

New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) 2023 Year in Review



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About

The Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) is a national leader in the research and development of innovative transportation policy. Located within the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, VTC has the full array of resources from a major research university on transportation issues of regional and national significance.

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center (BPRC) assists public officials, transportation and health professionals, and the public in creating a safer and more accessible walking and bicycling environment through primary research, education, and dissemination of information about best practices in policy and design. The Center is supported by the New Jersey Department of Transportation through funds provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

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What is BPAC?

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) is coordinated by the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC), on behalf of and in coordination with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT).

BPAC was first established as the Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) by Governor Thomas Kean in 1985 under Executive Order 101 (see Appendix B). The original Bicycle Advisory Council was tasked with examining the status of bicycling in New Jersey and preparing a report with recommendations for promoting bicycling as a safe and viable mode of transportation. Although initially conceived as a temporary council, implementation of the report's recommendations necessitated the continuation of the BAC to provide guidance, expertise, and track implementation progress. The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) established mandatory Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators for every state receiving STBG or CMAQ funding, and in the following years many states created or expanded advisory committees focused on both bicycle and pedestrian issues. In 2004, New Jersey's BAC merged with the New Jersey Pedestrian Task Force to create the present-day Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council.

BPAC is open to all, and dates and registration information for upcoming meetings are publicly available on the New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center website (njbikeped.org/nj-bpac) and also sent out in the [NJ Walks and Bikes Newsletter](#). Those who regularly attend BPAC include engineering and planning professionals, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, and staff members from local, county, regional, and state agencies from the transportation, health, environmental, and enforcement fields.

BPAC currently consists of an Executive Council whose members are appointed by NJDOT, three subcommittees (Design and Infrastructure, Policy, and Safety), and a general session. The general session and subcommittees are both open to the public and anyone can join. The Executive Council can meet separately, but members also attend general BPAC meetings and participate in subcommittees.

BPAC Purpose and Goals

The core mission of BPAC is to inform, coordinate, and collaborate with NJDOT and other state, regional, and local agencies and organizations on policies, programs, initiatives, and best practices. The goal is to advance active transportation (including bicycling and walking), transit, and micromobility as safe and essential forms of transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities, with a focus on meeting equity, safety, public health, and resiliency goals.

BPAC advises on the implementation of the New Jersey Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, serving as both a resource and key stakeholder in existing and future statewide transportation planning efforts, such as the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Emphasis Area of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

BPAC is also a forum for information exchange, engagement, and coordination among agencies and organizations across the state, providing opportunities for resource-sharing and education on emerging issues, including access to experts in the field of bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, and design.

The goals of BPAC are to:

- Stay abreast of best practices in bicycle and pedestrian safety, education, outreach, design, implementation, and policy;
- Foster a collaborative, collegial culture that supports coordination, resource sharing and shared action;
- Develop and incorporate an equity framework that guides the Council's membership, structure, and work;

- Collaborate with public, non-profit, and private partners to support efforts to eliminate deaths and serious injuries to vulnerable roadway users in New Jersey; and
- Promote the public health, economic and environmental sustainability benefits of active transportation in educational programs and outreach efforts.

In addition to its role as an advisory body, the continued existence of BPAC improves New Jersey’s standing with organizations such as the League of American Bicyclists and demonstrates the State’s commitment to improving conditions for walking and bicycling for people of all ages and abilities.

BPAC Executive Council

The BPAC Executive Council consists of up to 25 voting members and one chair who may be appointed by the NJDOT Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs Manager as a non-voting member. The members of the Executive Council represent entities with an interest and expertise in bicycle and pedestrian issues.

2023 General Meetings

In 2023, six meetings of the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) were convened on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 25th – 70 Attendees
- Wednesday, March 22nd – 73 Attendees
- Wednesday, May 17th – 52 Attendees
- Wednesday, July 26th – 68 Attendees
- Wednesday, September 27th – 58 Attendees
- Wednesday, December 6th – 54 Attendees

All meetings were held virtually using Zoom. At each meeting, NJDOT provided updates on the bicycle and pedestrian planning initiatives with which the Department is involved, including:

- Federal Grants
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
 - Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)
 - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)
 - Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN)
 - Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TASA)
- NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)
- NJ Safe Passing Law
- Transit-Friendly Planning
- NJ Safe Routes to School Recognition Program
- NJDOT Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance studies
- FHWA guidance on Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning
- New Complete Streets Policies
- NJ Complete Streets Trainings
- NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance
- NJDEP Greenway Program
- National Bike Month in May
- NJ Safe Routes Academy

In addition, representatives from transportation and planning agencies and non-profits from around the State reported on their organizations' active transportation projects. During BPAC meetings in 2023:

- Consultants for the NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Program presented on a bike and pedestrian planning study in Palmyra, a Complete Streets implementation plan in Long Branch, a bicycle master plan in Paterson, and a Vision Zero action plan in West Orange.
- The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition made announcements regarding outreach on New Jersey's Safe Passing Law.
- NJTPA provided updates on their Active Transportation Plan and Level of Bicycle Stress Map.
- Jersey City presented on their efforts in designing for Vision Zero.
- NJDEP provided updates on the Essex-Hudson Greenway Project.

Notes from BPAC general meetings are available on the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website: njbikeped.org/nj-bpac

Presentations given in BPAC general meetings in 2023 include:

[Factors Impacting the Fatality of Non-Motorist Involved Crashes in New Jersey](#): Hannah Younes (Rutgers-VTC) presented on the factors that influence higher bicycle and pedestrian-involved crash rates in New Jersey.

[Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\): Key Takeaways from FY22](#): Gregory Woltman (Rutgers-VTC) presented on the Fiscal Year 2022 round of applications of the FHWA's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A).

[SS4A and PROTECT Grants for Implementing Complete and Green Streets](#): Gregory Woltman (Rutgers-VTC) presented on how these new grants can be used to achieve implementation of Complete and Green Streets in New Jersey.

[NJTPA's Regional Active Transportation Plan](#): Keith Hamas (NJTPA), presented on the Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which focuses on connecting individuals with various destinations through biking, walking and micromobility.

[FHWA Guidance: Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Program, and Project Development](#): Sutapa Bandyopadhyay (FHWA) presented FHWA's 2023 guidance for bicycle and pedestrian planning and programs. 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.

[NJDEP's Greenway Project](#): Matt Ludwig (NV5) and Julia Wong (NJDEP) presented an update on the New Jersey Greenway, formerly known as the Essex-Hudson Greenway.

[Navigating Complete Streets with Neurodivergence](#): Sam Rosenthal (Rutgers-VTC), Laura Torchio (NV5), & Jim Elliott (Toole Design) gave a presentation on Complete Streets for Neurodivergence, which is an ongoing research project between VTC, NV5, and Toole Design Group for NJDOT. They provided an overview of the project and summarized findings to date.

BPAC Subcommittees

In every BPAC meeting, time was reserved for BPAC's subcommittees to discuss their work plans in breakout sessions. BPAC's current subcommittees are:

- **Design and Infrastructure**, chaired by Thom Stead, DVRPC.
- **Policy**, initially chaired by Corey Hannigan, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, through the May meeting, and subsequently chaired by Haley Graf of NJ Transit.
- **Safety**, chaired by Aimee Jefferson, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA).

2023 Subcommittee Initiatives and Accomplishments

BPAC meetings serve as a catalyst for making connections between people, agencies, and organizations. Many initiatives sparked through discussions during BPAC meetings are accomplished between meetings. Several BPAC members played leading roles on Strategic Highway Safety Plan actions.

During 2023, BPAC provided a discussion forum for or helped facilitate the following efforts:

Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee:

- Attendees discussed the following topics in 2023:
 - Designing for Vision Zero
 - DVRPC's Trenton PlanBike treatments at highway interchanges
 - Brain Injury Alliance classes on bicycle and pedestrian laws in Bergen County.
 - NJTPA's Regional Active Transportation Plan
 - Parking protected bike lanes in West Philadelphia
 - NJTPA's Local Safety webinar series
 - Developing NJDOT-approved guidance for bicycle facilities at interchanges
 - Burlington-Camden Trail in Pennsauken
 - Middlesex County's Greenway Plan
 - Expansion of the SRTS Program to include high schools
- The following presentations were given:
 - Thom Stead (DVRPC) presented on the [North Trenton Mobility Choices](#) study.
 - Mike Manzella (City of Jersey City) presented on [Designing for Vision Zero](#) in Jersey City. He described their Vision Zero efforts and the bicycling infrastructure and traffic calming installed throughout Jersey City. The presentation was an update on progress made since the Vision Zero plan was put into action starting in 2019.
 - Samuel Rosenthal (Rutgers-VTC) presented on the NJ Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center's [development of a Micromobility Guide](#) for New Jersey.
 - Keith Hamas (NJTPA) presented on the [NJTPA Active Transportation Plan Interchanges Case Study](#). The presentation focused on best practices for bike and pedestrian design within highway interchanges, culled from the soon-to-be-released ASHTO Bike Guide.
 - Matthew Zochowski (Mercer County) presented on [the Mercer County Mobility Plan](#), devised in collaboration with NJTPA. His presentation covered the county's challenges and their plans for implementing changes on county roads.
 - Joanna Hecht (DVRPC) and Marissa Volk (DVRPC) presented on DVRPC's work with NJ TRANSIT on [street designs that address bus-bike conflicts](#).

Policy Subcommittee:

- Attendees initiated a discussion on proposed New Jersey bills related to active transportation, resulting in a [Legislative Tracker](#) that details the status of current and proposed bills.
- Members contributed to the NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan by providing feedback on action items and reports on:
 - [Automated Speed Enforcement, The State of Knowledge and Implications for Transportation Planning](#)
 - [Vulnerable Road User Laws, The State of Knowledge and Implications for Transportation Planning](#)
 - [Proposed Updates to NJ Residential Site Improvement Standards](#)
- Members provided feedback on updated Complete Streets guidance pertaining to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (ASD/IDD).
- Members discussed Safe Passing Law education and outreach rollout:
 - Distribution of educational materials
 - Opportunities for partnerships
- Members initiated a discussion on state and federal grant programs, including:
 - NJDOT Safe Routes to School
 - Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
 - Reconnecting Communities (RCN)
 - Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)
 - Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)
- Members identified the need for a resource explaining the various policies and legislation in NJ that regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, including Residential Site Improvement Standards, Municipal Land Use Law, Title 39, the New Jersey Access Code, and the Functional Classification System.

Safety Subcommittee:

- Attendees discussed the following topics:
 - NJTPA's [Level of Bicycle Comfort Mapping Tool](#)
 - Efforts to develop a New Jersey Trail Crossing Guidebook
 - Jersey City's Vision Zero plan
 - NJ Bike & Walk Coalition's new SAFE Network
 - NJTPA's Complete Streets Technical Assistance program
 - Brain Injury Alliance's Title 39 trainings
 - Zero Deaths Initiatives across New Jersey and how BPAC might provide technical/data expertise
 - Creation of a unified state, county, and local road safety and maintenance reporting system
- Members contributed to the SHSP by providing feedback on pedestrian safety at bus stops study (Transit Equity SHSP action).
- Members provided input and feedback on Pedestrian Safety Enforcement/Bicycle Safety Enforcement training needs and material updates.
- The following presentations were given:
 - Siennah Yang (SGB) presented on [Low-Cost Pedestrian Safety Countermeasures](#)
 - Gregory Woltman (Rutgers-VTC) presented on [Life-Saving Lighting: Enhancing nighttime visibility for pedestrian and bicyclist safety](#)
 - Peter Bilton (NJTPA) presented on [NJTPA's Complete Streets Technical Assistance program](#), discussing how the studies were used in applications for Transportation Alternatives Program funding.
 - Les Leathem (Brain Injury Alliance) presented on "Title 39: New Perspectives," which is a pedestrian- and bicyclist-view training of traffic laws. The program hopes to provide experience to law enforcement of applying traffic laws with the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians in mind. The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey is a program partner.

Items and tasks to include in the 2024 work plans were discussed at the December 2023 meeting. VTC staff worked with the subcommittee chairs to identify areas of potential collaboration and coordination

between subcommittees in the coming year. Notes from BPAC subcommittee meetings are available on the NJ BPRC website: <https://njbikeped.org/nj-bpac-subcommittees/>

BPAC in 2024

During the final meeting of the year, each BPAC subcommittee identified potential goals and priorities for 2024. The following were areas of interest that were identified:

Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee:

- Work with Jersey Water Works on Green Streets training
- Contribute as needed to the identification of potential guidance for bicycle facilities at interchanges
- Investigate ITS/smart solutions for bicycle and pedestrian safety
- Identify and reach out to potential speakers for presentations on ongoing pedestrian, bicycle, and micromobility safety projects
- Investigate ways to improve equity in bicycle and pedestrian safety projects
- Identify ways to expand trails-related work, including promoting trail towns, improving safety at trail crossings, and exploring ADA compliance for multiuse trails
 - Support NJDOT's trail crossing research as needed
 - Identify ways to connect county trail plans in support of comprehensive regional planning
 - Support future Trails Summits
- Promote last-mile bicycle and micromobility facilities to transit
- Investigate ways to conduct signal timing studies to reduce pedestrian exposure time and explore possible infrastructure solutions, including pedestrian bridges instead of at-grade crossings
- Work to address concerns related to Quick Build and Pop-Up Projects
- Investigate opportunities for permeable pavers for sidewalks, in light of new NJDEP stormwater regulations
- Identify new strategies for bicycle protection, signaling, and detection
- Incorporate changes to the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) into new designs
- Investigate opportunities to limit Level of Service (LOS) as the primary metric for new projects, and incorporate new possibilities for determining roadway design such as vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and pedestrian level of service (PLOS)

Policy Subcommittee:

- Share a policy and legislation tracker for relevant bills in the NJ Legislature
- Research and provide insight into the new federal legislation (BIL/IIJA) and its impact on future policy
- Develop or update a primer about various policies and legislation in NJ that regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, including Residential Site Improvement Standards, Municipal Land Use Law, Title 39, Access Code, and the Functional Classification System
- Support NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan Bicycle and Pedestrian Emphasis Area Actions as needed:
 - Develop recommendations for education and outreach on recent updates to laws and regulations related to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters - led by Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
 - Research best practices for sharing state highway crash data and crash-prone state highway corridors - led by Shazia Khizir, NJDOT
 - Offer support to the Complete Streets Task Force on a Complete and Green Streets Ordinance Toolkit
- Identify best practices for regulation surrounding e-bikes and e-scooters
- Investigate opportunities to initiate a statewide trail plan for New Jersey

Safety Subcommittee:

- Engage in additional follow-up with Civic Eye Collaborative on Pedestrian Safety Education and

Enforcement (PSEE) and Bicycle Safety Education and Enforcement (BSEE) for revisions and recommendations to update each program (Updates to PSEE & BSEE include recent innovations in technology, addressing equity, and newer motor vehicle laws including the Safe Passing Law and e-bikes/e-scooter laws.)

- Work with Legislative and Policy subcommittee on the Safe Passing Law
- Determine items that can support Strategic Highway Safety Plan actions
- Identify ways to create a unified state, county, and local road safety and maintenance reporting system
- Coordinate with NJ Transit on bicycle and pedestrian integration and bus stop safety
- Determine how best to support Zero Deaths Initiatives throughout the state
- Collaborate with the BPAC Design and Infrastructure subcommittee to incorporate bike-and-pedestrian-friendly designs into upcoming resurfacing projects (An example program is being developed by DVRPC in its [Bike-Friendly Resurfacing Program](#).)
- Support NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan Bicycle and Pedestrian Emphasis Area Actions as needed:
 - Review existing school zone speed enforcement programs and develop recommendations for New Jersey - led by Mike Morris, NJDHTS
- Develop guidance for the implementation of a comprehensive traffic safety curriculum in NJ elementary schools - led by Tara Shepherd, goHunterdon
- Collaborate with the BPAC Design and Infrastructure subcommittee to incorporate bike-and-pedestrian-friendly designs into upcoming resurfacing projects
 - Reference the DVRPC's [Bike Friendly Resurfacing Program](#)

In 2024, BPAC plans to convene six times on the following dates:

- Wednesday, January 31st
- Wednesday, March 20th
- Wednesday, May 22nd
- Wednesday, July 24th
- Wednesday, September 25th
- Wednesday, December 4th

Member Organizations

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council would not be possible without the continued support of planners, public officials, and advocates from across New Jersey. In 2023, representatives from the following organizations offered their time and expertise to BPAC:

Federal:

- Federal Highway Administration

State:

- New Jersey Department of Transportation
- New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Department of Health
- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
- New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
- New Jersey State Police
- NJ TRANSIT
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization

County/Municipal:

- Burlington County
- Hudson County
- Jersey City
- Medford Township
- Mercer County
- Middlesex County
- Monmouth County
- Morris County
- Passaic County
- Somerset County
- Union County

Non-Profit:

- Asbury Park Complete Streets
- Avenues in Motion TMA
- Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Bike JC
- Brain Injury Alliance of NJ
- Cross County Connection TMA
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- EZ Ride TMA
- goHunterdon TMA
- Greater Mercer TMA
- Hudson TMA
- Jersey Shore Touring Society
- Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
- New Jersey Future
- NJ Bike Walk Coalition
- Northern Valley Greenway
- Ridewise TMA
- Sustainable Highland Park
- Sustainable Jersey
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Private:

- Civic Eye Collaborative
- HDR
- Michael Baker International
- NV5
- Sam Schwartz
- Susan G. Blickstein, LLC
- Urban Engineers
- WSP

375 attendees across **6** meetings with
50-70 attendees per meeting

51 organizations represented

Appendix A: 2023 Meeting Agendas and Notes

Agendas:

- [January 2023](#)
- [March 2023](#)[May 2023](#)
- [July 2023](#)
- [September 2023](#)
- [December 2023](#)

Meeting Notes:

January 2023

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Policy Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

March 2023

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Policy Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

May 2023

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- Policy Subcommittee (canceled)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

July 2023

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Policy Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

September 2023

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Policy Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

December 2023

- [General Meeting](#)
- [Design Subcommittee](#)
- [Policy Subcommittee](#)
- [Safety Subcommittee](#)

Appendix B: New Jersey Executive Order Establishing the Original Bicycle Advisory Council

Executive Order 101

Whereas, bicycling is a pollution-free, healthful, energy efficient means of transportation and recreation; and

Whereas, bicycling is recognized by both the State and federal law and the policies and programs of federal, state and local transportation; and

Whereas, according to the State Outdoor Recreation Plan, bicycling currently is, and is projected to continue to be the most popular form of outdoor recreation through the year 2000 when it is estimated that over 282 million recreation bicycle trips will be made annually; and

Whereas, New Jersey has a reputation nationwide as a prime area for bicycling touring, as exhibited by the thousands of people attracted to annual invitational rides; and

Whereas, there are over 20 bicycle clubs in the State which indicates the popularity of the sport; and

Whereas, it is in the public interest of the State of New Jersey to encourage residents to bicycle to save energy, improve the environment, improve public health and to establish facilities and regulations for the safety of participants therein; and

Whereas, it is in the economic interest of the State of New Jersey to encourage nonresidents to visit New Jersey for bicycling tours, races and other leisure activities;

Now, Therefore, I, Thomas H. Kean, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority invested in me by the Constitution and the Statutes of this State, do hereby Order and Direct:

1. There is hereby established a New Jersey Bicycle Advisory Council.
2. The Advisory Council shall be comprised of the Commissioner of Transportation, the Chairman of the Board of New Jersey Transit, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Director of the Division of Travel and Tourism, the Commission of Education, the Commissioner of Community Affairs, or their designees and a representative of the Governor's Office and eight (8) public members with a demonstrated capacity. The chairperson shall be the Commissioner of Transportation, or his designee, and the Department of Transportation shall serve as the lead agency.
3. The Advisory Council shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a. Examine the status of bicycling in the State of New Jersey and make recommendations regarding the promotion of the use of the bicycle as a safe and viable mode of transportation and the development or expansion of programs leading to an improved bicycle environment.
 - b. Study and make recommendations regarding other potential uses and aspects of the bicycle, such as bicycle touring, recreation trails and maps, safety, education, health and fitness, law enforcement, competitive racing, potential funding sources and the promotion of tourism from outside the State.
4. In order to carry out its functions, the Council is authorized to call upon any department, office, division or agency of the State to supply such data, reports, or other information it deems necessary. Each department, office, division or agency of the State is authorized and directed, to the extent not inconsistent with law to cooperate with the Advisory Council and to furnish it with such information, personnel and assistance as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this order.
5. The Advisory Council shall render its findings and recommendations to the Governor within one year after its first meeting.
6. The Advisory Council shall remain in existence until its final report has been issued.
7. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Adopted May 14, 1985