



**BPAC General Meeting
July 27, 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 (SJTPA) | Karen Alexander (NJTIP) | Peri Nearon (NJHHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (MVC) | Linda Rapacki (TMA Rep) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Sonia Szczesna (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 Subcommittee

General Meeting Notes:

The meeting began at 9:30 am with **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** welcoming everyone and summarizing the agenda. She noted that no subcommittees would be held today, to allow time for the presentations.

New Jersey Department of Transportation Updates

- NJ Safe Routes Academy:
 - Registration is now open for the 2022 New Jersey Safe Routes Academy, sponsored by the NJ Department of Transportation. The NJ Safe Routes Academy is free and will be online on September 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 12-1:30 pm. Register today at saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy
- TA Set Aside Grant Training
 - One of the NJ Safe Routes Academy sessions will be the final TA Set Aside Training webinar of 2022. Scheduled for Thursday, September 15th from 12:00 pm-1:30 pm. For more information and resources, visit the Safe Routes Resource Center TA Set-Aside Grant information page to view the June and July AND TO REGISTER for the September webinar.
- NJDOT Complete Streets Training
 - Three online training sessions, focused on the MPO regions, will be offered this fall. Dates have not yet been announced.



- Safe Passing Law
 - There are two new resources for New Jersey's Safe Passing Law:
 - A new Safe Passing Law page on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#), supported by NJDOT.
 - The new [Safe Passing Law Resource Center](#) on the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition website is supported by the NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety. Link to the Safe Passing Pledge page: [Safe Passing Pledge - New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition \(njbwc.org\)](#)
- NJTPA Regional Active Transportation Plan
 - To capture the region's diverse perspectives, the NJTPA is particularly interested in participating in festivals, farmers' markets, and other events in communities that have been historically overlooked in the transportation planning process. If you know of any upcoming events that would be a good fit for this type of outreach, please share the information with Keith Hamas at khamas@njtpa.org.
- NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates
 - Safety Summit #4 for the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan will be held online on Tuesday, October 11, from 10-12:30 p.m. Please save the date. You can find more information on the NJ SHSP website (saferoadsforallnj.com)
 - There will be five new priority actions for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area of the SHSP in the upcoming year. They are looking for working group members. If you are interested in participating in one of these action teams, please email elise.bremer-nei@dot.nj.gov. Round 2 Priority Actions for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area are as follows:
 - Research best practices for retrofitting arterial roads to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists
 - Develop recommendations for education and outreach related to recent updates to laws and regulations relating to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters
 - Research best practices for sharing state highway crash data and crash-prone state highway corridors
 - Review existing school zone speed enforcement programs and develop recommendations for implementation in New Jersey
 - Develop guidance for implementation of a comprehensive traffic safety curriculum in NJ elementary schools
 - Round 1 Actions for the Strategic Safety Plan Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area are mostly complete.
- Changes to BPAC Executive Council
 - Farewell and thank you to Janna Chernetz, long-time member of the BPAC Executive Council and former chair of the Legislative and Policy Subcommittee. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.



- Welcome to Mackenzie Piggott, who will be serving as the new representative from NJDEP. Mackenzie is the new full-time State Trails Coordinator with the Green Acres Program.

Presentations on New Funding Opportunities in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to view the presentation slides, see http://njbikeped.org/wp-content/uploads/BPAC-IIJA_BIL-Grant-Overview_Final.pdf

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Overview

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/IIJA fund provides \$1.2 trillion for the nation's surface transportation and drinking water/wastewater infrastructure. There will be an additional \$550 billion in funding for new programs in transportation, energy transmission, resilience, and others, approximately half of which will go to the USDOT over the next five years.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Initiatives in BIL

- BIL/IIJA has numerous provisions intended to increase safety, accessibility, and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians.
 - States where more than 15% of total traffic fatalities are Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) must spend at least 15% of HSIP funds on bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
 - Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding will increase by 60% increase and there are new rules that aim to make the program easier to use for local governments.
- BIL/IIJA allocates up to \$1 billion for FY22 and \$5 billion over 5 years for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program. The money will be used to finance the creation of comprehensive safety action plans. Funding will then finance the planning, design, development and implementation of projects and strategies identified in the plans.
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to use at least 2.5% of their funding to develop Complete Streets and Safe Streets policies.
- The BIL recodifies the Safe Routes to School program and amends it to apply to students from kindergarten through 12th grade. BIL/IIJA allows up to 10% of HSIP funds to be used for safety campaigns/non-infrastructure, including SRTS. SRTS projects and programs are now eligible for funding through several of the new programs in the BIL/IIJA, including SS4A and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program.
- Local and tribal governments in New Jersey will also be eligible to compete for up to \$6 billion in funding under the SS4A program, which will support planning and improvements to reduce crashes and fatalities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.



NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TA Set-Aside Grants)

- The BIL provides an additional \$15.3 million, bringing the total program funding to \$25.2 million for 2023.
- States must prioritize high-need communities in their TA Set-Aside application process.
- The deadline for applications is November 3, 2022.
- Mandatory, one-on-one pre-application meetings are a new requirement. Applicants must attend, but consultants are also welcome to join the meeting.
 - Meetings will be held from April 11th to September 30th.
 - Applicants will be able to discuss project concepts and receive guidance on whether the proposed project is a good fit for the program.
 - Sign up online: <https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/>
- Free online information sessions are offered through the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center and NJDOT Division of Local Aid.
 - Tuesday, June 7, 2022. From 10 am – 11:30 am
 - Thursday, July 21, 2022. From 3 pm – 4:30 pm
 - Thursday, September 15, 2022. From 12 pm – 1:30 pm
 - You can register to attend on the NJ Safe Routes Resource center website: saferoutesnj.org/transportation-alternatives-set-aside-program/

Question and Answer Session

- Mandatory pre-application meetings: Consultants can be there, but it is necessary to have representatives from local municipalities.
- An article on the review of BIL will be available in the newsletter of the BPRC and SRRC: <http://njbikeped.org/more-funds-for-pedestrian-and-bicyclist-safety-under-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-bil/>
- Presentation slides are available here: http://njbikeped.org/wp-content/uploads/BPAC-IIJA_BIL-Grant-Overview_Final.pdf
- Can a non-profit partner with a local community be the applicant grant manager?
 - Non-profit organizations are not eligible as direct grant sub-recipients of TA Set-Aside funds for this solicitation, so the eligible entity the non-profit is partnering with would have to be the sub-recipient of the funds.
 - Encourage non-profits to partner with a local agency like a municipality or county and help with the management. In NJ, the responsible charge must be a full-time municipal or county employee.
 - It is not necessary to have the grant application completed at the pre-app meeting.
- Reach out to your MPO if you require a letter of support and/or are considering applying for a BIL grant.



- NJTPA: Lois Goldman. lgoldman@nitpa.org
- NJTPA also has a website with up to date on information related to BIL: <https://nitpa.org/IJA.aspx>
- Notes from FHWA – NJ Division:
 - If you have additional questions, you may reach out to Amy Kaminski (amy.kaminski@dot.gov) or Keith Skilton (keith.skilton@dot.gov).
- NJDOT offers a help desk expert at the NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center: <https://www.njdotlocalaidrc.com/federally-funded-programs/transportation-alternatives>

USDOT Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program

- The RCP Grant program provides technical assistance to restore community connectivity by removing, mitigating, or replacing eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create a barrier to mobility, access, or economic development.
- The FY22 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is open through October 13, 2022.
- More information can be found on the USDOT website: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities>.
 - The USDOT is hosting Webinars to provide a general overview of the new grant program. **Two webinars have been conducted** and are available on the USDOT website.
 - Register for the webinar Thursday, July 28, from 2:00 – 3:30 pm here: [Webinar Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)
- The program consists of two different grants:
 - Planning Grant: funds feasibility and impact studies. FY22 \$50M
 - **The maximum award for an RCP planning grant is \$2 million.**
 - **The grant awarded may not exceed 80%** of the project’s total cost.
 - **The local matching share may consist partially or entirely of in-kind contributions** and contributions from the private sector and/or philanthropic organizations.
 - Capital Construction Grant: funds projects for which all necessary studies and other planning activities have been completed. FY22 \$145M
 - Projects must be consistent with the Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan and included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
 - **The minimum capital construction grant award is \$5 million.**
 - Capital Construction grants may not exceed **50%** of the project’s total cost.
 - Federal assistance other than the RCP Program award (such as USDOT formula funds, Tribal Transportation Program funds, or other Federal grants) **may be used to partially satisfy the match requirement** so long as total Federal assistance (all Federal sources) does not exceed 80% of the total project cost.



- Recipients must contribute a **local matching share of no less than 20%** of eligible activity costs.
- A Benefit-Cost Analysis is required only for Capital Construction grants.
- Resources:
 - [Official Webpage For RCP Grant Program](#)
 - [Notice Of Funding Opportunity](#)
 - [Webinars](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
 - [RCP Program Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Additional Guidance](#)
 - [Other Resources](#)

Question and Answer Session

- Cost Benefit Analysis: What is the level of analysis that is required? Those interested are encouraged to reach out to their MPO or ask questions directly on the website. Attendance at the webinar is also encouraged.
 - They want to see that the project represents a financial benefit. Example: reduce crashes, operational improvements, etc.
- Example of planning documents: <https://www.njtpa.org/Planning/Subregional-Programs/Studies/Completed-Studies/2016-2017/Essex-County-Freeway-Drive-and-Station-Area-Safety.aspx>
- Eligible projects could include the reopening of a train station.
- FHWA encourages people to attend the session and apply this year with as much information as they have.
- In New Jersey, the TA Set-Aside and Safe Routes to School programs do not require a 20% match because NJ covers that with toll credits.
 - Grants can be combined.
 - The match can also be (in-kind) staff and volunteer time.
 - Some expressed concern that towns could struggle to match the share of funding required, even with the help of other grant programs.
 - When a project does not have funding, it cannot be part of the program.
- Is an application more likely to be selected if it comes from NJDOT instead of a municipality? The grants are intended to be more accessible to entities that have often been overlooked and previously not selected.



- **Notes from FHWA:**

- FHWA suggested starting early because applicants will need to obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The process of getting this identifier could take time.
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Grant Program applications are due October 13, 2022 and the FACT SHEET can be found here: https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-07/RCP%20Program%20Fact%20Sheet_0.pdf
- If you have additional questions, you may reach out to Amy Kaminski (amy.kaminski@dot.gov) or Keith Skilton (keith.skilton@dot.gov).

USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

- One billion dollars are allocated for FY22 for grants. Applications in this cycle are due **September 15, 2022 at 5:00 pm**.
 - There are two types of grants: Action Plan grants and Implementation grants.
 - They can fund supplemental planning activities to support an existing Action Plan.
 - Both grants require a 20% local match.
- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is now open for SS4A grants and is available on grants.gov and the SS4A website. Applicants must complete their registration, which could take **2 to 4 weeks**. Early registration is encouraged.
- Technical questions may be submitted to USDOT via the SS4A website until August 15, 2022.
- A combination of jurisdictions can apply together as a multijurisdictional group. USDOT encourages joint applications.
 - The Governor’s Office will hold a SS4A Webinar on August 1st. 2:00 pm. A link was shared by Amy Kaminski: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0cN2UAI4n0uzauCkG9ZCp_WPZ_U0cYuNGmiLhIO3VEfpUMDFOUkVOUUtMWUdMQTdPNVZNVldTOVAzRS4u
- Resources:
 - [SS4A Resources Page](#)
 - [SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
 - [SS4A Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet](#)
 - [USDOT: Transportation Disadvantaged Census Tracts \(arcgis.com\)](#)
 - [Action Plan Grant Information Sheet](#)
 - [Implementation Grant Information Sheet](#)
 - [Vision Zero: Pivoting to the Safe System Approach](#)
 - [Complete Streets](#)



Question and Answer Session

- Is there a list of municipalities, regions, counties, etc., that are going to apply? Not yet, but the group is encouraged to share the jurisdictions that have shown interest in participating.
 - Hoboken, Jersey City: Both municipalities have an adopted eligible action plan.
 - Hudson County has no projects to share at this time but they are working with municipalities and community groups to identify projects.
 - Debra Kagan and Mike Manzella showed interest in working with Byron Nicholas.
 - Middlesex County is working on a Vision Zero Action Plan. Some of the elements of that plan will be the basis for an application for this grant.
 - SJTPO mentioned that they are still waiting for commitment from a city with a project that could be a good fit for the grant.
 - DVRPC mentioned that they are applying for a regional grant to SS4A.
- Are there recommendations on how to get counties involved in the SS4A program? County roads need to be addressed for safety.
- **Is there any consultant support for municipalities to identify grants and set up their applications?** Is anybody working on creating the resources to help municipalities prepare for next year's application? The MPOs are looking into it.
 - The Governor's Office will hold a SS4A Webinar on August 1st. 2:00 pm. A link was shared by Amy Kaminski:
 - https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=0cN2UAI4n0uzauCkG9ZCp_WPZU0cYuNGmiLhIO3VEfpUMDFOUkVOUUtMWUdMQTdPNVZNVIdTOVAzRS4u
 - Leigh Ann suggested including this in response to question 7 on the link so it can be addressed in the Governor's session.
- Sustainable Highland Park: How do motorbikes and e-scooters fit in this situation?
 - They are mentioned in the federal bill under vulnerable road users. Micro-mobility devices are part of the walk-bike environment.

Public Comments and Announcements

- New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition Announcements:
 - Safe Passing law: [The Safe Passing Law Resource Center](#) can be found on the New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition website. Graphics and information can be found there. They will be adding print materials which will be distributed soon.
 - If you are interested in acquiring printed materials and bumper stickers, reach out to Paul Mickiewicz. Paul.Mick@NJBWC.org
 - The Safe Passing Law Network will meet in September. Please suggest topics.
 - If there is interest in hosting a Smart Cycling Training, please contact Paul Mickiewicz. Paul.Mick@NJBWC.org



- Newark Penn Station project: There will be a public meeting in August. This is an excellent opportunity to make suggestions on how to make the station bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly.
<https://newark-penn-station-master-plan-njtransit.hub.arcgis.com/>
- SJTPO Announcement:
 - SJTPO will soon be releasing county-wide local road safety plans.
- NJTPA Announcement:
 - NJTPA is developing an active transportation plan. They are encouraging people to take the survey and submit ideas through the web map.
<https://active-transportation-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com/>
 - Website with up-to-date information about the BIL: <https://njtpa.org/IIJA.aspx>
 - Let your MPO know you are applying for a BIL grant, especially if you require a letter of support. Please contact Lois Goldman if you are in the NJTPA region at lgoldman@njtpa
Please consider at least two weeks before you need the letter.

Next BPAC session:

- For the next meeting on September 28, 2022 at 9:30 am. Please register at:
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwuc-ihqDwsGtGxzVAD-bFDEhu3Ejy5uUXK>



Attendees

1. Leigh Ann Von Hagen, NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (BPRC)
2. James Sinclair, NJ BPRC
3. Samuel Rosenthal, NJ BPRC
4. Allan Huff, SJTPO
5. Amy Kaminski, FHWA-NJ
6. Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
7. Andrew Mikesh, Northern Valley Greenway
8. Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
9. Bettina Zimny, NV5
10. Bill Feeney, NJ Transit
11. Brian Wirtz, NJDOT Local Aid
12. Byron Nicholas, Hudson County
13. Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
14. Casey Barrett
15. Catherine Bull, NJ SRRC
16. Caty Whalen, RideWise
17. Christopher Paige, FHWA-NJ
18. Dan LiSanti, NJDOT BSBPP
19. Daniel Hutton, Urban Engineers
20. Denise Chaplick, Morris County
21. Denise Nickel, Middlesex County
22. Debra Kagan, NJBWC
23. Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT BSBPP
24. Eleanor Home, Lawrence-Hopewell Trail
25. Eric Nelson, Handi-Hut Velodome Shelters
26. Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
27. Gregory Woltman, NJ BPRC
28. Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
29. Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
30. John Boyle, NJBWC
31. John Strachan, NJDLP&S DHTS
32. Jon Dugan, NJ SRRC
33. Keith Hamas, NJTPA
34. Kimberly Irby, NJ Future
35. Kayt Hester, Hudson TMA
36. Kristen O'Rourke
37. Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion
38. Laura Torchio, NV5



39. Linda Rapacki, RideWise
40. Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
41. Lisa Goldman, NJTPA
42. Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
43. Lisa Leone, Avenues in Motion
44. Linda Rapacki, RideWise TMA
45. Lois Goldman, NJTPA
46. Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
47. Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP Green Acres Program
48. Mike Dannemiller, Middlesex County
49. Martin Wade, Michael Baker International
50. Matthew Maher, Stantec
51. Michael Popovech, Monmouth County Planning
52. Mike Johnson, EZ Ride
53. Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
54. Mike Viscardi, NJ TRANSIT
55. Monika Pal, BPRC
56. Martin Balcazar, BPRC
57. Nate Dorfman
58. Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
59. Paul Sauers, Sustainable Highland Park
60. Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
61. Peter F. Kremer
62. Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
63. Red Oduro
64. Renu Chhonkar
65. Samantha Donovan, Sam Schwartz Consulting
66. Shawn Megill Legendre, DVPRC
67. Sophia Pereira, BPRC
68. Sonia Szczesna, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
69. Thom Stead
70. William Riviere, NJDOT