



NJ BPAC General Meeting

January 31, 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 (NJ DHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (NJMVC) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Linda Rapacki (RideWise TMA) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Open Position (DHTS) | Open Position (Environmental Justice/Equity)

Subcommittee Chairs:

Aimee Jefferson, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, ajefferson@njtpa.org
Thom Stead, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, tstead@dvrpc.org
Open Position, Chair, Policy Subcommittee

General Meeting Notes:

The meeting began at 9:30 am with **James Sinclair** welcoming everyone and summarizing the agenda.

Elise Bremer-Nei shared updates from the NJ Department of Transportation on the following topics:

1. New MUTCD Guidelines:

The 11th edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) was released on December 19, 2023. The 11th edition of the MUTCD addresses the evolving challenges of modern traffic and integrates valuable feedback from experts and stakeholders. Some highlights from the new edition include more advanced guidelines for pedestrian and bicyclist safety infrastructure, improved navigational signage, and enhanced and improved standards for traffic control devices. Green bike lanes and bike boxes are now formally in the MUTCD so NJDOT will no longer have to track all installations across the state. The NJ Safe Routes Resource Center has recently published a [blog article](#) highlighting changes in the new MUTCD that are especially relevant for active transportation.

2. PROWAG:

In August of last year, the U.S. Access Board issued the long-awaited final rule on Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines. PROWAG went into effect on September 7, 2023. PROWAG was

developed to support the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) and the [Architectural Barriers Act \(ABA\)](#) by addressing access to sidewalks, streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of public rights-of-way.

The final rule's release was big news because it encompassed more than 20 years of research and revision. PROWAG has not yet been adopted by the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Justice, so it is not enforceable. However, the USDOT announced in its [regulatory agenda](#) that it intends to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to adopt the PROWAG into its regulations in 2024. And even while the timeline for adoption remains undefined, the final rule on PROWAG represents best practices and thus is critical for many projects today. There will be a presentation on PROWAG at the March BPAC meeting.

3. Street Project Screening:

The Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy, along with APA-NJ, is hosting a screening of "The Street Project" documentary film on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, from 4 to 6 pm in New Brunswick. "The Street Project" is a film about community-based efforts across the United States to eliminate traffic deaths. The screening will include a moderated discussion with panelists and participants. Registration is free, but seats are limited. Light refreshments will be served.

4. NJDOT Local Bike-Ped Planning Assistance Updates

Bill Riviere and NJDOT's on-call consultant teams have wrapped up a Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study in Palmyra, a Complete Streets Implementation Plan in Long Branch, a Bicycle Master Plan for Paterson, and a Vision Zero Action Plan in West Orange. A study for the Borough of Clayton is kicking off and there are a couple of applications pending. For help with bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety issues, Complete Streets implementation, or trail studies, see the program application:

https://www.nj.gov/transportation/commuter/bike/pdf/BPPA_Application_Guidance.pdf

5. NJDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant Program

As the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Bill has also wrapped up the scoring of all the [SRTS Infrastructure Grant](#) applications received by the Department and will be meeting with the project selection committee soon.

6. Apply for the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Recognition Program

If your school or municipality is involved in the NJ Safe Routes to School program, this is your final reminder to nominate them for all their hard work! Applications for the Safe Routes to School Recognition Program are due January 31, 2024. Safe Routes Regional Coordinators can assist with nominations, or municipalities and schools can apply for recognition themselves. The criteria for recognition at each level are listed on the [NJ Safe Routes Resource Center website](#).

7. New Safe Routes Driveway Safety Video

As mentioned at the December meeting, the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center has released a new PSA video on children's safety around driveways. The video, which was produced by the Safe Routes Resource Center and Civic Eye Collaborative and funded by NJDOT, explains best practices for preventing conflicts between vehicles and children around driveways. The video is available on the [NJ Safe Routes YouTube page](#).

8. NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates

Priority Actions in the 2020 NJ SHSP are wrapping up, and the Department is looking ahead to developing the 2025 plan. Final reports and recommendations will be available on the [NJ SHSP website](#).

9. SS4A Grant Awards

Since the meeting in December, the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced its [complete list](#) of awardees for the Fiscal Year 2023 round of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) competitive grant program. This includes \$21.1 million in federal funding in this round for 23 communities across New Jersey. An implementation grant of \$14.4 million was awarded to the [Town of Hammonton](#) for the Bellevue Avenue Safety Improvements Project. Hammonton's 2021 local Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance study was used to help secure the grant. The project will address safety issues for pedestrians and bicyclists and address intersection design issues along a 1.3-mile stretch of Bellevue Avenue and cross streets. The project will include crosswalk visibility enhancements, bicycle lanes, enhanced lighting, and corridor access management. Applications for the FY24 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity are anticipated to open in February 2024.

10. New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit

The New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition will host the 2024 NJ [Bike & Walk Summit](#) on Saturday, May 18th, at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ. The NJ Safe Routes Academy, funded by NJDOT, will be a part of the live event. The NJBWC Summit is New Jersey's statewide meeting of bicycle and pedestrian advocates, elected officials and other township leaders, transportation and urban planners, bike shop owners and managers, cycling, walking, fitness and health enthusiasts and experts, recreation, trails and club leaders and others who are interested in making our state a better place to live.

NJBWC organized the state's first Bike & Walk Summit in 2010. Enrollment was 25 attendees; each year, the number of attendees has exceeded the year before. In 2017, NJBWC celebrated a record 265 attendees.

11. New NJDOT Commissioner

Governor Murphy will nominate Francis O'Connor, a longtime transportation and infrastructure executive who began his career at the New Jersey Turnpike 39 years ago, as the new Commissioner of Transportation. He will replace Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, who is now the Governor's Chief of Staff.

12. BPAC Executive Council Updates

Mike Rizol is joining the BPAC Executive Council. Mike is the Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the Office of the Attorney General of New Jersey. Hailey Graf of NJ TRANSIT has accepted a job at Amtrak and will be stepping down as BPAC Policy subcommittee chair.

Presentation by Hannah Younes, Rutgers VTC

Walking and Cycling During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Hannah Younes from the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers presented research on walking and cycling trends during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Major findings included:

- 20% of COVID teleworkers increased their private bicycle usage compared to 13% of non-teleworkers and 8% of non-workers.
- 33% of COVID teleworkers intended to cycle more in the future compared to 22% of non-teleworkers and 12% of non-workers.
- Regardless of teleworking and employment status, men were more likely to increase cycling during COVID-19, and having children at home was associated with increased cycling.
- Street closures, pop-up bike lanes, and other COVID-19 infrastructure measures have a strong positive relationship with cycling, and there were increases in facilities and in active travel during COVID.

Presentation by Kendra Nelson and Mark Morley, DVRPC

Burlington County Downtown Access for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

- DVRPC coordinated with three New Jersey municipalities in Burlington County (Evesham, Mansfield, and Maple Shade) to improve bicycle and pedestrian access.
- In this project, two types of public engagement efforts were conducted: surveys to collect information on existing concerns and feedback on final recommendations.
- The critical issues identified by residents were inadequate bicycle and pedestrian facilities and a lack of connectivity, limiting access to specific destinations and posing safety concerns.
- The recommendations included restriping crosswalks, using curb extensions to shorten the length of crosswalks, buffering bike lanes, and building multi-use trails.
- In some municipalities, roundabouts were suggested for controlling vehicular speeds and building connections between existing sidewalk networks.
- DVRPC has also developed a web-based tool to assess road segments' Level of Traffic Stress score (along with the Level of Pedestrian Stress). This tool will be publicly available in June 2024.

Subcommittees met in breakout groups from 10:25 to 11:10 am and returned to the main meeting to provide updates on their respective discussions:

Design Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee discussed potential topics for 2024 presentations, including:
 - The use of the 85th percentile rule for setting speed limits
 - The role of land use in roadway design
 - The viability of using of delineators for bike facilities
 - The retrofitting of arterial roadways presentation and its relationship to Complete Streets
 - Speed camera legislation

Policy Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee discussed potential topics for 2024 presentations, including:
 - Information on the legality, liability, and maintenance of delineators
 - The proposed road diet in the casino district of Atlantic City, NJ
- The subcommittee also discussed the following topics:
 - The need for more survey questions (including in surveys conducted by the Census Bureau) around topics like working from home during COVID as well as biking and walking during and after the pandemic
 - Examining why temporary changes to streets and public spaces implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic have not lasted
 - The need for more information-sharing between MPOs
 - The need for more and better applications for federal funding from New Jersey localities

Safety Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee discussed potential topics for 2024 presentations, including:
 - Speed camera enforcement
 - E- mobility devices and battery fires
 - Implementing bike facilities across municipal boundaries
 - Public perception of interventions like leading pedestrian intervals
 - Updates to bike education campaigns throughout the State

General Announcements

- The New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition is hosting a the [Bike and Walk Summit](#) on May 18, 2024, at Middlesex County College in Edison.
- Rutgers University is hosting the Micromobility 2.0 Summit on March 22, 2024. The Summit is funded by the National Science Foundation and will bridge research and practice surrounding the use of micromobility devices (e-bikes, e-scooters, bicycles, etc.) and how best to address safety, infrastructure, and the use of innovative technology.

The [next BPAC meeting](#) is Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Attendees:

- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Jessica O'Connor, NJ MVC
- Michael Dannemiller, Middlesex County
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion
- Samantha Donovan, Sam Schwartz Consulting
- Noelle Santos, Brain Injury Alliance of NJ
- Jonathan Engle, Somerset County
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Linda Rapacki, RideWise TMA
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Mike Viscardi, NJ TRANSIT
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- Mohammad A. Islam, NJDOT
- Aimee Jefferson, NJTPA
- Corey Hannigan, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-NJTIP
- Kathleen Ebert, Greater Mercer TMA
- Joseph Jimenez, Middlesex County
- Carrie Long, Toole Design
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- Charles Romanow, WSP
- Dan Hutton, Urban Engineers
- Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Delfina Picchio, Keep Middlesex Moving
- Denise Chaplick, Morris County Park Commission
- Jesse McGowan, Sam Schwartz
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Jon Federico, WSP
- Kendra Nelson, DVRPC
- Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County
- Lindsey Sigmund, NJ Future
- Lisa Serieyssol, Lawrence Hopewell Trail
- Loretta Kelly, NJDOH

- Maham Khurshid, Rutgers-VTC
- Marhaba Omer, NJDOT
- Mark Morley, DVRPC
- Michael Rizol, NJ DHTS
- Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
- Peri Nearon, NJ Division of Disability Services
- Ramond Joseph, NJ Department of Community Affairs
- Reba Oduro, NJDOT
- Sutapa Bandopadhyay, FHWA
- Syd Chan, Enovate
- Tim Evans, NJ Future
- Ward Kradjel
- William Yarzab, Street Smart, NJTPA