



## BPAC General Meeting

May 17, 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](mailto:ajefferson@njtpa.org)

Thom Stead, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, [tstead@dvrpc.org](mailto:tstead@dvrpc.org)

TBD, Chair, Policy Subcommittee

### 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:

#### May Bike Month

May is National Bike Month, which has been promoted by the League of American Bicyclists since 1956 as a way to recognize the benefits of bicycling and encourage people to use bikes in their everyday lives. As part of the month-long celebration, Bike to Work Week 2023 is taking place this week, May 15-21, and Bike to Work Day will be this Friday, May 19.

Recognizing the vital role walking and biking plays in transportation, recreation, health, community-building, and quality of life, Governor Murphy has officially proclaimed May 2023 as both [Bike Month](#) and [Walk and Bike to School Month](#) in the State of New Jersey.

There are walk and bike events taking place all across the State this month, including Bike Bus launches in [Montclair](#) and [Jersey City](#), which were held earlier this month. Bike buses are organized group bike

rides that pick students up near their homes and allow them to ride together to school. Bike buses run along predetermined routes and allow kids to cycle together in a way that is safe, healthy, and fun.

Transportation Management Associations who have been facilitating bike and walk events throughout New Jersey this month. To learn more about what your regional TMA has been working on, check out the most recent series of blog articles on the [Safe Routes Scoop](#).

### **Safe Passing Law Video**

As part of Bike Month, please keep promoting New Jersey's Safe Passing Law. The Governor included the law in his Bike Month proclamation. The Safe Routes Resource Center, with support from Civic Eye Collaborative, has produced a [video for New Jersey's Safe Passing Law](#). The law, which celebrated its one-year anniversary on March 1, 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.

### **MVC Driver Manual Update**

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission will be updating their Driver Manual to include new language about the Safe Passing Law. The suggested language was based on recommendations from the SHSP Ped-Bike Action Team working on guidance related to new laws and regulations, which is led by Deb Kagan, as well as work done by the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition and the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center. This is a major accomplishment by the Action Team members, especially Jessica O'Connor from MVC.

### **NJDOT-Sponsored Summits this Year**

Dates for NJDOT-sponsored events this fall.

1. The Safe Routes Academy will be held Thursdays in September as a series of lunch and learn webinars. [Registration for the Safe Routes Academy](#) is now open, so please visit the NJ Safe Routes website for more information.
2. The next 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. The Summit Steering Committee is now taking [nominations for Champion Awards](#). These awards recognize people and organizations who are doing exemplary Complete Streets work in New Jersey.

### **NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates**

Regarding the New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Emphasis Area team is working on a number of actions this year. Deb Kagan from the NJ Bike and Walk Coalition and her team are working on an implementation plan for outreach on the Safe Passing Law. Tara Shepherd from goHunterdon and the NJ SRTS Coordinators have completed preliminary work on a traffic safety curriculum toolbox for grades K-8 and the study on best practices in accommodating vulnerable road users on arterial streets is kicking off now as a research project with Cambridge Systematics.

### **NJDOT Local Bike-Ped Planning Assistance Updates**

The report, BikePaterson: Building a Better City, is still undergoing edits. Bill Riviere and team are currently working on a Vision Zero Action Plan in West Orange. They participated in one public outreach event in early May and will be at another in June. Bill was also at Long Branch's Arbor Day event and Palmyra's Public Safety Day to gain input for ongoing planning studies there.

### **BPAC Subcommittee Chair Updates**

**Corey Hannigan, Tri-State Transportation Campaign**, who has been serving as our Policy Subcommittee Chair, is stepping down. We thank him for all his efforts. If anyone is interested in serving as the new Policy Subcommittee chair, please reach out.

**Hailey Graf, NJ Transit**, announced that the NJ Transit Planning & Access Group is continuing to promote the Bike, Scooter and Pedestrian Access Survey. 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. NJ Transit has been promoting the survey at transit stations throughout the State and has received over 18,000 responses. The survey closes on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Greg Woltman, VTC**, [presented on federal SS4A and PROTECT grants](#) and their potential to achieve implementation of Complete and Green Streets.

- The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program focuses on the reduction of serious injuries and fatalities for all road users. The program is currently in its second round of funding.
- The SS4A program can fund low-cost temporary demonstration projects with logical connections to safety problems, such as painting and restriping, Installing temporary speed bumps and vertical delineators, piloting Safe Routes to School activities, and setting safe speed limits. Demonstration projects must inform a comprehensive safety action plan, belonging either to the applicant or to a larger jurisdiction encompassing the applicant.
- Implementation grants can fund construction of permanent safety improvements, as well as project-based planning and engineering. Eligible projects must be based on strategies in a comprehensive safety action plan. The FHWA provides a [self-certification worksheet](#) to determine if a plan qualifies.
- Installations can include green infrastructure to promote Green Streets.
- SS4A grant applications are due July 10<sup>th</sup>.
- PROTECT grants are aimed at projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system.
- Resilience Improvement Grants represent 75% of PRTOECT program funding this round. Grants may be used to incorporate green infrastructure so that it also enhances safety for all road users.
- PROTECT grant applications are due August 18<sup>th</sup>.
- For all grants, the FHWA wants to see coordination between jurisdictions. The three MPOs in New Jersey have provided opportunities for county-level local road safety plans that meet SS4A program eligibility criteria. Communities should engage and coordinate with their counties while applying for grant funding, especially if they intend to leverage county safety action plans.

At 10:20, **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** opened the Subcommittee breakout groups.

Notes for each subcommittee group are provided separately.

At 11:10, the general meeting reconvened and each of the subcommittee chairs reported back with a brief summary of their group's discussions.

**Thom Stead, DVRPC**, reported back on the Design Subcommittee where **Sam Rosenthal, VTC**, presented on the NJ Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center's development of a Micromobility Guide for New Jersey. The subcommittee provided input on what kind of information would be most helpful to include in the guide. One of the major topics of conversation was how to provide more incentives and subsidies for e-bikes in the state. The subcommittee also discussed upcoming events, including a walk-bike parade in South Orange. Monmouth County is working on a transportation plan and is seeking members of an experiences committee. Jersey City just released a greenway connectivity plan produced with an NYU Wagner School studio class.

**Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA**, reported back on the Safety Subcommittee where **Siannah Yang, SGB**, presented on their research on low-cost pedestrian safety improvements at intersections. They shared an online questionnaire seeking input on examples of improved intersections in New Jersey. **Greg Woltman, VTC**, presented on VTC's research task on best practices for pedestrian lighting in conjunction with Rowan University. **Ranjit Walia, CEC**, provided an update on Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education and Enforcement efforts. **Debra Kagan, NJBWC**, provided an update on the Streets are For Everyone (SAFE) Network. The next meeting will discuss recent bike bus efforts in New Jersey.

#### **Additional Announcements:**

**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](mailto:Michael.Popovech@co.monmouth.nj.us) for more information.

**Kayt Hester, Hudson TMA**, announced the Hudson TMA Stride and Ride event on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Debra Kagan, NJBWC**, announced the next SAFE Network meeting will feature a discussion about the Bike Bus movement and advocacy through FUN bike activities! May 24, 2023

**Jim Hunt** provided updates on the Morris County Transportation Forum, facilitated by Avenues in Motion TMA, which allowed people to think about how to institutionalize bicycle and pedestrian planning in their communities.

**Michael Dannemiller, Middlesex County**, provided updates on pedestrian safety at the New Brunswick train station. The County is actively working on changes to address safety. Mike thanked the productive conversation at the January BPAC that initiated these positive changes.

**Linda Rapacki, RideWise TMA**, announced the BikeConnect program. which offers bicycles to individuals who are looking for work or are employed but do not have reliable personal transportation: <https://ridewise.org/clients-receive-bikes-through-bikeconnect/>

**Julia Flath** suggested a future discussion on the grant funding process, including the fact that projects can take a decade to finally come to fruition and that communities' needs may change in that period of time. The Safe Routes Resource Center has a [federal grant process flow chart](#). **Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City**, noted that projects related to federal grants tend to be the lengthiest given the many approvals and procedures required between federal and state entities. The question was raised whether or not this lag time will apply to the new SS4A grants. Demonstration projects funded through SS4A will

likely not be subject to as many approvals. In general, the process moves faster when municipalities do not need design assistance. Some MPOs in other parts of the country have design staff or on-call consultants to assist municipalities.

**Next BPAC Session:**

July 26, 2023: Use the below link to register for the next BPAC meeting.

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

**Attendees**

Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT

Celeste Alsina, NJ Transit

Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers

Liza Betz, Union County

Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC

Elise Bremer-Nej, NJDOT

Joseph Carey, Ramsey Borough

Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion

Jennifer Crown, Environmental Resolutions, Inc.

Mike Dannemiller, Middlesex County

Tom DiBiase, Michael Baker

Jon Dugan, VTC

Tricia Dunkak, NJ Future

Kathleen Ebert, Greater Mercer TMA

John Federico, WSP

Julia Flath, Walk Bike Ride South Orange

Simone Gore, NJ Transit

Hailey Graf, NJ Transit

Daniel Granato, Metuchen Police

Keith Hamas, NJTPA

Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey

Kayt Hester, Hudson TMA  
Louis Hoffman, VTC  
Jim Hunt, Morris County Freewheelers  
Mohammad Islam, NJDOT  
Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA  
Debra Kagan, NJBWC  
Howard "Ward" Kradjel, JSTS  
Peter Kremer, Michael Baker  
Michael Manzella, City of Jersey City  
Sean Meehan, VTC  
Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC  
Joseph Milanese, Sam Schwartz  
Emanuelle Morgen, Hudson County Complete Streets  
Byron Nicholas, Hudson County  
Denise Nickel, Middlesex County  
Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC  
Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP  
Michael Popovech, Monmouth County  
Linda Rapacki, RideWise TMA  
Joe Rapp, NJDOT  
William Riviere, NJDOT  
Samuel Rosenthal, VTC  
Lindsey Sigmund, NJ Future  
James Sinclair, VTC  
Thom Stead, DVRPC  
Laura Torchio, NV5  
Chris Townley, Greater Mercer TMA  
Endjie Uylsse, VTC  
David Verdia, McCormick Taylor

Michael Viscardi, NJ Transit

Leigh Ann Von Hagen, VTC

Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative

Liz Ward, SGB

Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County

John Wheeler, Maurice River

Greg Woltman, VTC

Siennah Yang, SGB

Bettina Zimny, NV5