



BPAC General Meeting

September 27th, 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) | Anne Heasly (Sustainable Jersey) | Alan Huff (SJTPO) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Loretta Kelly (NJDOH) | Peri Nearon (NJ DHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (NJMVC) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Linda Rapacki (RideWise TMA) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Open Position (DHTS) | Open Position (Environmental Justice/Equity)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Aimee Jefferson, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, ajefferson@njtpa.org
Thom Stead, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, tstead@dvrpc.org
Hailey Graf, Chair, Policy Subcommittee, hgraf@njtransit.com

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:

NJDOT Policy 104 – Crash Terminology

On August 7th 2023, the NJDOT adopted policy 104 regarding crash terminology. The update applies to the entire department and has been established to reflect greater uniformity with USDOT's use of the term "Crash" instead of "Accident" in reference to vehicle collisions. This change represents the philosophical approach to the perception of vehicle collisions and how NJDOT views them. This policy reinforces the notion that crashes don't just happen. They have causes and can be prevented. This is a significant step in acknowledging the department's pathology regarding vehicle safety and operator responsibility. The policy affects various internal systems (for example, "Accident Records Information" will be renamed "Crash Records Information").

Safe Routes to School FY2024 Infrastructure Grants Solicitation

The federal Safe Routes to School grant program for the 2024 fiscal year has been announced. NJDOT mailed the solicitation letters to municipalities and school districts on July 17, 2023. The due date for applications is November 17, 2023. For this funding round there are three notable changes. First, the

student arrival and departure tallies are no longer required. Second, a one-on-one application meeting with NJDOT's Division of Local Aid is mandatory prior to submittal of the application. Finally, the grants may now be used to improve biking and walking conditions around high schools, as well as near elementary and middle schools.

NJDOT-Sponsored Summits this Year

Dates for NJDOT-sponsored events this fall:

1. The final New Jersey Safe Routes Academy will be held on September 28th at noon.
2. The NJDOT Safety Summit will be held in-person at the Brower Student Center on The College of New Jersey campus on October 24.
3. The 2023 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1. This year's summit will be in-person at the Rutgers College Avenue Student Center with an online streaming option.

NJ SRTS Recognition Program Awards

The NJDOT, NJ Safe Routes Resource Center and the state's eight Transportation Management Associations are pleased to announce the 2023 school and municipal recipients of the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program Awards. These winners are recognized for their commitment to and support of the SRTS program by enabling and encouraging walking and biking in their communities. You can visit the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center website for a [full list of the current winners](#) and to see the NJDOT press release.

Additional Announcements:

NJTPA's Regional Active Transportation Plan

Keith Hamas, Principal Planner at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, presented an update on NJTPA's now-published Active Transportation Plan (ATP). The full plan and supporting documents can be accessed [here](#).

The plan's objective is to capture a unified vision for the region and a framework for planning and implementing a safe and functional regional network of active transportation facilities. The plan is the result of many recommendations, data driven analyses, and public and stakeholder engagement, including several members of BPAC participating on the technical advisory committee. The plan and its recommendations will continue to be weaved into the NJTPA's programs moving forward.

FHWA Guidance: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Program, and Project Development Presentation

Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, of the Federal Highway Administration, presented FHWA's recently published guide for bike and pedestrian planning. The slides are available [here](#).

The purpose of this guidance is to provide information on federal legislative policies and reference materials related to bicycle, pedestrian, and shared micromobility programs and projects. Major topics in the guide include:

- Changes to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Complete Streets Networks
- Legislation and Regulations
- Project Development

- Preliminary Engineering and Design
- Funding
- Planning and Design Resources

Sutapa also mentioned the [DOT Navigator](#), which helps communities understand which grants are available and how to apply for them.

NJDEP Greenway Presentation

Julia Wong of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Matt Ludwig from NV5 presented an update on the Essex-Hudson Greenway project. The full presentation is available [here](#).

Topics covered included:

- Project Background
- Overview of firms working on “mini bids” as portions of the project
- The public engagement process and future events
- Site Anatomy of the ROW
- Schedule of the mini bids

The presenters invited BPAC members to get involved with the process by attending community listening sessions in Jersey City on Friday, October 13th at the Art Fair in Liberty State Park from 1-6pm. The second session will be in Newark – on the Greenway – near Park Elementary School on Thursday, October 19th from 2-7pm. Firms are actively advertising public participation through their partners, including NJ BPAC, to drive attendance to these events.

The Greenway was included as an asset in the regional transportation network in NJTPA’s Active Transportation Plan and is being integrated into the active transportation plans of the municipalities it touches.

NJDEP is providing funding for the entirety of the Greenway project.

Updates on Subcommittee meetings:

Policy Subcommittee

- The Policy subcommittee discussed the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) action on researching challenges to Complete Streets policy implementation throughout the state. The subcommittee identified that a lack of champions or advocates often prevents Complete Streets policies from progressing to implementation. Complete Streets adoption also has a role to play in adopting the Safe System Approach and reaching zero deaths, though the specifics remain unclear and additional input is encouraged.

Design Subcommittee

- Joanna Hecht presented on the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) work with NJ TRANSIT on street designs that address bus-bike conflicts. A memo on the topic is forthcoming.
- Mike Viscardi, from NJ TRANSIT, noted an upcoming meeting with NJDEP on the Henry Hudson Trail.

Safety Subcommittee

- The Safety subcommittee discussed the NJTPA Active Transportation Plan and how municipalities can become involved to advance actions. The subcommittee also discussed funding opportunities.
- Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA) provided an overview of the Strategic Highway Safety Data Viewer, which shows high-crash corridors in the State.
- The NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance program reports are now available online.

Other Updates

- Alan Huff announced that he is moving on from the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization to a new position at FHWA New Jersey. Jenna Monaghan will be the new point of contact at SJTPO.
- Mike Manzella (Jersey City) noted the annual Jersey City Kids Bike Ride was rescheduled for October 22.
- International Car-Free Day was celebrated on September 22 and the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims will be observed on November 19. The Vision Zero Alliance of NJ will host an event for World Day of Remembrance.
- Hudson County is applying for a Reconnecting Communities grant to reconnect Jersey City Heights with Journal Square across NJ Route 139.
- Union County received a Transportation Alternatives grant to develop a bikeway along the Rahway River. The County also received funding for a project that examines a better connection for the East Coast Greenway to the Goethels Bridge.

Next BPAC Session:

December 6, 2023: Use the link below to register for the next BPAC meeting.

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