



BPAC General Meeting

January 25, 2023, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

Zoom Online Meeting

Executive Council:

Elise Bremer- Nei (NJDOT) | Leigh Ann Von Hagen (Rutgers-VTC) | Karen Alexander (NJTIP) | Cassidy Boulan (DVRPC) | John Boyle (BCGP) | Jen Buison (NJT) | Michael Dannemiller (Middlesex County) | Keith Hamas (NJTPA) | Alan Huff (SJTPO) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Peri Nearon (NJ DHS) | Jessica O'Connor (NJMVC) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Linda Rapacki (RideWise TMA) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | *Open Position* (County/Municipal Planner or Engineer) | *Open Position* (DHTS) | *Open Position* (NJDOH) | *Open Position* (Environmental Justice/Equity)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Aimee Jefferson, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, ajefferson@njtpa.org

Thom Stead, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, tstead@dvrpc.org

Corey Hannigan, Chair, Policy Subcommittee, corey@tstc.org

General Meeting Notes:

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

NJDOT Updates – January 2023

Elise Bremer-Nei shared updates from the NJ Department of Transportation on the following topics:

NJDOT Complete Streets Training

- Three virtual NJDOT Complete Streets trainings were held in October. Each one lasted three hours and consisted of three modules: Complete Streets Benefits, Planning, and Design.
- PDF versions of the training slides are currently up on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#), and the Complete Streets Training summary report has been added to the Training page.
- NJDOT thanks the trainers and the attendees, especially those who provided feedback. Currently, training sessions are in the works for internal NJDOT staff. Information on the next round of statewide trainings will be available in the coming months.

2022 BPAC Year in Review Report

- The 2022 BPAC Year in Review is now up on the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (BPRC) website. The report summarizes the major topics discussed during BPAC meetings in 2022, as well as the BPAC subcommittees' accomplishments of the past year and goals for 2023. <https://njbikeped.org/wp-content/uploads/BPAC-Year-in-Review-2022.pdf>

New NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian and Safe Routes Resource Center Reports

- There are a number of new NJDOT-funded reports available on the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Safe Routes Resource Center websites. Many of these reports are the outcome of discussions held in BPAC subcommittee meetings during the past year.
 - The *Title 39 and Parking-Protected Bike Lanes* report is on the BPRC website. This report grew out of discussions in the BPAC Policy subcommittee and discusses the basis for parking-protected bicycle lanes in New Jersey compared to neighboring states. <https://njbikeped.org/title-39-parking-protected-bike-lanes/>
- The next 3 reports are available on the Safe Routes Resource Center website:
 - The *Proposed Updates to the NJ Residential Site Improvement Standards* report, which also resulted from discussions in the Policy subcommittee, offers recommendations to update and improve the RSIS to help address issues related to traffic safety, affordable housing, and climate change, and to better enable the implementation of Complete Streets. <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/proposed-updates-to-the-nj-residential-site-improvement-standards/>
 - The *Vulnerable Road User Laws* report explores the potential impact of vulnerable road user laws as a legal and policy strategy in improving safety for all road users. The paper reviews best practices, research, existing legislation, and information gathered through expert interviews on the development and implementation of VRU laws. This report is an outcome of the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Emphasis Area of the 2020 NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan. <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/vulnerable-road-user-laws-the-state-of-knowledge-and-implications-for-transportation-planning/>
 - The *Automated Speed Enforcement* report examines the use of speed cameras to support traditional enforcement and provide efficient, consistent, equitable and effective deterrence in places where traditional enforcement might be hazardous. This is also an outcome of the 2020 NJ SHSP. <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/narrative-report-automated-speed-enforcement/>

Other BPRC Reports

- The NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center has also recently posted two new reports on research performed for NJDOT related to the Safe System Approach.
 - The first explores various Zero Deaths initiatives and how they relate to the Safe System approach. The report includes a table comparing three major Zero Deaths initiatives (Vision Zero, Toward Zero Deaths, and Road to Zero 2050) and a slide deck summarizing case studies of how other states are incorporating Zero Deaths initiatives and the Safe System Approach into their Strategic Highway Safety Plans. <https://njbikeped.org/zero-deaths-initiatives-and-the-safe-system-approach-2022/>
 - The second report examines how the Safe System Approach aims to reduce Fatal and Serious Injuries in the USA and globally, including a discussion on national Fatal and

Serious Injury trends and Zero Deaths principles in Strategic Highway Safety Plans. The report also sheds light on how this approach benefits pedestrians and bicyclists and ensures transportation equity across the system. <https://njbikeped.org/addressing-fatal-and-serious-injuries-through-the-safe-system-approach/>

NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates

- The Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area team will be working on 5 new priority actions in the coming year:
 1. Research best practices for retrofitting arterial roadways to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.
 2. Develop recommendations for education and outreach on recent updates to laws and regulations related to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters.
 3. Research best practices for sharing state highway crash data and crash-prone state highway corridors.
 4. Review existing school zone speed enforcement programs and develop recommendations for New Jersey.
 5. Develop guidance for the implementation of a comprehensive traffic safety curriculum in NJ elementary schools.
- If you are interested in joining an action team, please reach out to **Elise Bremer-Nei**, and she will get you connected with the appropriate action team leader.

NJDOT LTA Updates

- BikePaterson: Building a Better City is under final review.
- New studies are kicking off in Palmyra and Long Branch, as well as a Vision Zero Action Plan for West Orange. Please let **Bill Riviere**, william.riviere@dot.nj.gov, know if you have any questions.

Other New Initiatives in the Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs (BSBPP) for 2023:

- Some new priority projects for the Bureau for 2023 include:
 - NJDOT's on-call consultant Michael Baker is assisting BSBPP with an update to our Pedestrian Safety Management System. This system takes into consideration factors such as fatal and serious injury-producing crashes, traffic speeds and volumes, land uses, and demographics. It generates a list of intersections and 2-mile segments where pedestrian safety might be a concern.
 - BSBPP is also developing a Bicycle Safety Management System.
 - As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act or IIJA), a Special Rule was established that includes a new requirement for state DOTs to complete Vulnerable Road User safety assessments. Michael Baker has been assisting BSBPP with an analysis of five years of reported fatal and serious injury crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians. This analysis will feed into New Jersey's Vulnerable Road User Assessment.
 - FHWA has asked all state DOTs to complete a survey as part of their 2022 National Complete Streets Assessment. BSBPP took the lead on consulting with Subject Matter Experts from around the Department and drafting NJDOT's response. In conversations with the consultant compiling the survey responses for FHWA, we were informed that

they would like to know of any unique or successful implementation practices in New Jersey with regards to Complete Streets that they might be able to use in their final report. If anyone has any ideas about that, BSBPP is happy to hear them. Please send this information to **Elise Bremer-Nei**.

NJTPA Level of Bicycle Stress Map

- **Aimee Jefferson**, NJTPA and Safety Subcommittee Chair, announced that the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority has recently released a new Level of Bicycle Stress Map. More discussion of this new and exciting tool will take place in the Safety Subcommittee. More information is available at <https://www.njtpa.org/Planning/Regional-Programs/Bicycle-Pedestrian.aspx>.

Hannah Younes presented on the factors that influence higher bicycle and pedestrian-involved crash rates in New Jersey.

Presentation: [Factors Impacting the Fatality of Non-Motorist Involved Crashes in New Jersey](#)

At 10:15, **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** opened the Subcommittee breakout groups. Notes for each subcommittee group will be made available separately.

At 11:05, the general meeting reconvened and each of the subcommittee chairs reported back with a brief summary of their groups' discussions.

Aimee Jefferson reported that the Safety Subcommittee discussed the Level of Bicyclist Compatibility tool that was recently released by NJTPA. Additionally, there was a discussion on access to crash data, and the New Jersey Trails Guidebook that has recently started production through NJDOT's Bureau of Research. Also, Ranjit Walia announced that he is looking for people to join a working group for revisions to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Enforcement Education programs, which he presented at the December BPAC. Finally, there was a brief discussion on the relationship between bicycle facilities and gentrification.

Thom Stead reported on the Design and Infrastructure subcommittee. He mentioned DVRPC's [Mobility Choices: Transportation Conversations in Three Black and Latino Communities in the Greater Philadelphia Region](#). He discussed a case study of North Trenton and interest in bicycle infrastructure and design. In March, there will be a presentation about successes with Vision Zero on local streets in Jersey City. Additionally, there was a question about whether NJDOT had a lightweight mechanism to engage with municipalities on local project design. It was mentioned that many municipalities try to avoid dealing with state roads out of fear that they will not be able to work with NJDOT to make progress on improvements.

Corey Hannigan reported back on the Policy subcommittee. He mentioned discussion of various bills going through the NJ legislature, including bills related to reducing speed limits near parks and on access

roads, inclusion of people with disabilities, a bill for refusing to provide driver information to other states with automated speed enforcement, the Mandatory Helmet Law bill, and the Vision Zero Commission bill. Regarding the Mandatory Helmet Law bill, Corey mentioned that some advocates are planning a meeting with Assemblyman Atkins to express that while many of them support access to and use of helmets, they oppose a mandatory requirement. A major goal of the subcommittee is to create a primer on all of the new legislation to help understand the key information in them and how they impact bicyclists and pedestrians.

Additional Announcements:

Corey Hannigan has agreed to step in as the Policy Subcommittee Chair. He also recently began a new job as the New Jersey Representative at the Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

Tim Evans, NJ Future mentioned that the Rutgers Center for Real Estate will conduct a study of parking utilization, which was a topic of discussion in the Policy subcommittee during the formation of recommended changes to RSIS. BPAC decided to put off discussions about parking requirements in 2022. It appears that many developers are interested in reducing parking requirements due to the expense of providing extensive parking, both in terms of land use and cost of construction. He also gave an update that they are ready to submit revisions on the Residential Site Improvement Standards to the NJ Land Use Commission. It is worth noting that a typical parking study only examines motor vehicle parking and ignores other modes.

Additionally, it was suggested as a topic of research to examine delay for pedestrians on sidewalks due to long waits at traffic signals primarily configured for flow of motor vehicle traffic, as well as studying the townships that have significantly increased bicycle infrastructure to see if there has been a change in the mode share from motor vehicles to non-motorized traffic.

In September 2022 Somerset County launched the “Keep Somerset Moving: Transportation Plan 2045 study.” **Ken Wedeen** has invited everyone for the first public participation meeting. Register here: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-works/planning-policy-and-economic-development/2022-transportation-update/get-involved>

The Vision Zero Philadelphia Conference will be held at the Temple University Student Center on March 31, 2023. Registration is available here: <https://bicyclecoalition.org/events/vision-zero-conference-2023/>

Dan Paschal from the East Coast Greenway sent out an announcement about a group called the FreeWalkers that has chapters in New Jersey and beyond. They seek to advance the health and well-being of the public by educating, motivating and challenging people of all ages to participate in long-distance walking events. <https://freewalkers.org/>

- Their events calendar (<https://freewalkers.org/all-events>) has information about free walks throughout the year, including a Maplewood to Morristown walk [here](#) in New Jersey, scheduled for this Sunday, January 29th, and a Princeton Loop Tour, registration [here](#), on Saturday, February 18th. Please visit the FreeWalkers website to learn more and reserve your spot for these events.

Next BPAC Session:

March 22, 2023: Use the below link to register for the next BPAC meeting. <https://njbikeped.org/join-the-next-meeting/>

Attendees

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- Corey Hannigan, TSTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- William Riviere, NJDOT
- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- Greg Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Catherine Bull, Rutgers-VTC
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Martin Balcazar, Rutgers-VTC
- Monika Pal, Rutgers-VTC
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
- Charlie Romanow, WSP
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP Green Acres Program
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- David Guinan, NJ State Police, Safe Corridor Unit
- Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Jeevanjot Singh, NJDOT, BSBPP
- Jim Hunt, VZNJ, Morris County
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Kimberley Irby, New Jersey Future
- Kayt Hester, Hudson TMA
- Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County
- Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Tricia Dunkak, New Jersey Future
- Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
- Andrew Mikesch, Northern Valley Greenway Alliance
- Anthony Durante, MBI

- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- Dan LiSanti, NJDOT
- John Wheeler, Upper Township Green Team
- Lisa Leone, Avenues in Motion
- Mark Smith, Kean University
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit
- Marhaba Omer, NJDOT
- Pete Kremer, MBI
- Reba Oduro, NJDOT
- Samantha Donovan, Sam Schwartz
- Siennah Yang, SGB
- Will Yarzab, NJTPA