



NJ BPAC General Meeting
July 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) | 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 **Elise Bremer-Nei** welcoming everyone and summarizing the agenda.

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

Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grants

On July 10th, the [Murphy Administration announced](#) \$21.1 million for [23 grants](#) under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Infrastructure projects funded through this program include sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle crossings, and on-street bicycle facilities. Of the 23 grants being awarded to local governments for safety and mobility improvements near K-12 schools, 16 grants totaling \$14.0 million are within the NJTPA region, four grants worth \$5 million are within the DVRPC region, and three grants totaling \$2.1 million are within the SJTPO region.

Safe Routes to School Recognition Program

As part of the [2024 NJ Safe Routes to School Recognition Program](#), 354 schools and municipalities are being recognized for their commitment to and support of the Safe Routes to School program by enabling and encouraging walking and bicycling in their communities. There are four levels of the program, and each one signifies a school or municipality's progress toward implementing and sustaining SRTS programs. Each year, communities are nominated based upon their SRTS accomplishments. Recognition is valid for three years. Schools and municipalities that have earned NJ SRTS Recognition and are also

enrolled in the Sustainable Jersey certification program can earn points for both programs. For a full list of current winners, visit the [NJ Safe Routes Resource Center website](#).

Webinar: Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy

The NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, along with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and Sustainable Jersey, is hosting a [webinar](#) this fall about crafting an effective Complete and Green Streets policy. The webinar will focus on creating and adopting custom municipal Complete & Green Streets policies. If your community already has a policy, you can learn how to use NJDOT's Complete & Green Streets for All: Model Policy & Guide to improve it. This is a free one-hour webinar for municipal officials, staff, or consultant representatives. The webinar will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:00pm and the registration link is in the chat. A second webinar will be held Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 3:00 to 5:00pm, including a virtual open house Q&A. Registration for this second webinar is coming soon.

Newly Adopted Complete and Green Streets Policies

NJDOT congratulates several New Jersey communities on their recent passage of updated Complete and Green Streets policies:

- Fort Lee
- East Windsor
- Bernardsville
- Asbury Park

A full list of New Jersey communities with Complete Streets policies is available on the [NJ Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).

NJDOT-Funded Project in Point Pleasant

Point Pleasant Borough is [improving safety for pedestrians and bicyclists](#) with funding from NJDOT's Municipal Aid and Local Transportation Project Fund grants. The project includes the addition of sidewalks, improved crosswalks with ADA-compliant cutouts and ramps, and push-to-walk lighted crosswalk signs. The project also involves the potential addition of bike lanes on Route 88.

Reconnecting Communities Grants

The US Department of Transportation has released the [2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the [Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Program](#) Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 – 2026 funding. The Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help reconnect communities previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure, like train lines or highways. The goal of the program is to advance community-centered transportation connection projects that improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration.

\$607 million will be awarded under this NOFO for two types of projects:

- USDOT will award \$457 million to eligible capital construction activities necessary to carry out a project to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an existing eligible facility or replace an existing eligible facility with a new facility that reconnects communities.
- USDOT will award \$150 million to eligible public engagement, feasibility studies, and other planning activities.

More information about the Reconnecting Communities Program can be found on the [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) website.

Feature Presentation: NJ Department of Environmental Protection Trails and SCORP

Mackenzie Piggott from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) presented on the agency's [2023 - 2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\) as it Relates to Trails](#). The plan, titled "Outside, Together!", provides a framework for open space preservation and outdoor recreation planning and funding priorities in New Jersey. The SCORP identifies six principles, including high quality open space, climate resilience, investment, technology, equity, and stewardship. Through case studies and public engagement, the SCORP identifies key findings and recommendations to promote the planning and development of trails in New Jersey.

Feature Presentation: Bike Lockers and Bike Parking at NJ TRANSIT Facilities

Fred Storey from NJ TRANSIT and Paul Mickiewicz from the New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition (NJBWC) presented on bike parking options at NJ TRANSIT facilities. [Fred discussed](#) the NJ TRANSIT bike locker program, NJBWC's bike depots, and Oonee's secure bike parking shelters at NJ TRANSIT facilities. Paul presented on NJBWC's bike parking depots in greater detail and shared [the organization's website](#) which provides more information.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen wrapped up the presentations and opened the subcommittees at 10:30.

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

Subcommittee chairs reported back:

Thom Stead reported for the Design subcommittee. Today's subcommittee meeting included a presentation from Hannah Younes on the use of new technologies for roadway safety and design, such as computer visioning, biometric sensors, and LiDAR. Middlesex County discussed their Living Lab for autonomous vehicles and the Greenway Plan. EZ Ride discussed a pedestrian safety project in Passaic. NJ TRANSIT gave an update on the project to connect the Henry Hudson Trail to the Aberdeen-Matawan train station.

Keith Hamas reported for the Safety subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed the Safe System Approach and started with a poll of participants' understanding of different safety-related topics. The discussion focused on the different components of the Safe System Approach as well as different strategies for making roads safer, such as automated enforcement and using a systemic analysis for infrastructure improvements.

Lyndsey Scofield reported back for the Policy subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed challenges to adopting and implementing Complete and Green Streets policies, including the loss of local champions and navigating multijurisdictional projects. The subcommittee also discussed the need to better

understand the interrelationship between Complete Streets, Vision Zero, and the Safe System Approach, including how federal funding can be used to support these different initiatives.

Additional Announcements

Wenwen Zhang from Rutgers is seeking participants for a biometric feedback bicycle study. Fill out a [brief questionnaire](#) to see if you're eligible to participate.

Sustainable Jersey and VTC will be presenting at the League of Municipalities conference in November on how to create bicycle and pedestrian safety advisory committees.

Somerset County is about to adopt a new Master Plan Circulation Element.

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

The [next BPAC meeting](#) is **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**.

Attendees:

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nej, NJDOT
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Denise Nickel, Middlesex County
- Steph Brody, Rutgers-VTC
- Fred Storey, NJ Transit
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- Ramond Joseph, NJDCA
- Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Rebecca Levitsky, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Matthew Maher, Stantec
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit
- David Guinan, NJ State Police
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Charles Romanow, WSP
- Mike Dannemiller, Middlesex County
- Peter Kremer, Michael Baker International
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Mohammad A. Islam, NJDOT
- Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion TMA
- Peri Nearon, NJDHS, Department of Disability Services
- Grace Jacob, NJDEP
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Syd Chan, Enovate
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Jonathan Gray, private citizen (UPS)
- Cole Johnson, Rutgers-VTC
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Nikita Soni, Rutgers-VTC
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- Madison Fallacara, Hudson TMA
- Daniel Granato, Metuchen PD
- Jacob Cummings, SJTPO
- Samantrha DeAndrea, NJDCA
- Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride TMA
- Jenna Monaghan, SJTPO

- Shilpy Mehta, GPI
- Alan Huff, FHWA-NJ
- William Riviere, NJDOT
- John Mascaro, HBK Engineering
- Eric Derer, NJ Transit
- Jay Robaina, Roselle Park Borough
- Kristen McLaughlin, Cross County Connection TMA
- Katharine Schumacher, Rutgers University
- Kate O'Connor, Brain Injury Alliance of NJ
- Lou Luglio, HNTB
- Michael Popovech, Monmouth County
- Zeke Weston, NJ Future
- Adam Iaccheo, EZ Ride TMA
- Tim Evans, NJ Future
- John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Gregory Wright
- Emmanuelle Morgen, Hudson County Complete Streets
- Martin Balcazar, WSP
- Joseph Milanese, Dewberry
- Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA-NJ
- Yosy Cosme, NJDOT
- Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
- Dan Black, NJDOT