



NJ BPAC General Meeting
March 5, 2025, 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 Heasly (Sustainable Jersey) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Loretta Kelly (NJDOH) | Open Position (NJDHS) | 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,
Michael Dannemiller, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee,
michael.dannemiller@co.middlesex.nj.us
Lyndsey Scofield, Chair, Policy Subcommittee, lscofield@jcnj.org

General Meeting Notes:

The meeting began at 9:33 am with **Leigh Ann Von Hagen** welcoming everyone and discussing housekeeping items.

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

1. **New Jersey's Long Range Transportation Plan:** New Jersey's 2050 LRTP will focus on enhancing public and road infrastructure and expanding transportation networks. The LRTP for 2030 was completed in 2008, so the 2050 plan is overdue. This will emphasize resiliency and safety and will include stakeholders and the public. The plan will be policy-based and will identify the financial resources needed to sustain the plan's vision. The goal is to publish the plan in late spring. More information is available at <https://www.nj2050lrtp.com/>.
2. **Target Zero Commission:** Governor Murphy signed the Target Zero Commission bill into law on January 13. The Commission is charged with identifying strategies and policies that align with the State's goal of zero fatalities by 2040. The Commission is required to develop an Action Plan in its first year. The Commission's first meeting is March 6.
3. **The New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP):** Work has wrapped up on the 2020 plan, so the 2025 plan is underway. The 2025 plan is aligned with the Safe System Approach and must be submitted by August 2025. Learn more at <https://www.saferoadsforallnj.com/>

4. **New Jersey Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan:** This is an update to the existing plan, which was published in 2016. The main goal is to create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists. This will be done by improving infrastructure and relevant programs. Efforts to produce the plan's 4th edition are underway through data collection and research, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, and online surveys.
5. **Complete Streets Policy:** The policy was updated in December 2024, building off of the 2009 policy, to integrate Complete Streets into the NJDOT's policies and procedures. This policy is an approach to providing safe road access for all users through better infrastructure and roadway design. There will be new training for internal and external staff working on NJDOT capital projects. The updated policy expands the definition of "all users" to emphasize and explicitly include individuals with mobility impairments and intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder.
6. **Complete Streets West Orange:** West Orange has adopted a Complete Streets Ordinance with both an advisory committee and a checklist. This is partially related to a local planning study that the NJDOT completed for the municipality, and congratulations are in order for their advancements.

Elise Bremer-Nei introduced **Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP** who shared information on the NJDEP's work:

1. **Outside Together 2023:** This is an NJ trails playbook with the NJDOT that advocates for trails and more agency collaboration. The playbook promotes the development of trail projects that provide equitable access to trails for all, including the most vulnerable communities. The project included public outreach efforts, which found that New Jersey residents prioritize trails. The project emphasizes that trails are important for addressing both state and department goals, as well as those of bike and pedestrian advocates.
2. Within this project, NJDEP is developing five guidebooks:
 - a. **Trail Funding:** This guidebook features guidance for planners on how to obtain trail funding, identify sources of funding that would best match their project, recommendations for managing trail projects with best practices and examples.
 - b. **Making Trail Connections:** This is a guide to help planners and agencies identify opportunities to fill gaps and improve trail connections.
 - c. **Facilitating Trail Projects:** The third guidebook will focus on managing the ease of trail projects. This guidebook will provide resources to identify and navigate potential hurdles that trail planners and managers often face in New Jersey.
 - d. **Trail User Safety:** This guidebook is still being developed with NJDOT, and its goal is to provide best practices to improve trail safety and security.
 - e. **Blueprint for NJ's Trails:** The fifth guidebook is also still being developed and outlined, but NJDEP aims for it to provide guidance for a collaborative path forward for NJ trails, a better framework for advancing trails in the state, and more agency collaboration. Additionally, it will intend to help organizations identify shared goals and build strong agency networks.
3. NJDEP is also working to improve funding opportunities for trails. The agency wants to introduce trails as economic drivers, further develop economic databases for trail development, and have a full update of the state trails plan, moving towards a more strategic plan overall.
4. **Public outreach:** NJDEP is conducting stakeholder interviews and surveys and is using the responses to better understand the goals of agencies and planners, accomplishments, funding gaps, etc. A NJ trail user survey was launched to assess trail user perspectives, needs, and more, with an online link to the survey in both English and Spanish.

5. Following the presentation, Mackenzie Piggott asked for [feedback \(link: Mentimeter results\)](#) and posed discussion questions for the participant group:
- “What are the best active transportation-focused trails, greenways, and other infrastructure in NJ?” Some examples that participants shared through the QR code can be seen below:
 - Shore Boardwalks
 - Liberty State Park
 - Middlesex Greenway
 - Lawrence Hopewell Trail
 - Ocean City Causeway
 - Ben Franklin Bridge
 - Henry Hudson Trail
 - Delaware and Raritan Canal Trail
 - Cope May Trails

 - “What are resources that you are aware of that have been helpful in navigating bike/ped and trail/greenway related projects?” Some responses are seen below:
 - AASHTO Design Guide
 - NACTO Guide
 - NJDOT Greenway Guide
 - Complete Streets Guide

 - “What are some factors that have led to the success of trail network projects in NJ and other states?” Some responses are seen below:
 - Strong county support
 - Municipal support
 - Communication between advocacy groups
 - Advocacy and TMA support
 - MPOs/regional support
 - Connectivity between towns

 - “What hurdles have your active transportation projects run into in NJ?” Some responses are seen below:
 - Funding
 - Land ownership
 - Trail maintenance
 - Highways dividing communities
 - Environmental issues
 - Security
 - Parking prioritized over bike lanes
 - ROW acquisition
 - DOT and DEP policy
 - Right-of-way
 - NEPA process difficulties and complications

NJ TRANSIT discussed NEPA and federal funding requirements. The agency is developing a plan to connect the Henry Hudson Trail to the Aberdeen-Matawan train station. The NEPA Section 106 process is required for this, and the agency just finished the designs and submitted applications for permits. It was discussed that the process can be difficult and costly, and that simplifying the process in the future could be a worthy project.

Jersey City Department of Transportation expressed the need to streamline design and feasibility work that is needed for funding approval. Additionally, Jersey City called for a shift toward state funding to avoid the high administrative costs associated with federal funding.

The **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)** provided a status update on the region's Local Safety Action Plans, [Long Range Transportation Plan](#), and the implementation of safety advancements and surveys to gather information in order to select locations and support these draft plans. Public engagement events to gather feedback led by NJT and NJDOT representatives are also underway, including a [Warren County Complete Streets](#) meeting on March 13 at the Warren County Library.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen introduced **Jacob Cummings, SJTPO** to discuss CS technical initiatives with VTC and Cross County Connection

- The Complete Streets Technical Assistance application deadline was originally February 28, but was extended to March 7.
- The SJTPO Countywide Local Road Safety Plans are now complete and are available on www.saferoadssouthjersey.com.
- The SJTPO Regional Active Transportation Master Plan is in the works, and the request for proposals was released on January 30. Submittals are due on March 7, and the Consultant Selection Committee will receive results on March 28. Selected Consultant work will begin in early June 2025, with a project completion date of November 2026.
- An advanced feasibility study for Atlantic County's Bikeway West Trail and broader circuit trails was discussed. A deeper study will move the project further and help create a connection to the broader Circuit Trails Network.
- Collaboration with NJDOT for informational updates and technical advisory committee was discussed.

James Sinclair opened the subcommittees at 10:20.
(See subcommittee notes for additional information).

Subcommittee participants returned to the general meeting at 11:14. Subcommittee chairs reported back:

Lyndsey Scofield, Jersey City reported back on the Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee spent most of the time discussing the NJDOT internal Complete Streets Policy update and the new checklists. The discussion also touched on the impacts on municipalities and counties. They also noted that NJDOT is doing both internal and external training about the Complete Streets Policy and Guidelines. The subcommittee also discussed Automated Speed Enforcement and how to get going on a pilot in New Jersey. Additionally, they discussed the New Jersey Target Zero Commission and that it looks like the Commission will include various working groups and subcommittees.

Keith Hamas, NJTPA reported back on Safety Subcommittee activities. The committee talked about the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and how NJDOT can incorporate findings from upcoming county-level plans and better coordinate between county, state, and local agencies. They discussed that NJDOT could set up a formal process for agencies to coordinate and outline safety priorities to become more proactive when implementing solutions rather than only being reactive and using high-injury networks (HIN). The group spoke about the unpopularity of red light cameras, but how speed camera enforcement may have more support. Thus, it could be possible to get agencies to reconsider automated enforcement. They discussed how survey assessments and education can help with this.

Michael Dannemiller, Middlesex County reported back for the Design Subcommittee. The group discussed how safety and design are interconnected. They discussed HINs and unifying the methodologies from Local Safety Action Plans to provide a more consistent network across different counties. They spoke about Vision Zero implementation projects and how Middlesex County is developing a GIS-based platform to better understand crash data. The group spoke about road safety audits and automated cameras to impact not just speed, but also enforcing cars to stay out of bus zones.

Greater Mercer TMA introduced a [survey](#) for the Vision Zero Action Plan for Mercer County.

NJ Bike and Walk Coalition announced the success of a meeting to discuss initiatives to improve safety on corridors across six North Jersey counties.

East Coast Greenway Alliance shared that the Alliance is working on an advocacy campaign to ask for a shared-use path on the Delaware River Bridge and is looking for experts to advise on the project. For more information, contact Sofia Barandiaran: sofia@greenway.org

Participants were reminded that early bird registration for the [NJ Bike and Walk Summit](#) closes on March 7.

NJ Future asked if convening of Target Zero Commission could re-center walking and biking safety.

NJ Bike and Walk Coalition announced that the Target Zero Commission is taking comments at an open, public meeting on March 6. Written comments may be submitted to targetzerocommission@dot.nj.gov by or before March 21, 2025.

Participants discussed studies that show the effectiveness of automated enforcement and the importance of this in encouraging agencies to implement speed cameras.

Leigh Ann Von Hagen adjourned the meeting at 11:44.

Attendees:

- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nej, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Julia Kohn, Rutgers-VTC
- Halleigh Johnston, Rutgers-VTC
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- William Riviere, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Keith Hamas (chair), NJTPA
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride
- Tiffany Robinson, NJBWC
- Alan Huff, FHWA-NJ
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
- Astha Negi, Middlesex County
- Charles Romanow, WSP

- Chris Townley, GMTMA
- John Wheeler
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Liza Betz
- Jenna Monaghan, SJTPO
- Sofia Barandiaran, East Coast Greenway
- Jen Farris, DVRPC
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Mary Topp, Rutgers-VTC
- Bettina Zimmy, NV5
- Bryan Proska, TPD
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
- Jacob Cummings, SJTPO
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Mark Tinitigan, South River PD
- Martin Balcazar, Michael Baker International
- Michael Dannemiller, Middlesex County
- Mike Viscardi, NJ TRANSIT
- Mohammad Islam, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Polli Schildge, Asbury Park Complete Streets
- Ramond Joseph, NJ DCA
- Yosy Cosme, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
- Andrew Mikesh, Northern Valley Greenway
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Christian Nowell, Bergen County Complete Streets
- Debra Kagan, NJBWC
- Jack Molenaar, Middlesex County
- Jessica Johnson
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Kathleen Ebert, GMTMA
- Lyndsey Scofield, Jersey City
- Mike Manzella, Jersey City
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Peter Kramer, Michael Baker International
- Samantha DeAndrea, Somerset County
- Tim Evans, NJ Future
- Zeke Weston, NJ Future