rutgers.edu/ihc-grant-program/>
- Information on accessible recreation in NJ: <https://www.njrpa.org/NJ-CRID>

Chrystal Section presented on her work at the Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action at NJDOT

- Three areas within the Nondiscrimination Program Unit:
 - Title VI
 - No discrimination by race, color or national origin under any federal financial assistance.
 - Department responsibilities:
 - Prepare Title VI plan and submit annual update reports to FHWA.
 - Monitor program of subrecipients’ efforts to effectively implement Title VI (e.g., holding meetings with counties to talk about responsibilities.).
 - Investigate Title VI complaints.
 - Conduct comprehensive reviews of special emphasis program areas (e.g., planning, capital program management, right-of-way, etc.).
 - Ensure Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons access to NJDOT programs/services (e.g., employee linguistics tool to support this).
 - Environmental Justice (EO 12898)
 - Department responsibilities:
 - Identify and address disproportionate human health or environmental effects in minority or low-income communities.
 - Promote nondiscrimination in programs that affect human health and the environment, provide minority and low-income communities access to public info and public participation.
 - ADA (Title II)
 - Ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs, services, and activities (including pedestrian facilities).
 - Department responsibilities:
 - (We do not build the roads, but work with other divisions in the Department to ensure infrastructure is adequate.)
 - Conduct self-evaluation.
 - Develop the ADA Transition Plan.
 - Prepare a report on accomplishments and identify problem areas to be rectified.
 - Monitor the Department’s current policies and practices.

- Update complaint procedures to facilitate prompt resolutions (e.g., contacting project management or local aid to identify projects in the area of concern).
- Work with counties and municipalities, which commonly have issues with their roadways. (This also includes snow storage/dumping, which may impact ADA parking access.)
- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with critical external stakeholders (e.g., disability advocacy groups and organizations).
- Training programs for agency managers and employees.

Meeting moved to subcommittee breakout rooms.

(See subcommittee notes for additional detail)

End of Meeting Subcommittee Breakout Report Back:

Aimee Jefferson, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, outlined the discussion topics in the Safety subcommittee:

- Talked about standing tasks, many of which are updates to existing activities:
 - Safe Passing Law – new information and graphics should be released in May
 - SHSP Transit Inventory items – 12 bus stops identified for pilot audits
 - Goal is to conduct 100 audits but there is insufficient funding now.
 - Trails system/crossings – new resource by NJDEP showing all trails identified so far
 - Looking for input on any trails that might be missing
 - Public awareness of safety issues and the impacts on children – focusing on efforts in Newark and Paterson
 - County and local safety maintenance reporting – how to increase public awareness about who to contact to report potholes, crumbling sidewalks, or other issues
 - Somerset County Walk-Bike-Hike Plan updates
 - Middlesex Greenway connections
 - Bike locker efforts
 - Safe Streets for All funding
 - Data collection effort by NJTPA on ped-bike-micromobility
 - findings to be shared publicly in June via ArcGIS
 - <https://gisdata-njdep.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/statewide-trails-in-new-jersey/explore?location=40.074256%2C-74.530783%2C8.69>
 - Press release about the new NJDEP Trails Database: https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0008.htm
 - Note at the bottom of the trails press release that NJDEP has listed contacts for trails data as Heather Korski (heather.korski@dep.nj.gov) and Sharon Cost (sharon.cost@dep.nj.gov)
- General conversation
 - Record number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities in 2021
 - Jersey City will be providing an annual report next month and hosting an Automated Speed Enforcement town hall

Thom Stead, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee outlined the discussion topics in the Design subcommittee:

- Mainly introductions and updates:
 - Polli from the Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition is working on a project related to mini-roundabouts in Asbury Park
 - DVRPC published the Trenton Complete Streets design handbook: <https://www.dvrpc.org/Reports/18041.pdf>
 - Long-term demonstration planned in Camden for one of DVRPC's Expo: Experimental Pop-up Programs: www.dvrpc.org/expo
 - Rutgers studio implementing a pop-up bike lane in Asbury Park
 - Middlesex County working with StreetPlans on a countywide bicycle and pedestrian plan and expecting summertime completion
 - NJ Future working on Complete and Green Streets research
 - NJTPA kicking off Regional Active Transportation Plan this month with emphasis on connectivity of regional bike networks, focus on safety and equity with three case studies at key locations,
 - Conducting a lot of outreach for this plan
 - NJDOT is working on an internal Complete Streets assessment
 - NJDOT is looking at pedestrian counts and best practices in other states, developing a memo on technology to help improve counting in NJ as a task in the SHSP
 - NJDOT spoke about data needs for HSIP projects
 - DVRPC will connect with NJDOT on funding in the DVRPC region that can be used to tackle safety for bike-ped routes
 - Kim Irby from NJ Future mentioned a project they are working on to help New Jerseyans drive less
 - Michael Popovech announced an RFP process for barriers to mobility in Monmouth County
 - Adam Bradford mentioned Somerset transit-oriented study on walkability
 - Karen Alexander talked more about the Inclusive Healthy Communities grants
 - Discussed potential for holding an interim meeting on creating a resource of tools and design strategies for projects, updating and highlighting innovative strategies
 - NJDOT would like to talk more about federal Complete Streets guidance for arterials and how we can focus on this at the next meeting

Leigh Ann Von Hagen wrapped up the meeting and announced that May will be more subcommittee-focused and will have a little more time for them to discuss topics.

Open Discussion:

- NJTPA event – this online event will commence with a presentation by OSHA on Protecting Workers from Heat Illness and Injury. The keynote presentation will be delivered by Daniel Farley, a Professional Engineer from the Pennsylvania DOT and John Taylor, Esquire, from Archer & Greiner P.C. They will address Pennsylvania's implementation of Automated Speed Cameras in Work Zones: <https://cait.rutgers.edu/event/2022/>

- EZ Ride requested that county planners post their issue-reporting website links and key contacts:
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/12rBorQk965uYIW79yA7BzvHsliNWs4hVscfv4XAN1sA/edit> .
- EZ Ride reported that West Orange students are making an intersection road mural on April 30th by the Hazel School – coordinated by Anay Badlani and EZ Ride.
- Asbury Park Complete Streets Coalition is hoping to learn about mini roundabouts that have worked in NJ:
 - Ted Green at Rutgers CAIT teaches a class on Traffic Calming for engineers and may be a good contact for mini-roundabout examples in NJ:
 - <https://cait.rutgers.edu/event/traffic-calming/>
 - Urban Engineers worked on the Alexander Road (Princeton) roundabout and should be able to provide some good mini-roundabout examples as well.
- Free Cycling Savvy training through NJBWC on Wednesday nights, 7-8pm, and on-the-bike training. Interested parties should contact PaulMickFit@gmail.com
- For those experiencing transportation barriers, RideWise TMA continues to promote the BikeConnect program that provides free bicycles to Somerset County individuals who are employed or looking for work, and do not have a personal vehicle. They must be referred by a Somerset County non-profit, Human Service, or Social Service agency. Please reach out to staff@ridewise.org, call RideWise at 908.704.1011, or check the website: <https://ridewise.org/bikeconnect/> for more information.
 - Individuals approved for the BikeConnect program receive a bike, helmet, lights, bell, and a lock. Bikes are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and supply varies.
 - RideWise is also looking for bicycle donations – gently used, adult bikes (mountain bike/hybrid styles are better than 10-speed models). Call 908.704.1011 to schedule a drop-off to RideWise.
- NJ Future – Posted Tim Evans’ blog about freight and Complete Streets:
 - <https://www.njfuture.org/2022/03/24/complete-streets-and-goods-delivery-what-is-a-street-for/>
- NJDOT – There is a Trenton Transit Center project where bike lanes and pedestrian improvements are being proposed on the connector roads leading to the train station.
 - DVRPC posted the link to the Mercer County 2019 Bicycle Master Plan:
 - <https://www.mercercounty.org/departments/planning/2019-bicycle-master-plan/master-plan>
- VTC
 - Archived issues of the NJ Walks & Bikes Newsletter: <http://njbikeped.org/nj-walks-and-bikes-newsletter/>
 - NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center - Transportation Alternatives Grants:
 - <https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>
 - Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Grants information on the Safe Routes Resource Center: <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/transportation-alternatives-set-aside-program/>
 - NJ Climate Resilience Strategy 2021 - STRATEGY 2.3: Deploy Natural and Nature-based Solutions for Resilience – "Under the Department of Transportation’s Complete and

Green Streets for All guidance, the agency promotes integrating natural features into transportation improvement projects as a method to capture those powerful co-benefits.": <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/docs/nj-climate-resilience-strategy-2021.pdf#page=68>

- Jersey City School Travel Plan: <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Jersey-City-School-Travel-Plan-FULL.pdf>

Attendees:

- Aimee Jefferson
- Alan Huff
- Andrew Lappitt
- Ashlynn Shanahan
- Bill Feeney
- Charlie Romanow
- Chrystal Section
- Elise Bremer-Nei
- Eric Heitmann
- Glendaly Franklin
- Hailey Graf
- Jacob Thompson
- Jackqueline Romney
- Jon Dugan
- Kate O-Connor
- Kenneth Wedeen
- Laura Cerutti
- Leigh Ann Von Hagen
- Linda Rapacki
- Lisa Lee
- Liza Betz
- Mike Manzella
- Nazhat Aboobaker
- Opal McCalla
- Paul Mickiewicz
- Peri Nearon
- Ranjit Walia
- Trish Sanchez
- Vincenzo Ferriola
- William Riviere
- William Yarzab
- Adam Bradord
- Aishwarya Devarajan
- Andrew Tabas
- Andy Swords
- Betsy Mastaglio
- Byron Nicholas
- Casey Barrett
- Cassidy Boulan
- Corey Hannigan
- Dan Hutton
- Denise Nickel
- Jack Molenaar
- James Sinclair
- Jeevanjot Singh
- Jessica O'Connor
- Karen Alexander
- Kati DiRaimondo
- Keith Hamas
- Kimberley Irby
- Michael Dannemiller
- Michael Popovech
- Michael Viscardi
- Mohammad Islam
- Paul Lenarczyk
- Peter Kremer
- Polli Schildge
- Reba Oduro
- Sean Meehan
- Thom Stead
- Tom DiBiase