



BPAC General Meeting

March 22, 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.

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

Complete Streets and Autism and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs)

In January 2023, Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill directing NJDOT to implement a Complete Streets Policy that “improves safety for persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” The legislation also directs NJDOT to develop universal design concepts that advance the mobility options for individuals with IDD, and to develop guidance and policies so that the design concepts are incorporated into the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new and rehabilitated public highways and public transportation projects.

The Department is currently working with the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center and NV5 to develop a scope of work that addresses this new legislation. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

NJDOT-Sponsored Events

The Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs is in the process of confirming dates for a few NJDOT-sponsored events this fall.

1. The Safe Routes Academy will be held Thursdays in September as a series of lunch and learn webinars, so stay tuned for more information about sessions and speakers.
2. The 2023 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit is scheduled for this fall, most likely in late October or early November.
3. The NJDOT Safety Summit will be held in person at TCNJ, targeting mid-November.

Please subscribe to both the [NJ Walks and Bike newsletter](#) and the [NJ Safe Routes newsletter](#) to stay informed about final dates.

Safe Passing Law Video

The Safe Routes Resource Center, with support from Civic Eye Collaborative, has produced a [new video](#) for New Jersey's Safe Passing Law. The law provides clear rules of the road for all motorists when interacting with vulnerable road users, including people on foot, bicycle, scooter, in a wheelchair, or otherwise not in a car, bus, or truck. Please share the video with friends and colleagues, as well as on social media.

NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates

Regarding the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan the Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area team is working on 5 new priority actions this year. If you are interested and have not already signed up for an action team, please reach out to me and I will get you connected with the appropriate action team leader.

- **Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT**, is leading the team investigating best practices in accommodating vulnerable road users on arterial streets.
- **Mike Morris, DHTS**, heads the group looking onto school zone speed enforcement.
- **Shazia Khizir, NJDOT**, is tackling the issue of how best to share crash data among jurisdictions.
- **Deb Kagan, NJ Bike and Walk Coalition**, is working on outreach on recent legislation.
- **Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon**, is leading the team working on traffic safety education.

NJDOT is hosting a workshop on **Monday, April 3rd** to select the Year 3 Priority Actions for the SHSP. The attendance for this workshop is by invitation only in order to keep the discussions focused.

NJDOT Local Bike-Ped Planning Assistance Updates

BikePaterson: Building a Better City report is undergoing final edits.

NJDOT is currently working on studies in West Orange, Long Branch and Palmyra. Data collection and public involvement efforts are ongoing. For questions, contact **Bill Riviere, NJDOT**, william.riviere@dot.nj.gov.

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

Michael Baker, Intl. is a bike-ped consulting assisting the BSBPP with an update to their **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. We check to see if these problems are being addressed in existing NJDOT projects and if not, we generate problem statements to develop pedestrian safety projects.

BSBPP is developing a **Bicycle Safety Management System**. The new system will incorporate new factors similar to the Pedestrian Safety Management System. The existing system only considered crashes.

As part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, a Special Rule was established that includes a new requirement for States to complete Vulnerable Road User safety assessments. **Michael Baker, Intl.** 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. **HDR**, is assisting us with this assessment, which is due to FHWA in November. More information about the federal requirement can be found on the [USDOT's and FHWA's websites](#).

Congratulations to Those who Received Federal SS4A and RCP Funding

Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT, congratulated all of those who received direct federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Safe Streets for All and Reconnecting Communities pilot programs.

This includes 10 [SS4A Safety Action Plan grants](#) totaling \$6.5 million, a \$20 million SS4A [Implementation grant](#) for Chestnut Avenue Safety Improvements in Vineland, and a \$13 million [Reconnecting Communities grant](#) for NJ Transit's Long Branch Station pedestrian tunnel project.

In addition, Wayne Township will be receiving a \$15 million federal grant through [NJTPA's FY 2022 Local Safety Program](#) to improve safety and mobility for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians along Valley Road.

Although these are direct federal funds, NJDOT is very supportive of these initiatives. The Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs is thrilled to see these projects move forward to improve safety throughout the State.

Hailey Graf, NJ Transit, announced that the NJ Transit Planning Access Group is kicking off a Bike, Scooter and Pedestrian Access Survey next month for Earth Day. The survey aims to help NJ Transit understand how transit riders on their services use micromobility vehicles and how NJ Transit can help support these riders, in terms of device parking, etc. The survey will be shared via email through NJ Transit's partners including the [NJ Bikes and Walks Newsletter](#). The survey will be released the week of April 17 and will be open for a month, through Bike to Work Week.

Greg Woltman, Rutgers-VTC, presented on the Fiscal Year 2022 round of applications of the FHWA's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A). The slides from the presentation are available [here](#).

The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program is a \$5 billion program administered by the FHWA that came out of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It supports the [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#), which is centered around the Safe System Approach.

The presentation explains the separate types of grants available in the SS4A program:

- **Action Plan Grants** fund the creation or completion of a comprehensive safety action plan.
- **Supplemental Planning Grants** fund additional planning efforts or processes, such as concept plans and additional localized outreach, to support an existing action plan.
- **Implementation Grants** fund the construction and implementation of the strategies outlined in a qualifying comprehensive safety action plan.

The FY22 application round was the first year of the program, and \$1 billion was allocated to the FHWA to give as competitive grants. Over 400 communities across the United States received grant awards, but \$197.3 million was left unspent due to a lower demand for action plan funding than was made available.

In New Jersey, the three MPOs that cover the state each have a strategy to produce SS4A-eligible comprehensive safety action plans that cover their entire region. DVRPC was awarded a region-wide SS4A Safety Action Planning grant, and SJTPO and NJTPA both plan to use non-SS4A funds to produce safety plans at the county level.

The presentation describes the Vineland, NJ implementation grant that was awarded in FY22. It will implement bicycle lanes and a road diet on Chestnut Ave in Vineland, in addition to other safety treatments.

The presentation ends with a summary of considerations and suggestions of when and how to apply for future rounds of SS4A funding. The decision for localities to apply for SS4A grants is complicated by the availability of funding from MPOs to produce regional and county-level plans. Generally speaking, municipalities should strategize with their MPOs, counties, and neighboring municipalities before deciding on what to apply for.

At 10:25, **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** opened the Subcommittee breakout groups. Notes for each subcommittee group are provided separately.

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

Corey Hannigan, TSTC, reported back on the Policy Subcommittee. He reported on the various bills relevant to bicyclists and pedestrians that are making their way through the NJ legislature. There is a new bill to reduce parking minimums near transit. The subcommittee also discussed next steps for submitting the Residential Site Improvement Standards recommendations. NJ Future and Tri-State Transportation Campaign will likely submit these recommendations jointly. NJDOT updated the

subcommittee on their work to update their Complete Streets Policy, including efforts to implement the new Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities law at the state level. The subcommittee discussed developing a primer around the suite of state laws that pertain to BPAC topics, implications of certain definitions in Title 39, and updates to crash reporting. They also discussed NJ Future's new VMT reduction initiative and upcoming federal grant programs to supplement the SS4A grants presented earlier in the meeting. The League of American Bicyclists National Bike Lobby Day is Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Thom Stead, DVRPC, reported back on the Design and Safety Subcommittees. The subcommittee meeting consisted largely of a presentation by **Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City**, describing their Vision Zero efforts and the bicycling infrastructure and traffic calming installed throughout Jersey City. The presentation was a progress update since the Vision Zero plan was put into action starting in 2019. The presentation also touched on the high cost of car dependency when compared to the costs of new bicycle infrastructure. The discussion following the presentation included the costs of different interventions including Tuff Curb™, modular bus platforms, and bike lane paint materials. After the presentation, the meeting was opened for announcements. In Bergen County, there is a new course for police officers called, "Title 39: New Perspectives." The program discusses the new Safe Passing Law and provides law enforcement an opportunity to ride bicycles and experience the cyclist perspective. DVRPC is hosting open houses for the Trenton Bike Plan on April 25 and May 7. Reach out to **Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC**, to get involved. **NJ Bike and Walk Coalition (NJBWC)** is starting their new Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE) courses on Fridays.

Additional Announcements:

Will Yarzab asked a question about how to properly dispose of abandoned e-bikes due to regulations on battery disposal. He added that many e-bikes lack a serial number or other identifier to help law enforcement return stolen e-bikes to their owners.

Deb Kagan, NJBWC, is initiating a Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE) Network to build a coalition with advocates. In addition to the Friday courses mentioned earlier, there will also be general meetings about different topics. The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (NJ BRPC), funded by NJDOT, will be presenting on the Safe System Approach (SSA) and how advocates can integrate the SSA into Vision Zero initiatives at the first meeting on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen, NJ BRPC, mentioned that TransAction, the annual New Jersey transportation conference, is taking place in Atlantic City from April 18 to April 20, 2023.

Corey Hannigan, TSTC, mentioned the recent news about e-bike battery fires in New York City. He mentioned that these fires were due to low-quality batteries being charged improperly. This could include charging for more than 5 hours. A potential regulatory solution would be to require certified batteries, such as those that are required in a motor vehicle. **John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia**, stated that it appears to be more scrutiny for e-bike batteries and e-bikes in general, than there is for electric automobiles and their batteries. **Erlea Moldonado, EZ Ride TMA**, mentioned that a major barrier to safe charging is a knowledge gap. She suggested more communication with e-bike owners not to go to sleep with the battery charging, and to avoid storing the battery chargers in hot areas, especially near heaters. Additionally, she mentioned that many e-bike batteries are manufactured by a third party, in contrast with electric vehicle batteries, which are more often than not produced by the auto manufacturer. Erlea also pointed out that Tesla batteries have been known to catch fire and even explode.

Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride TMA, asked if bicycle infrastructure and bicycle storage facilities could be funded using SS4A. **Greg Woltman, Rutgers-VTC**, answered that, based on his research, this type of facility could presumably be funded under SS4A provided that it is incorporated as an action in a comprehensive safety action plan. **Alan Huff, SJTPO**, added that it would probably need to be part of a larger set of treatments and countermeasures.

Michael Popovech, Monmouth County, announced that Monmouth County is looking for public participation on an experiences committee for an upcoming Subregional Studies Program project about barriers to mobility in the county. Contact him at Michael.Popovech@co.monmouth.nj.us for more information.

Next BPAC Session:

May 17, 2023: Use the below link to register for the next BPAC meeting.

<https://njbikeped.org/join-the-next-meeting/>

Attendees

Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT

David Aimen, Rutgers-VTC

Danielle Baer

Martin Balcazar, Rutgers-VTC

Anastasia Bamberg

James Bonanno, Asbury Park

Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC

John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition Greater Philadelphia

Elise Bremer-Nej, NJDOT

Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion

Syd Chan

Yosy Cosme, NJDOT

Sidney Christianson

Jennifer Crown

Mike Dannemiller, Middlesex County

Tom DiBiase, Michael Baker

Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC

Tricia Dunkak, New Jersey Future
Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
Hailey Graf, NJ Transit
Daniel Granato
Corey Hannigan, TSTC
Keith Hamas, NJTPA
Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
Kayt Hester, Hudson TMA
Louis Hoffman, Rutgers-VTC
Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
Alan Huff, SJTPO
Jim Hunt, Morris County Freewheelers
Kimberley Irby, New Jersey Future
Matt Johnson, Burlington County
Mike Johnson, EZ Ride
Ramond Joseph
Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
Amy Kaminski, FHWA-NJ
Howard Kradjel
Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
Lisa Leone, Avenues in Motion
Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
Jesse McGowan, Sam Schwartz
Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
Warren Michelsen
Paul Mickiewicz, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
Andrew Mikesch, Northern Valley Greenway
Emmanuelle Morgen, Hudson County CS Advocacy Group

Peri Nearon, NJDHS
Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
Kate O'Connor, Brain Injury Alliance of NJ
Marhaba Omer, NJDOT
Monika Pal, Rutgers-VTC
Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
Michael Popovech, Monmouth County
Linda Rapacki, RideWise
Joe Rapp, NJDOT
William Riviere, NJDOT
Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
Polli Schildge, Asbury Park Complete Streets
Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
Lisa Serieyssol, Lawrence Hopewell Trail
Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
Jeevanjot Singh, NJDOT
Thom Stead, DVRPC
Andy Swords, NJDOT
Chris Townly, Greater Mercer TMA
Michael Viscardi, NJ Transit
Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
Ken Wedeen, Somerset County
Ryan Williams, Hudson County CS Advocacy group
Greg Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
William Yarzab, NJTPA/Street Smart
Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC

Bettina Zimny, NV5