



**BPAC General Meeting**  
**September 16, 2020 10:30 am to 12 pm**  
**Zoom Online Meeting**

**Executive Council:**

Elise Bremer- Nei | Charles Brown | Andy 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](mailto:JBuison@njtransit.com)  
Betsy Mastaglio, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, [bmastaglio@dvrpc.org](mailto:bmastaglio@dvrpc.org)  
Sonia Szczesna, Chair, Legislation and Policy Subcommittee, [sonia@tstc.org](mailto:sonia@tstc.org)

**Summary:**

The meeting was brought to order by Charles Brown and all participants introduced themselves via the chat function of the Zoom meeting platform.

**First Order**

**Charles Brown** announced the meeting agenda and introduced the new Executive Council Member, Yvonne Mikalopas.

**Second Order**

**Elise Bremer- Nei** updated everyone on the recent NJDOT efforts.

**Third Order**

Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee chair **Betsy Mastaglio** stated that they hope to schedule a subcommittee meeting soon and asked the members to reach out to her in case anyone would like to discuss a specific topic or project in the meeting. Legislative Subcommittee chair **Sonia Szczesna** also informed that they did not meet since the last BPAC meeting in June and are looking for comments or suggestions on topics that the group can focus on. Lastly, subcommittee chair **Jennifer Buison** gave updates on the Safety Subcommittee's meeting held earlier in the morning.

**Fourth Order**

**Susan Blickstein** presented "[Draft amended NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council By-Laws](#)," which included her suggestions on enhancing the effectiveness of BPAC and clarifying its purpose and mission.

### **Fifth Order**

**Peter Kremer, Anthony Durante, and Thomas DiBiase** from **Michael Baker International** presented on the pedestrian safety project with NJDOT on Route 1 & Route 9 in North Bergen, NJ.

### **Sixth Order**

Everyone posted announcements or public comments via the chat function of Zoom meeting platform.

### **Long Notes:**

**Charles Brown** began the general meeting at 10:30 am by welcoming everyone and introducing the new Executive Council member Yvonne Mikalopas, Department of Health.

**Yvonne Mikalopas** talked about her experience in state dental hygiene and the development of the state oral plan.

**Elise Bremer- Nei** announced that:

- The Strategic Highway Safety Plan has entered the implementation phase and asked everyone to pick the top five actions that they would like to focus on.
- The Transportation Alternatives Grant applications are due November 24, 2020. (Link - <https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>)
- Everyone is invited to participate in the Walk & Bike to School Day event on October 7, 2020. (Link - <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>)
- The week of October 21, 2020 would be celebrated as the bike week, which was postponed earlier in the year and encouraged everyone to get on their bike to make their miles count.

Members from the group added information related to the upcoming biking and walking events in the chat function following Elise's announcement:

- *Stop for Nikhil until September 30, 2020:* [https://nikhilbadlanifoundation.org/registration/event\\_landing/2](https://nikhilbadlanifoundation.org/registration/event_landing/2)
- *Car-free Day in Trenton on September 9, 2020:* <https://www.artallday.artworkstrenton.org/>

### **Subcommittee reports:**

- Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee chair **Betsy Mastaglio** stated that the group did not meet since June and is hoping to schedule the next meeting soon. She also added that members could talk to her if they have a specific topic or project that they would like to discuss in the next meeting.
- Safety Subcommittee chair **Jennifer Buison** informed that they met before the general meeting and discussed about conducting Road Safety Audits during COVID-19. She further mentioned that they plan to introduce Yvonne Mikalopas to the Safety Subcommittee in their next session to see how safety can influence public health.
- Subcommittee chair **Sonia Szczesna** stated that the Legislation and Policy Subcommittee has not met since their last meeting in June and asked everyone to share their comments on what the subcommittee can focus on.

**Susan Blickstein** presented the "[DRAFT AMENDED NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council By-Laws](#)" that focused on enhancing the effectiveness of BPAC and clarifying its purpose and mission. The draft amended by-laws emphasized on BPAC as a platform of information exchange, engagement and

coordination among experts and entities across the state, providing opportunities for resource sharing and education on emerging issues, including citizen access to experts in the field of bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and design. They also updated the responsibilities of BPAC by centering equity across all its phases, including transportation policy, planning, design, and investment. Besides that, they brought the focus to education and support for the implementation of state-wide transportation planning efforts.

**Anthony Durante, Peter Kremer, and Thomas DiBiase** from Michael Baker International presented “U. S. Route 1 & 9, 51st Street to 89th Street Concept Development Study” that they were working on with NJDOT. The project was motivated by overrepresentation of pedestrian and vehicle crashes in the study area with the goal to advance safety improvements for all roadway users (pedestrian, bicyclists, and vehicles). The project involved a detailed study of the surrounding context and sidewalk observation. Recommendations in the presentation included installing pedestrian refuge islands, mountable aprons, crosswalk LEDs, and hardened centerlines.

- **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** commented that they looked at the same intersection in Elizabeth several years ago and recommended the same treatments. Their report can be accessed using this link: <http://www.saferoutesnj.org/school-crossings-on-state-highways/>

The presentations ended and the meeting was opened for discussion. The following links and information was posted by attendees in the chat window:

- *Come and paint creative crosswalks.* <https://www.artallday.artworkstrenton.org/>
- *Car Free and Healthy Plainfield Program and Pledge Form*  
<https://www.gscymca.org/news/2020/09/16/plainfield-ymca-announcements/car-free-healthy-plainfield/>
- *#bike2workNJ*

Meeting adjourned by **Charles Brown**.