

New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) 2021 Year in Review



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About

The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) is a national leader in the research and development of innovative transportation policy. Located within the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, VTC has the full array of resources from a major research university on transportation issues of regional and national significance.

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (BPRC) assists public officials, transportation and health professionals, and the public in creating a safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environment through primary research, education, and dissemination of information about best practices in policy and design. The Center is supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation through funds provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

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What is BPAC?

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) is coordinated and chaired by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), on behalf of and in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT).

BPAC was first established as the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) by Governor Thomas Kean in 1985 under Executive Order 101 (see Appendix B). The original Bicycle Advisory Council was tasked with examining the status of bicycling in New Jersey and preparing a report with recommendations for promoting bicycling as a safe and viable mode of transportation. Although initially conceived as a temporary council, implementation of the report's recommendations necessitated the continuation of the BAC to provide guidance, expertise, and track implementation progress. The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) established mandatory Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators for every state, and in the following years many states created or expanded advisory committees focused on both bicycle and pedestrian issues. In 2004, New Jersey's BAC merged with the New Jersey Pedestrian Task Force to create the present-day Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council.

BPAC is open to everyone, and dates and registration information for upcoming meetings are publicly available on the New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center website (njbikeped.org/nj-bpac) and also sent out in the [NJ Walks and Bikes Newsletter](#). Those who regularly attend BPAC include engineering and planning professionals, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, and staff members from local, county, and state agencies from the transportation, health, environmental, and enforcement fields.

BPAC currently consists of an Executive Council whose members are appointed by NJDOT, three subcommittees (Design and Infrastructure, Policy and Legislation, and Safety), and a general session. The general session and subcommittees are both open to the public and anyone can join. The Executive Council meets separately, but members also attend general BPAC meetings and participate in subcommittees.

BPAC Purpose and Goals

The core mission of BPAC is to advise, coordinate, and collaborate with NJDOT and other state, regional, and local agencies and organizations on policies, programs, initiatives, and best practices that advance active transportation (including bicycling and walking), transit, and micromobility as safe and essential forms of transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities, with a focus on meeting equity, safety, public health, and resiliency goals.

BPAC advises on the implementation of the New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, serving as both a resource and key stakeholder in existing and future statewide transportation planning efforts, such as the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Emphasis Area of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

BPAC is also a forum for information exchange, engagement, and coordination among experts and entities across the state, providing opportunities for resource-sharing and education on emerging issues, including access to experts in the field of bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and design.

The goals of BPAC are to:

- Stay abreast of best practices in bicycle and pedestrian safety, education/outreach, design, implementation and policy
- Foster a collaborative, collegial culture that supports coordination, resource sharing and shared action
- Develop and incorporate an equity framework that guides the Council's membership, structure, and work

- Collaborate with public, non-profit and private partners to support efforts to eliminate deaths and serious injuries to vulnerable roadway users in New Jersey
- Promote the public health, economic and environmental sustainability benefits of active transportation in educational programs and outreach efforts

In addition to its role as an advisory body, the continued existence of BPAC improves New Jersey's standing with organizations such as the League of American Bicyclists and demonstrates the State's commitment to improving conditions for walking and bicycling for people of all ages and abilities.

2021 General Meetings

In 2021, four meetings of the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) were convened on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 9 (55 attendees)
- Wednesday, July 21 (53 attendees)
- Wednesday, September 15 (58 attendees)
- Wednesday, December 1 (64 attendees)

All meetings were held virtually using Zoom. At each meeting, NJDOT provided updates on the bicycle and pedestrian planning initiatives with which the Department is involved, including:

- NJDOT Local Technical Assistance projects
- NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan actions
- Federal grant programs, including Safe Routes to School Grants and the Transportation Alternatives Program
- Local projects funded in part by NJDOT, including the Montgomery Township Trail
- Safe Routes Academy
- New Jersey Trails & Greenways Summit
- New Jersey Complete Streets Summit
- Complete Streets Training Update
- League Bicycle-Friendly State Rankings
- New Jersey's new Safe Passing Law
- October Walk and Bike to School Month
- New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program

In addition, representatives from transportation and planning agencies and non-profits from around the State reported on their organizations' active transportation projects. During BPAC meetings in 2021:

- New Jersey Transit spoke on the lifting of their e-bike ban.
- New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition discussed New Jersey's new Safe Passing Law.
- NJTPA reported on Round 3 of the Complete Streets Technical Assistance program (CSTA).
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign provided updates on the status of the Essex Hudson Greenway.
- NJTPA shared their work on the Keyport Complete Streets Plan and demonstration project.
- DVRPC shared their work on Collingswood's All Aboard Atlantic Complete Streets Demonstration Project, conducted through the Travel Options Program.
- EZRide shared their work on the Pop-Up Bike Lane on Woodland Avenue in West Orange.

Notes from BPAC general meetings are available on the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website: njbikeped.org/nj-bpac

BPAC Executive Council

The BPAC Executive Council consists of up to 25 voting members and one chair who may be appointed by the NJDOT Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs Manager as a non-voting member. The members of the Executive Council represent entities with an interest and expertise in bicycle and pedestrian issues.

In addition to the four general meetings in 2021, one meeting of the BPAC Executive Council was held on Wednesday, November 17. At this meeting, members voted to adopt new [BPAC by-laws](#) and began to coordinate tasks related to the rollout of New Jersey's new Safe Passing Law in 2022.

BPAC Subcommittees

During each meeting, time was reserved for BPAC's subcommittees to discuss their work plans in breakout sessions. BPAC's current subcommittees are:

- **Design and Infrastructure**, chaired by Betsy Mastaglio, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- **Policy and Legislative**, chaired by Sonia Szczesna, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- **Safety**, chaired by Jennifer Buisson, NJ Transit
- **Education and Outreach**, currently on hiatus pending discussion of future direction

2021 Initiatives and Accomplishments

BPAC meetings serve as a catalyst to making connections between people, agencies, and organizations. Many initiatives sparked through discussions during BPAC meetings are accomplished between meetings. Several BPAC members played leading roles on Strategic Highway Safety Plan actions. During 2021, BPAC either provided a forum to discuss or helped facilitate the following efforts and accomplishments:

Design and Infrastructure: Major topics discussed in BPAC's Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee in 2021 included involving NJDOT's Division of Project Management and Capital Program Delivery process in Complete Streets policy implementation and developing NJDOT-approved guidance for bicycle facilities at interchanges. BPAC members also contributed to the SHSP inventory of current design guidance best practices.

Policy and Legislative: The Policy and Legislative Subcommittee discussed aligning design guidance with the FHWA's proven safety countermeasures and developing an educational campaign for New Jersey's new Safe Passing Law. The subcommittee gave insight and feedback to VTC's SHSP analysis of Automated Speed Enforcement and Vulnerable Road User law best practices.

Safety: In the Safety Subcommittee, participants discussed working with NJ Transit on bicycle parking and storage at transit stations, developing a trail crossing safety treatment database in coordination with the New Jersey Trails Action Network, and data driven safety analysis.

Items and tasks to include in the 2022 work plans were discussed at the December 2021 meeting. VTC staff work with the subcommittee chairs to identify areas of potential collaboration and coordination between subcommittees in the coming year.

Notes from BPAC subcommittee meetings are available on the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website: njbikeped.org/nj-bpac

BPAC in 2022

During the final meeting of the year, each BPAC subcommittee identified potential goals and priorities for 2022.

Design and Infrastructure:

- Work with Jersey Water Works on Green Streets training.
- Provide feedback on Complete and Green Streets design guidance.
- Identify potential to use HSIP funding for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.
- Identify potential guidance for bicycle facilities at interchanges.
- Investigate ITS/smart solutions for bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Clarify Complete Streets goals as they relate to Zero Death initiatives.
- Investigate ways to improve equity in bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.
- Identify ways to expand trails-related work, including promoting trail towns, improving safety at trail crossings, and exploring ADA compliance for multiuse trails.
- Promote last-mile bicycle and micromobility facilities to transit.
- Investigate ways to conduct signal timing studies to reduce pedestrian exposure time and explore possible infrastructure solutions.

Policy and Legislative:

- Work with the Safety subcommittee on outreach for the new Safe Passing Law.
- Share a policy and legislation tracker for relevant bills in the NJ Legislature.
- Study and provide insight on the new federal legislation and its impact on future policy.
- Invite a potential speaker or presenter to give an overview of this at a BPAC meeting
- Work with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Complete Streets Task Force.

Safety:

- Work with the Legislative and Policy subcommittee on outreach for the Safe Passing Law.
- Determine action items that can support Strategic Highway Safety Plan actions.
- Identify ways to create a unified State, county, and local road safety and maintenance reporting system.
- Coordinate with New Jersey Transit on bicycle and pedestrian integration and bus stop safety.
- Determine how best to support Zero Deaths Initiatives throughout the State.

In 2022, BPAC plans to convene six times on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 2
Wednesday, March 30
Wednesday, May 25
Wednesday, July 27
Wednesday, September 28
Wednesday, December 7

In 2022, BPAC will also add new members to the Executive Council, including a representative from the New Jersey Division of Disability Services.

Member Organizations

BPAC would not be possible without the continued support of planners, public officials, and advocates from across New Jersey. In 2021, representatives from the following organizations offered their time and expertise to BPAC:

Federal:

- Federal Highway Administration

State:

- New Jersey Department of Transportation
- New Jersey Transit
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
- New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Department of Health
- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

County/Municipal:

- Somerset County
- Middlesex County
- Morris County
- Passaic County
- Union County
- Point Pleasant Beach

Private:

- Michael Baker International
- NV5
- Civic Eye Collaborative
- Sam Schwartz
- Susan G. Blickstein, LLC
- Urban Engineers
- WSP

Non-Profit:

- NJ Bike Walk Coalition
- Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- Cross County Connection TMA
- Greater Mercer TMA
- Hudson TMA
- goHunterdon TMA
- Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
- EZ Ride TMA
- Ridewise TMA
- TransOptions TMA
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Street Smart NJ

2021 BPAC By the Numbers:

- **4** general meetings
- **1** Executive Council meeting
- **230** attendees across **4** meetings with **50-65** attendees per meeting
- **36** organizations represented

Appendix A: 2021 Meeting Agendas and Notes

Agendas:

- [March 2021](#)
- [July 2021](#)
- [September 2021](#)
- [December 2021](#)

Meeting Notes:

March 2021

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Legislative Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

July 2021

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Legislative Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

September 2021

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Legislative Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

November 2021

- [Executive Council](#)

December 2021

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Legislative Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

Appendix B: New Jersey Executive Order Establishing the Original Bicycle Advisory Council

Executive Order 101

Whereas, bicycling is a pollution-free, healthful, energy efficient means of transportation and recreation; and

Whereas, bicycling is recognized by both the State and federal law and the policies and programs of federal, state and local transportation; and

Whereas, according to the State Outdoor Recreation Plan, bicycling currently is, and is projected to continue to be the most popular form of outdoor recreation through the year 2000 when it is estimated that over 282 million recreation bicycle trips will be made annually; and

Whereas, New Jersey has a reputation nationwide as a prime area for bicycling touring, as exhibited by the thousands of people attracted to annual invitational rides; and

Whereas, there are over 20 bicycle clubs in the State which indicates the popularity of the sport; and

Whereas, it is in the public interest of the State of New Jersey to encourage residents to bicycle to save energy, improve the environment, improve public health and to establish facilities and regulations for the safety of participants therein; and

Whereas, it is in the economic interest of the State of New Jersey to encourage nonresidents to visit New Jersey for bicycling tours, races and other leisure activities;

Now, Therefore, I, Thomas H. Kean, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority invested in me by the Constitution and the Statutes of this State, do hereby Order and Direct:

1. There is hereby established a New Jersey Bicycle Advisory Council.
2. The Advisory Council shall be comprised of the Commissioner of Transportation, the Chairman of the Board of New Jersey Transit, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Director of the Division of Travel and Tourism, the Commission of Education, the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their designees and a representative of the Governor's Office and eight (8) public members with a demonstrated capacity. The chairperson shall be the Commissioner of Transportation, or his designee, and the Department of Transportation shall serve as the lead agency.
3. The Advisory Council shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Examine the status of bicycling in the State of New Jersey and make recommendations regarding the promotion of the use of the bicycle as a safe and viable mode of transportation and the development or expansion of programs leading to an improved bicycle environment.
 - b. Study and make recommendations regarding other potential uses and aspects of the bicycle, such as bicycle touring, recreation trails and maps, safety, education, health and fitness, law enforcement, competitive racing, potential funding sources and the promotion of tourism from outside the State.
4. In order to carry out its functions, the Council is authorized to call upon any department, office, division or agency of the State to supply such data, reports, or other information it deems necessary. Each department, office, division or agency of the State is authorized and directed, to the extent not inconsistent with law to cooperate with the Advisory Council and to furnish it with such information, personnel and assistance as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this order.

5. The Advisory Council shall render its findings and recommendations to the Governor within one year after its first meeting.
6. The Advisory Council shall remain in existence until its final report has been issued.
7. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Adopted May 14, 1985