



Notes: General BPAC Meeting

October 5, 2017, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Summary:

The meeting opened with Charles Brown, Voorhees Transportation Center, addressing the gathering. He spoke about the need for people to be punctual, especially since there had been a temporary evacuation from the Bloustein Building and the meetings were all running behind or short. After Mr. Brown's short introduction, the Subcommittee chairs were given a chance to speak. Alan Huff, Chair of the Safety Subcommittee, expressed his desire to step down from the office; a new chair will need to be found, but it not a pressing issue at this time.

Next an update was delivered from the New Jersey Department of Transportation representative. The meeting was informed about the release of new Safe Routes to School materials, which was developed with some help from Rutgers. Information about Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants was discussed, and it was decided that the MPOs would release statements about the grants and how to earn them.

Reports were then quickly discussed from each of the Subcommittees that had met earlier that morning.

Design and Infrastructure Sub Committee

- Hudson County Project: JFK Blvd Corridor that travels through Union City, Bayonne, Jersey City, and other
- Looking for design requirement suggestions.
- Beginning to craft an RFP for the project

Education and Outreach Subcommittee

- This subcommittee is looking to respond to NJDOT request for materials describing Complete Streets and their benefits to the layman.

Safety Subcommittee

- Spoke to someone at the DOT about experimenting with zigzag pavement striping, which is done in the UK. Seemed like they were making progress but worried about the representative from DOT retiring and having to start again.

Legislative Subcommittee

- Need to have a meeting at the next BPAC council meeting, did not meet this day.
- There is a large amount of White Papers being released dealing with transportation/transit but very little about bike and pedestrian issues.
- Interested in convening a meeting of legislative candidates to inform them of the benefits of complete street policies.
 - o Exploring options seeking commitment.
 - Questionnaires are not effective; Twitter option?
- Hoping to create a white paper dealing with bike and pedestrian issues
 - o Bandwidth issue; Green Streets paper (Storm water management)

After all the subcommittees gave their updates the DOT consultant spoke for a short time:

- Last estimates of SRTS infrastructure have been released and are available
- Wrapped up East Coast Greenway Connection; will be available soon
- Wrapping up filming of Route 1 Burlington informational video.
- Several New studies
 - o Adventure Cycling: Routing study
 - o Maplewood traffic calming study
 - o Participating in NJ Complete Streets
 - Holding an expo: Survey to identify core Bike and pedestrian Issues

NJ Complete Street Summit Updates

- Happening in November, few weeks from now
- 310 registered already
 - o Wait list available
- Agenda will be released next week.
- Awards video went well
 - o Good and bad coverage
 - Negative coverage from Millburn
 - Representative from Millburn will be provided an opportunity to voice their protest at the CSS. Claim the CS project hurt Millburn, but the award is not awarded for perfection.
 - Issues with retail owners and understanding flexible parking

Final Announcements

- FTA guidance handbook released
 - o Includes information about integration of bike and pedestrian and transit.
 - o Next Steps? Need to discuss what options are available
 - Bike parking, Racks on buses, bikes on trains

- Walking Towards Justice Webinar
 - o Web series on residential segregation
 - New Jim Crow (police issues, mass incarceration)
- NJ Traffic Fatalities Map of 2017
 - o Tinyurl.com/njfatalities2017
 - o Has some issues with miss accounted pedestrian fatalities.
- Metuchen Observer Report
 - o Uses TTF, can the community still reach out for special funding to respond to Pedestrian safety threat.
 - Can always apply for new grants; If within a few blocks of elementary school can apply for Safe Routes to School grants.