



BPAC General Meeting
December 17, 2020 10:30 am to 12 pm
Zoom Online Meeting

Executive Council:

Elise Bremer-Nei | Charles Brown | Arnold Anderson | Cassidy Boulan | John Boyle | Jen Buison | Brandee Chapman | Janna Chernetz | Eric Heitmann | Keith Hamas | Alan Huff | Larry Lindstrom | Yvonne Mikalopas | Jessica O'Connor | Linda Rapacki | Sonia Szczesna

Subcommittee Chairs:

Jennifer Buison, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, JBuison@njtransit.com
Betsy Mastaglio, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, bmastaglio@dvrpc.org
Sonia Szczesna, Chair, Legislation and Policy Subcommittee, sonia@tstc.org

Summary:

The meeting was brought to order by Charles Brown who updated everyone on Arnold Anderson stepping down from the council.

First Order

Elise Bremer-Nei gave an update on the NJDOT resource center grants and discussed five State Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) actions that need BPAC support in implementation.

Third Order

Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee chair **Betsy Mastaglio** informed the group about their meeting in early December and stated their interest in assisting NJDOT with SHSP action implementation, following which the Safety Subcommittee chair **Jennifer Buison** gave updates on their meeting held earlier in the week. Lastly, Legislative Subcommittee chair **Sonia Szczesna** gave an update and asked that anyone willing to join the subcommittee could reach out to her via email or the chat window.

Fourth Order

Susan Blickstein presented the draft amended by-laws discussing the goals and structure of BPAC and how it can work with NJDOT along with VTC and consultant support to assist with SHSP implementation.

Fifth Order

Anthony Durante, Peter Kremer, and Thomas DiBiase from **Michael Baker International** presented their findings and takeaways on conducting Pedestrian Road Safety Audits during COVID-19.

Sixth Order

The public was invited to make announcements.

Long Notes:

Charles Brown began the general meeting at 10:30 am by welcoming everyone and informing that Arnold Anderson, NJ BWC has stepped down from the executive council.

Elise Bremer-Nei announced that VTC has won the NJ BPRC and the NJ SRTS grants from NJDOT for 2021 and 2022. Transitioning to the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), she mentioned that they need the group's support in implementing five SHSP actions, elaborating that the effort will also include BPRC help and on call consultant support.

Subcommittee reports:

- Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee chair **Betsy Mastaglio** stated that the group organized a meeting earlier in December in which they discussed ongoing projects, including new initiatives to support biking and walking during the pandemic. Betsy added that the committee would want to support the DOT if they can help with anything to which Elise responded that they would need their expertise with the third action and the respective action leader, Patrick Farley would reach out to them to discuss.
- Safety Subcommittee chair **Jennifer Buison** informed that the group met earlier in the week and discussed SHSP coordination along with issues at the intersection of safety and health with Yvonne Mikalopas, Department of Health.
- Subcommittee chair **Sonia Szczesna** provided an update stating that anyone interested in joining the Legislation and Policy Subcommittee could reach out to her via email or the chat window.

Susan Blickstein discussed the draft amended by-laws identifying key BPAC goals, structure, and the role of executive council and subcommittees in SHSP implementation. The presentation highlighted the five SHSP actions that need BPAC subcommittee support along with a broader work plan and methods to track and report progress. Susan also discussed synergy and coordination between subcommittee chairs, SHSP action leaders, and NJDOT to plan and collaborate on tasks and receive feedback. She further mentioned the role of VTC and on call consultant support in SHSP and subcommittee efforts. Next steps included developing a subcommittee chairs and NJDOT work plan and the executive council adopting the by-laws.

- **Sonia Szczesna** asked how the teams would collaborate with people who are not BPAC members to which Susan and Elise responded that they would see how to reach out to and coordinate with them.
- **Charles Brown** asked about the aspects of existing BPAC that will be preserved.
- **Yvonne** inquired if there is a flowchart showing the BPAC and NJDOT structure on how it fits together along with acronyms and their full forms. Susan responded that the by-laws have all the acronyms spelled out and that she is open to putting a flowchart together if it would be helpful. Will Yarzab shared an acronym guide link that included some of this information (Link: [https://www.njtpa.org/NJTPA/media/Documents/Newsroom/Publications-Reports/Publications-Brochures/njtpa_acronym_2017_final\(1\).pdf](https://www.njtpa.org/NJTPA/media/Documents/Newsroom/Publications-Reports/Publications-Brochures/njtpa_acronym_2017_final(1).pdf)). Elise commented that the flow chart would be a great resource for not only BPAC but also OBPP and other NJDOT members. Sonia agreed that a flow chart would be wonderful.
- **Yvonne** expressed her interest in mapping and analyzing safety and access to healthcare for transit and other mode users. **Michael Dannemiller** informed that Jersey City is coming up with a new open space plan that looks into those gaps.
- **Jennifer Buison** looked for some clarification on what the support supplement would look like, especially in handling day to day administrative functional tasks. Susan suggested that a support person could be assigned to each subcommittee for an entire year so that they are familiar with ongoing tasks and help with notetaking and tracking.

Anthony Durante, Peter Kremer, and Thomas DiBiase from Michael Baker International mentioned their Route 1 and Route 9 study with NJDOT and presented their findings and takeaways on Pedestrian Road Safety Audits during COVID-19. They discussed the audit methodology, undertaken COVID-19 and traffic safety measures, and the importance of direct observation (that is, in-person auditing) compared to data analysis and virtual alternatives. The audit team included planners, traffic engineers, designers, officials from three different towns, and law enforcement officers that

encouraged different perspectives in completing the audit. The team also expressed interest in ideas on expanding their toolbox for improving safety on high risk and busy locations with excessive crosswalk lengths.

- **Larry Lindstrom** stated that he travel-trained a client in the area and there is a Route 1 and 9 bridge a bit north of the intersection that includes a wonderful crossing complete with pictures of local highway history.
- The group was interested to know if road diets are being considered in the project to which the Michael Baker team updated that they have developed models supporting that road diet solutions would work.
- **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** informed that they did a walk and bike audit for the same location in 2017 that could be accessed from their website. The audit involved observations relating to the school crossings and crossing guards at the intersection. The presenting team could also use this study to get an idea of school traffic, which was absent at their audit time due to the pandemic. Leigh Ann further suggested creating a safe space for municipal workers in the area.
- **Keith Hamas** asked about the undertaken safety precautions to which the team responded that they utilized masks, hand sanitizers, and vests, while also providing the choice to participate virtually or in-person. He further asked if the team has a sense of the data needed for funding applications and the team responded that if an improvement project cost is greater than a certain amount, then highway safety manual calculation is required. Additionally, a document guide needs to be filled out for funding depending on the ADT volume and corridor crash history.
- **Lisa Lee** recommended inviting the local TMA to participate in future road safety audits as they know the area and local stakeholders.

Updates

Debra Kagan informed the group that on Monday night, the Montclair planning board adopted the Montclair SAFE Plan as their master plan, overcoming a lot of resistance when over 20 people from different sections of the community testified the need in an effort by Bike&Walk Montclair. The plan was prepared by NV5 through a DOT grant and Susan also played an important role in its development.

James posted a link to the new MUCTD draft with new and most recent guidelines on bicycle, pedestrian, and transit planning and design in the chat window: https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/mutcd_news.htm

James shared a link to Susan's presentation in the chat window:
<https://rutgers.box.com/s/tylitcsxbg4f6k2jvp0bgiwfrpantdv>

Charles updated that his Rutgers graduate studio class on utilizing CPTED to implement complete streets in Trenton completed their presentation this week and was highly commended by Trenton. Link to the presentation:
<https://rutgers.box.com/s/ctecx60cl9potfu49a09z7j3qilf1gg0>

Meeting adjourned by **Charles Brown**.