



**NJ BPAC General Meeting
December 4, 2024, 9:30 am to 11:30 am
Zoom Online Meeting**

Executive Committee:

Elise Bremer- Nei (NJDOT) | Leigh Ann Von Hagen (Rutgers-VTC) | Andrea Lubin (NJTIP) | Cassidy Boulan (DVRPC) | John Boyle (BCGP) | Michael Dannemiller (Middlesex County) | Keith Hamas (NJTPA) | Anne Heasley (Sustainable Jersey) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Loretta Kelly (NJDOH) | Peri Nearon (NJHHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (NJMVC) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Linda Rapacki (RideWise TMA) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Michael Rizol (DHTS) | Open Position (Environmental Justice/Equity)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Keith Hamas, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, khamas@njtpa.org,
Thom Stead, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, tstead@dvrpc.org
Lyndsey Scofield, Chair, Policy Subcommittee, lscofield@jcnj.org

General Meeting Notes:

The meeting began at 9:30 am with **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** welcoming everyone. She shared that she will be transitioning to a new position as **Executive Director** at the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center.

Elise Bremer-Nei congratulated Leigh Ann and then shared updates from the NJ Department of Transportation on the following topics:

1. ***Safe Streets and Roads for All grants***

The latest round of federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grants was released on November 15th. **Two** came to NJ:

The City of Camden received \$240,000 to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), in addition to conducting supplemental planning activities such as a Collision and Roadway Data Analysis.

Hudson County received \$260,000 to further develop its Vision Zero Action Plan through supplemental planning activities, with the goal of reducing fatal traffic incidents to zero Countywide, especially along its High Injury Network (HIN). The supplemental planning activities will include bike network planning, bicycle and pedestrian counts, and an inventory of ADA accessibility along local roads.

USDOT announced 257 SS4A grant awards in [November](#), totaling \$172 million, to local, regional, and Tribal communities. This is the third and final award announcement for FY 2024. Combined, 710 communities have received over \$1.2 billion as part of the 2024 funding round.

2. **TASA Grants**

TA Set-Aside grants are coming! NJDOT offers funding for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA Set-Aside), which is federally funded and administered by NJDOT, in partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO). TA Set-Aside Grants are community-based, non-traditional surface transportation projects (land and water) that expand travel choices, strengthen local economies, improve quality of life, and protect the environment.

The total programmed amount for 2025 is \$23.5 million. The grant solicitation is expected to be released on December 10, 2024. Applications will be due May 22, 2025.

For more information on TA Set-Aside grants, visit the [NJDOT Local Aid Resource Center](#) and [NJDOT Safe Routes to School Resource Center](#).

3. **Local Freight Impact Fund**

You can also find information on NJDOT's Local Freight Impact Fund on the Local Aid Resource Center [website](#). This state-aid grant program provides funding to counties and municipalities with the overall purpose of assisting in the implementation of public transportation freight projects for the continued safety and accessibility on the roads of New Jersey.

Applicants can choose from 5 categories based on their specific need. One of these categories is Pedestrian Safety. Eligible Projects include crosswalks, pedestrian-activated traffic signals, ADA improvements, traffic calming measures, crossing islands, curb extensions, improved lighting and signage, constructing or connecting pedestrian routes, sidewalk reconstruction/replacement, and improving significant hazardous conditions for pedestrians. **The deadline for applications is January 8, 2025.**

4. **Other NJDOT announcements**

The Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs is working on the update to the 2016 New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. We will be reaching out to some of you to participate in discussions on what should be in the new plan and how it can be used to support the work of the Department and of our partners. We hope to schedule those focus groups in January.

An update to the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan will also be kicking off in the new year. Both of these projects will have **plenty** of opportunities for you to get involved and make your voice heard.

5. **Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy**

In September, the NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hosted a free webinar on Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy. The webinar was organized by Sustainable Jersey and facilitated by the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers. It focused on how to create and

adopt a municipal Complete and Green Streets policy using the Complete & Green Streets for All: Model Policy & Guide.

NJDOT also hosted a virtual open house on Wednesday, October 30th. During the live Q&A session, we answered specific questions about how to adopt and implement a policy to design safer, greener, and more accessible streets for your community. If you missed either of these sessions, the webinar recording, slides, and a handout with links to Complete Streets resources are all available on the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center [website](#).

6. ***BPAC Health and Transportation Report***

The NJDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center has recently released a new report: “Case Studies on Partnerships between Transportation and Health Agencies Across the Country.” The report examines case study examples of inter-agency partnerships from around the United States, highlighting the successes and challenges of data-based collaboration between transportation and health partners. The report identifies key findings related to agency personnel, processes for collaboration, health and other types of impact assessments, and funding and is available on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center [website](#).

7. ***BPAC Subcommittee Chair Updates***

Finally, I would like to welcome Mike Dannemiller as our new Design Subcommittee chair. As a supervising engineer at Middlesex County, Mike has done some excellent work on the county’s Vision Zero Plan, and he is part of a team that advances safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users throughout the county on a daily basis.

8. ***End of the Year***

This is the last BPAC meeting of the year. As we have done the past few years, we plan to put out a year-in-review document summarizing the work we’ve accomplished in 2024. Currently, we have not scheduled 2025 BPAC meetings, but please keep your eyes open for an announcement in the new year.

Elise Bremer-Nei introduced **Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP** who shared information on the [Statewide Trail Needs Assessment for Trail Planners and Managers](#).

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) have launched an [online survey](#) for those involved in planning, managing, or maintaining trails in the state. The survey, part of the Statewide Trail Needs Assessment for Trail Planners and Managers, aims to inform statewide trail planning, funding, and policy. This initiative follows NJDEP’s 2023-2027 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, which highlighted trails as a priority for New Jerseyans and called for updates to statewide trail planning documents to better serve the needs of trail users and communities. The survey is the first step in a series of outreach efforts designed to shape updated guidance documents and inform future trail projects.

The survey seeks input from those who work directly with trails, gathering data on key topics such as funding, project facilitation, trail user safety, and developing New Jersey’s trail system. It will help NJDEP and NJDOT understand how trails address community needs, identify common obstacles, and inform future policy and funding decisions. The survey, which takes

approximately 10-18 minutes to complete, includes multiple-choice and open-ended questions on successful trail projects and challenges. Input from participants will play a critical role in developing a more connected and vibrant statewide trail network.

The deadline for survey responses is January 10th. Additional updates and questions can be directed to Trails@dep.nj.gov. To stay updated on these efforts, follow [New Jersey's Trails Program website](#). For questions about the survey, please contact Trails@dep.nj.gov.

Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey announced the [SJTPO Complete Streets Outreach & Technical Assistance Program](#), which is offering technical assistance, an in-person complete streets training workshop, and a temporary demonstration projects lending library for communities in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem counties. The in-person Complete Streets Training Workshop has been postponed to late January or early February in South Jersey.

Deb Kagan, New Jersey Bicycle and Walk Coalition announced the 2025 NJ Bike & Walk Summit at Princeton University on Saturday, March 29, 2025. As a response to feedback from last year, this venue will be more accessible by public transit and bicycle. If you are interested in doing a presentation or workshop at the Bike & Walk Summit this year, reach out to Deb Kagan at kagan@njbwc.org.

Additionally, the next [SAFE Nework Webinar](#) is tomorrow, December 5 at 1pm. The topic is “**Know Your Rights**” presented by Steve Vaccaro. Vaccaro Law has represented cyclists and pedestrian victims of traffic violence in New Jersey for decades. He'll summarize crash victims' rights under New Jersey law, give tips on how cyclists and pedestrians can protect themselves both before and after a crash with insights for safer walking and biking, use of video, and little-known rights under insurance policies, including victims' insurance, and take your questions. Join us for this informative one-hour session!

Leigh Ann Von Hagen introduced **Jennifer Bradley, UL Standards** present on “**Ensuring Safety in Micromobility**”. Some key takeaways from the presentation are as follows:

- About **54%** of e-bike purchases are for work-related purposes.
- Many micromobility users underplay the risks of fire from low quality, improperly maintained or repaired, or damaged lithium-ion batteries.
- UL Standards & Engagement have established three standards for micromobility devices:
 - o **UL 2272** Personal e-Mobility Devices
 - o **UL 2271** Light Electric Vehicles
 - o **UL 2849** e-Bikes
- **Jersey City** has adopted Ordinance 22-023 in April 2024, which prohibits the distribution and sale of lithium-ion batteries for e-mobility devices that are not listed and labeled by UL.

Members are encouraged to reach out to Jennifer.Bradley@ul.org and Daniel.cohen@ul.org for more information or to begin communications with new communities in New Jersey.

James Sinclair opened the subcommittees at 10:25.
(See *subcommittee notes for additional information*).

Subcommittee participants returned to the general meeting at 11:15. Subcommittee chairs reported back:

Keith Hamas, NJTPA reported back on Safety Subcommittee activities. **Ranjit Walia** from Civic Eye Collaborative presented on Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education and Enforcement (PSEE and BSEE) and solicited feedback about the programs. Civic Eye also asked for opinions on the continuation of the program, how it might be more permanently established, and how it could be most impactful for pedestrian and bicyclist safety in communities across the state. **Greg Woltman** shared the subcommittee goals for 2024 and how they might be expanded for 2025, for example, reporting and coordinating on the state’s many comprehensive safety action plans.

Lyndsey Scofield, Jersey City reported back on the Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee talked about being more proactive on e-bike and micromobility legislation across the state to ensure that organizations have the opportunity to impact statewide policy in a way that improves safety for micromobility users. There were then updates on different legislative activities, including the Target Zero Bill. Additionally, there are some early drafts for a Speed Camera Enforcement Pilot in school zones. Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) updates are moving forward, albeit slowly in the official process. There was also discussion of the policy subcommittee expanding on parking in the RSIS process. Finally, there was a discussion about coordination with the Design subcommittee to discuss the crossover when it comes to appropriate speeds and infrastructure designs for bicycle facilities.

Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County reported back for the Design Subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed their 2024 accomplishments. There is coordination with Monmouth County to rebuild a bridge which burned down along the Henry Hudson Trail and to expand the HHT into Freehold. Additionally, the county has added signs clarifying that e-bikes are permitted on the HHT as long as they comply with a speed limit. Furthermore, there was a discussion of 5 new bike kiosks at NJ Transit stations. Then, there was a discussion of successful pre-application meetings for the TA Set-Aside grant program for various bike and pedestrian infrastructure projects across the state. In EZ Ride TMA’s region, there have been multiple demonstration projects undertaken in 2024. Middlesex County has completed 5 road safety audits, and those audit reports are forthcoming. For goals in 2025, the subcommittee hopes to look into ITS and pedestrian safety, investigating ways to improve equity in bike and pedestrian safety projects, expand trails related work, and explore ADA compliance for multi-use trails.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen adjourned the meeting at 11:35.

Attendees:

- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- Julia Kohn, Rutgers-VTC
- Nikita Soni, Rutgers-VTC
- Robert Johnson, Rutgers-VTC
- William Riviere, NJDOT-BSBPP
- John Wheeler
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Peter Kremer, Michael Baker International
- Ward Kradjel, Ward’s Rides
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride TMA
- Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
- Jennifer Bradley, UL Standards
- Erica Henderson-Smith, Civic Eye Collaborative

- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Jill Shah, City of Jersey City
- Loretta Kelly, NJ DOH
- Ken Wedeen, Somerset County
- Samantha DeAndrea, NJ DCA
- Janna Monaghan, SJTPO
- Tiffany Robinson, NJBWC
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
- Adam Bradford, Passaic County
- Katie Law, BIANJ
- Charles Romanaw, WSP
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Michael Dannemiller, Middlesex County
- Syd Chan, Enovate
- David Martin, UL Standards
- Anne Heasly, Sustainable Jersey
- Delmy Cruz, BIANJ
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
- Jen Farris, DVRPC
- Jonathan Eagle, Somerset County
- Kristen McLaughlin, Cross County Connection TMA
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit
- Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion TMA
- Daniel Cohen, UL Standards
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
- Deb Kagan, NJBWC
- Tim Evans, NJ Future
- Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA-NJ
- Sofia Barandiaran, East Coast Greenway
- Chris Townly, Greater Mercer TMA
- Kasia Nikhamina, Redbeard Bikes
- Corey Hannigan, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride TMA
- Joseph Milanes, Dewberry
- John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Denis Nickel, Middlesex County
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
- Joe Carey
- Ramond Joseph, NJDCA
- Simran Riar, NJDCA
- Mohammad A. Islam, NJDOT BSBPP