



## **NJ BPAC Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee Meeting**

**January 31, 2024 10:10 am to 11:00 am**

**Online Zoom Meeting**

### **Attendees: (21)**

- Bryan Adamcik
- Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Shilpy Mehta, Rutgers-VTC
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Jonathan Eagle
- Loretta Kelly, NJDOH
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit
- Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- Maham Khurshid, Rutgers-VTC
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor, Inc.
- Denise Chaplick, Morris County Parks
- John Wheeler
- Ramond Joseph, NJDCA
- Reba Oduro, NJDOT
- Mohammad A. Islam, NJDOT
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- Polli Schildge
- Joseph Jimenez, Middlesex County

### **Meeting Notes:**

The discussion covered a wide range of subjects including infrastructure upgrades, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, MUTCD updates, and transportation planning.

- **Speed Limits and Roadway Design:**
  - Interest in better understanding the 85th percentile, level of service, and statutory ways to reduce speed limits, especially in light of recent changes to the MUTCD.
  - Consideration of land use's impact on roadway design.
  - Concerns about liability and the use of delineators in creating bike facilities, along with issues related to maintenance, durability, drainage, and trash.
  - Discussion on how advocates can use new MUTCD guidance with demonstration projects.
  - Interest in presentations on road safety audits and retrofitting arterial roadways for complete streets.
- **Trail Crossing Guidance:**
  - Inquiry into additional trail crossing guidance in New Jersey, and status of reports in development.
  - There is interest in New Jersey trail crossing guidelines and plans to adapt major highways to accommodate whole streets.

- Conversation focused on Trenton and barriers the municipality has faced as they try to improve local trails.
- **NJ Transit Initiatives:**
  - Discussion on new bike station openings at NJ Transit stations.
  - Challenges faced in using CMAQ funding and federal funds for bicycle stations and how to streamline the process.
  - Addressing the lack of bus racks on some local buses.
- **COVID-19 Impacts and Data Collection:**
  - Analysis of the impact of work-from-home trends on biking and walking.
  - Concerns about the sustainability of changes made during COVID-19, like open streets.
  - Discussion on improving bike/pedestrian data collection beyond commuting data.
- **Federal Funding and Local Aid:**
  - Concerns about tapping into new federal funding effectively in New Jersey.
  - Discussion on assisting towns with applying for and implementing grants.
- **Legal Issues and Ordinances:**
  - Questions about advising on legal issues related to bicycles and pedestrians.
  - Interest in model ordinances for regulating e-bikes, especially in shore towns.
- **Road Diets and Public Perception:**
  - Discussion on the Atlantic City Road diet and public perception challenges.

#### **Potential topics for discussion in 2024**

- **Updates and Best Practices on MUTCD and Roadway Design:**
  - Further exploration of MUTCD updates, particularly regarding intersection treatments and innovative designs.
- **Trail Crossing and Safety:**
  - Seeking more guidance on trail crossing safety and implementation of best practices.
- **Bike Lane and Facility Planning:**
  - Exploring bike lanes and facilities that cross jurisdictional boundaries and planning for pedestrian phases at crosswalks.
- **Micro Mobility and Safety:**
  - Focusing on micro mobility policies and safety, including battery charging and fire safety.
- **Speed Limit Reductions:**
  - Investigate statutory alternatives for reducing speed limits and overcoming related challenges.
- **Land Use and Transportation Planning:**
  - Continue exploring how land use changes influence roadway design and transportation infrastructure.
- **Delineator Liability and Maintenance:**
  - Address ongoing issues related to delineators in separated bike lanes, including liability, maintenance, and snow removal.
- **Regulations for E-bikes:**
  - Develop and disseminate model ordinances for regulating e-bikes, particularly in tourist-

heavy areas.

- **Road Diet Projects:**

- Monitor and evaluate the Atlantic City Road diet project, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based road design decisions.

### **Subcommittee Goals for 2024:**

Subcommittee members briefly discussed goals and topics for 2024 meetings by reviewing and editing the goals from 2023:

1. Enhance Understanding of Roadway Design and Safety Measures:
  - a. Deep dive into roadway design updates, speed limit policies, and the impact of land use on roadway configuration.
2. Improve Trail and Bike Facility Safety:
  - a. Gather and disseminate best practices for trail crossings and bike facility safety, addressing liability and maintenance issues.
3. Advocate for Improved Policies and Funding:
  - a. Work towards loosening federal funding restrictions for bike amenities and addressing local bus rack issues.
4. Legal and Regulatory Guidance:
  - a. Provide guidance on legal issues and model ordinances related to biking and walking, focusing on emerging trends like e-bikes.
5. Public Engagement and Perception:
  - a. Address public perception issues related to roadway changes, such as road diets, through community engagement and education.
6. Facilitate Speed Limit Changes:
  - a. Work towards statutory changes that allow for more flexible speed limit regulations to enhance road safety.