



**BPAC Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee Meeting
July 26, 2023 10:10 am to 11:00 am
Online Zoom Meeting**

Attendees:

- Thom Stead (chair), DVRPC
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Matthew Zochowski, Mercer County
- Michael Dannemiller, Middlesex County
- Michael Popovech, Monmouth County
- Morgan Griffiths, DVRPC
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Alan Huff, SJTPO
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- Byron Nicholas, Hudson County
- Dan Hutton, Urban Engineers
- Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Denise Chaplick, Morris County Parks
- Denise Nickel, Middlesex County
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- Michael Viscardi, NJ Transit
- Jack Molenaar, Middlesex County
- Joanna Hecht, DVRPC
- John Wheeler, Upper Township Green Team
- Loretta Kelly, NJ Department of Health
- Matt Ludwig, NV5
- Michael Johnson
- Stefanie Trojakowski

Meeting Notes:

- **Presentation by Keith Hamas on developing design guidance on highway interchanges for NJTPA's Active Transportation Plan; slides are available [here](#).**
 - *Case Study 3: Active Transportation Facility Design at Highway Interchanges* is structured into various sections, including an introduction and a detailed recommendation methodology. Within the guidance, there is a summary of the analysis conducted across 58 intersections where active transportation facilities intersect with highway interchanges.
 - The guidance goes beyond mere analysis by providing valuable design guidance aimed at enhancing active transportation within challenging or vital intersections. Guidelines are effectively communicated through the use of illustrative scenarios

and potential treatments, empowering readers to envision and implement safer and more efficient design solutions.

- **Presentation by Matthew Zochowski on Mercer County’s Mobility Plan using entitled, “Missing Connections- Interchanges in Mercer County”;** slides are available [here](#).
 - The presentation highlighted the intersection challenges faced in Mercer County along highways.
 - A detailed analysis of the I-295 highway corridor revealed inadequate provisions for bicycle and pedestrian movement across the interstate.
 - Despite the implementation of 23 miles of bike lanes in Mercer County, the design of highway interchanges hinders safe pedestrian and bicycle travel.
 - Mercer County is currently engaged in multimodal safety projects focusing on Arena Drive and South Broad Street. These projects are in the proposal review phase.
 - The primary objective of these multimodal initiatives is to enhance pedestrian safety, a pressing need due to the presence of schools on both Arena Drive and South Broad Street near the on- and off-ramps of I-295. Currently, students and staff lack a secure path for walking to and from the schools.
 - Mercer County is awaiting definitive design guidance on safe pedestrian and bicyclist facilities at highway interchanges. This guidance, whether included in the NJDOT Roadway Design Manual or in the soon-to-be-released update to the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, will empower the County to persuade its engineers to implement tangible safety measures.

- **General group updates**
 - When asked by a subcommittee member about NJDOT's timeline for incorporating guidelines on safe pedestrian and bike treatments at highway interchanges within the Roadway Design Manual, the Department's representative responded that they await this year’s updates to MUTCD and the AASHTO bike guide to help refine guidance on highway interchange design.
 - DVPRC is set to host an exciting event in partnership with Greater Mercer TMA, featuring a bike rodeo and street painting activities as part of their East Trenton tactical urbanism initiative.
 - DVPRC has secured a grant of \$400K from the Federal Transit Administration through the Areas of Persistent Poverty program. These funds will be utilized to construct sidewalks in Pennsylvania.
 - Middlesex County is actively involved in Electric Vehicle (EV) charger installations. They have introduced their inaugural Electric Bus and are currently implementing their Vision Zero Action Plan.
 - NJ Transit reports continued design work on the Henry-Hudson trail. Additionally, they've secured funding for planning bike stations, prompting the initiation of site selection for station placement.

- SJTPO shared that the final stages of the feasibility study for the Northern Cape May Trail are wrapping up. They plan to commence a feasibility study for a bridge project with TA Set-Aside funding. The agency is also in the process of hiring professionals to develop an active transportation plan, with a specific emphasis on safe bicyclist and pedestrian movement.
- Morris County Park Commission announced the imminent closure of their trail construction grant program. The Commission is facing challenges in locating engineers specialized in natural trail construction. They are planning to establish a nonprofit agency dedicated to trail management.

Subcommittee Goals for 2023:

Subcommittee members briefly discussed goals for 2023 meetings by reviewing and editing the goals from 2022:

1. Work with Jersey Water Works on Green Streets training.
 - a. **Next steps: Contact a person from Jersey Water Works to give a quick presentation.**
2. Provide feedback on Complete and Green Streets design guidance.
 - a. **Next steps: Remove.**
3. Identify the potential for using HSIP funding for bike and pedestrian safety projects.
 - a. **Next steps: Remove.**
4. Identify potential guidance for bicycle facilities at interchanges.
 - a. **Next steps: It is in process; contribute as needed.**
5. Investigate ITS/smart solutions for bicycle and pedestrian safety.
 - a. **Next steps: Ask NJDOT to present on the Route 129 /Lalor Street project.**
 - b. **Next steps: Ask Clint Andrews to give a presentation on his ongoing NSF grant-funded project related to micromobility.**
6. Clarify Complete Streets goals as they relate to Zero Death initiatives.
 - a. **Next steps: BPRC is working on comparison of Zero Death initiatives; review as needed.**
7. Investigate ways to improve equity in bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.
 - a. **Next steps: This should remain a priority.**
8. Identify ways to expand trails-related work, including promoting trail towns, improving safety at trail crossings, and exploring ADA compliance for multiuse trails.
 - a. **Next steps: Check on the status of NJDOT's trail crossing research.**
 - b. **ADA compliance issues are a priority.**
 - c. **We need to do more work at the regional level to connect and implement county trail plans.**
 - d. **NJDEP is interested in doing another trails summit.**
9. Promote first – and last-mile bicycle and micromobility facilities to transit.
 - a. **Next steps: Continue.**

10. Investigate ways to conduct signal timing studies to reduce pedestrian exposure time and explore possible infrastructure solutions.
 - a. **Next steps: Continue.**
11. Work to address concerns related to quick-build and pop-up projects.
 - a. **Next steps: Continue.**

Strategic Highway Safety Plan Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area Goals - should we be providing feedback and input?

- Research best practices for retrofitting arterial roadways to better accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists - led by Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
 - **This is a priority action for this year. The subcommittee can help with ideas and review documents. There may be an opportunity to develop a document about this with some case studies.**