



NJ BPAC General Meeting

March 20, 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:

Open Position, Chair, Safety Subcommittee

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 **Elise Bremer-Nei** welcoming everyone and summarizing the agenda.

Presentation by Jeremy Chrzan, PE, PTOE, LEED AP, Toole Design

[Navigating Updates to the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines \(PROWAG\)](#)

Jeremy Chrzan, PE, PTOE, LEED AP, from Toole Design discussed the U.S. Access Board's recently approved accessibility guidelines for the public right-of-way. Some of the highlights are:

- PROWAG is a set of guidelines produced by the U.S. Access Board under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) that address access to sidewalks and streets, crosswalks, curb ramps, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, and other components of the public right-of-way.
- New construction must fully comply with PROWAG except for pedestrian facilities used only by service personnel for maintenance, repair, or monitoring of equipment.
- Alteration projects must comply to the maximum extent feasible. Existing physical constraints may make compliance technically infeasible; however, existing right-of-way width is not a physical constraint.

- The updated PROWAG includes requirements for alternate pedestrian access routes, including the inclusion of audible or other non-visual signage in advance of decision points.
- Each crosswalk must have its own curb ramp, including an unmarked crosswalk. A single diagonal curb ramp is only permitted on a corner if two ramps are technically infeasible.
- Detectable warning surfaces are now required at driveway crossings with stop/yield control or traffic signals. They are not required on curb ramps used exclusively to provide access to on-street parking and passenger loading zones.
- Multi-lane segments of roundabouts and multi-lane channelized turn lanes now require at least one of the following: a traffic control signal with a pedestrian head, pedestrian hybrid beacon, rectangular rapid flashing beacon, or raised crosswalk.
- Bollards are permitted to prevent motor vehicle entry into shared use paths, but there must be 4 feet between bollards.

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

1. NJDOT Vulnerable Road User Assessment

Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, each State DOT was required to develop and publish a Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment. Consistent with federal guidelines, New Jersey’s VRU Assessment uses a data-driven process to identify areas of high risk and propose resulting safety strategies to improve safety in those areas. New Jersey’s VRU Assessment is now available [online](#). In addition, the Federal Highway Administration has created a single [page](#) with links to each State's report.

2. SS4A Grant Awards

As mentioned during the January BPAC meeting, the USDOT has announced its [full list of awardees](#) for the FY23 round of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) competitive grant program. This includes a total of \$21.1 million in federal funding in this round for 23 communities across New Jersey. One implementation grant totaling \$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 funded by NJDOT was used to help secure the grant. The SS4A project will address safety issues for pedestrians and bicyclists along a 1.3-mile stretch of Bellevue Avenue.

Applications for the FY24 SS4A program are now open and accessible on the [USDOT website](#). There are three application deadlines for Planning and Demonstration Grants: April 4, May 16, and August 29, 2024. All Implementation Grant applications are due May 16, 2024.

3. DVRPC Regional Trails Program

Funding is now available through DVRPC’s Regional Trails Program for the planning, design, right-of-way acquisition, and/or construction of multi-use trails, and/or safe, accessible, and welcoming trailheads, gateways, and neighborhood connections. Capitalized with funding from the William Penn Foundation, a total of \$2 million is available with maximum awards of \$200,000 in this round for projects in the 9-county Greater Philadelphia region. No local match is required. Applications are due Friday, May 3, 2024. More information is available on the [DVRPC website](#).

4. **New Jersey Bike & Walk Summit**

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2024 [NJ Bike & Walk Summit](#), which will be hosted by the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition on Saturday May 18th at Middlesex College, in Edison NJ. The NJ Safe Routes Academy will be a part of the live event. This summit is New Jersey's statewide meeting of bicycle and pedestrian advocates, elected officials and other local leaders, transportation engineers 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 and be active.

NJBWC organized the state's first Bike & Walk Summit in 2010, when 25 people attended. Each year, the number of attendees has exceeded the year before. In 2017, 265 people participated. This year will be the first in-person summit since the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. **New Jersey Sustainability Summit**

Registration is also open for the [2024 New Jersey Sustainability Summit](#), which will be held on Friday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Bell Works in Holmdel. This one-day summit is hosted by Sustainable Jersey and highlights the successes and lessons learned from the people and projects that are helping New Jersey realize a more sustainable future. Summit attendees will walk away with tangible resources and strategies to assist with their own community initiatives. More information can be found on the Sustainable Jersey website.

6. **NJDOT Local Bike-Ped Planning Assistance Updates**

The New Jersey Department of Transportation and its on-call consultant teams have wrapped up a number of Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Studies in recent months. In early March, the Borough of Clayton kicked off their project, and there are a couple of applications pending. The NJDOT [Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program](#) provides free planning assistance for towns who may be looking for help with bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety issues, Complete Streets implementation or trail studies.

7. **NJDOT SRTS Infrastructure Grant Program**

Bill Riviere, NJDOT's Safe Routes to School Coordinator, has finished scoring all the SRTS Infrastructure Grant applications received by the Department and has met with the project selection committees. More information on these grants should be available in the coming weeks.

8. **NJDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Updates**

Priority Actions in the 2020 NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan are wrapping up, and the Department is gearing up to develop the 2025 plan. The final report for the 2020 plan will be available on the [NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan website](#).

9. **Sustainable Jersey Hero**

The Sustainable Jersey program recognizes monthly heroes to capture the inspiring stories of local leaders. The Sustainability Hero for the month of March is VTC's **Leigh Ann Von Hagen**.

The [next BPAC meeting](#) is Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Attendees:

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Matthew Zochowski, Mercer County
- Jeremy Chrzan, Toole Design
- Carrie Long, Toole Design
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Peter Kremer, Michael Baker International
- Paul Pluiose, Somerset County
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- David Guinan, NJ State Police
- Danielle Baer, Urban Engineers
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Anne Heasly, Sustainable Jersey
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike and Walk Coalition
- Daniel LiSanti, NJDOT
- Jon Dugan, Rutgers-VTC
- John Wheeler
- Jesse Hsia, Somerset County
- Samantha Donovan, Sam Schwartz
- Akhlaq Zafar, Dewberry
- Andres Vanegas, NJDOT
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- Yoshifumi Yano, City of San Jose, CA
- Rebecca Levitsky, Rutgers-VTC
- Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County
- Liza Betz, Union County
- William Yarzab, NJTPA
- Ted Green
- Marhaba Omer, NJDOT
- William Riviere, NJDOT
- Delfina Picchio, Keep Middlesex Moving
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Andrew Pease, Arcadis
- Michael Vreeland, Van Cleef Engineering
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJ Bike and Walk Coalition
- Maham Khurshid, Rutgers-VTC
- Cindy Yoo, Cross County Connection
- Matt Ludwig, NV5

- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Michael Rizol, NJ DHTS
- Vittorio Anepete, McCormick Taylor
- Chrystal Section, NJDOT
- Maria Sotnikova, Atlanta Regional Commission
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit
- John Federico, WSP
- Reba Oduro, NJDOT
- Godwin Vattappilly, McCormick Taylor
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Manuel Ramirez, Union City
- Jonathan Eagle, Somerset County
- Denise Nickel, Middlesex County
- Samuel Ortiz, Sr.
- Sowatta Eap, NJDOT
- Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
- Adam Bloom, Somerset County
- Tristan Harrison, Clarke Caton Hintz
- Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion
- Israel Jimoh, NJDOT
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
- Paul Lenarczyk, NJDOT
- Peri Nearon, NJ DHS
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA-NJ
- Ramond Joseph, NJ DCA
- Loretta Kelly, NJ DOH
- George Worth, NJDOT
- Randyn Love, NJDOT
- Christine Orthmeyer, PANYNJ
- Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
- Dan Hutton, Urban Engineers
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
- Hailey Anilonis, NJDOT
- Polli Schildge, Asbury Park Complete Streets
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
- Charles Romanow, WSP
- Martin Wade, Michael Baker International
- Raveena Bandaru, Rutgers-VTC
- Daniel Granato, Metuchen PD
- Lisa Serieyssol, NJ Bike and Walk Coalition
- Kathleen Ebert, Greater Mercer TMA

- Corey Hannigan, Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
- Andy Kaplan, NJTPA
- Steve Lennon, TDG Planning
- Jay Robaina, Union City
- Md Shahadat Hossain, Rutgers-VTC
- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative