



NJ BPAC General Meeting

May 22, 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 Heasly (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:

1. New Policy Subcommittee Chair: Welcome Lyndsey Scofield, AICP, PMP from Jersey City

Lyndsey is a Senior Transportation Planner with Jersey City's Department of Infrastructure where she chairs a multidisciplinary Vision Zero Task Force that is involved in planning and implementing a Safe System Approach to achieve Jersey City's goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2026. While at NJ Transit, she worked on numerous research studies in the Capital Planning & Programming Department to support a wide range of business and planning needs, including strategic projects, Title VI, forecasting & modeling, planning studies, customer satisfaction, and employee engagement.

2. New Safety Subcommittee Chair: Keith Hamas, NJTPA

Keith is a Principal Planner at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), where he has worked for almost 13 years, specializing in transportation safety, data collection and analysis, and multi-modal transportation systems. Keith has led and supported various projects

and initiatives at NJTPA, such as the Regional Active Transportation Plan, Local Safety Action Plans, and Complete Streets assessments.

3. New Personal Conveyance Law

Governor Murphy recently [signed into law](#) a bill enhancing NJ's Safe Passing Law, which was already considered one of the nation's most comprehensive. As many of you know, the Safe Passing Law, which took effect in March 2022, provides clear and enforceable rules for motorists regarding when and how to pass vulnerable road users including pedestrians, cyclists, and others. This updated legislation modifies the Safe Passing Law's language, defining the terms "pedestrian" and "personal conveyance" to eliminate potential ambiguity. The new language includes, but is not limited to, low-speed electric bicycles and scooters, manual and motorized wheelchairs or similar mobility assisting devices, and motorized scooters and skateboards.

4. Newly Adopted Complete and Green Streets Policies

Congratulations to the several New Jersey communities on their recent passage of Complete and Green Streets policies:

- Little Silver
- City of Passaic
- Readington
- Teaneck
- Morris Township

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

5. NJ Bike and Walk Summit & Safe Routes Academy Recap

The 2024 NJ Bike & Walk Summit was hosted by the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition this past Saturday, May 18th at Middlesex College in Edison, NJ. As part of the Summit, the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center hosted the Safe Routes Academy (sponsored by NJDOT) and focused on sessions that would help participants to make their communities more walk- and bike-friendly for all users of all abilities.

Sean Meehan from the Safe Routes Resource Center recapped the Academy. Over 100 participants joined four sessions during the day on a variety of topics designed for parents, teachers, students, municipal leaders, and local volunteers. This year's sessions were:

- Where the Sidewalk Ends: Exploring Safe Street Design
- Talk the Walk: Putting your Vision into a Plan
- Build Better Streets: How to Work with your Municipality
- Fund Your Project: Tips and Strategies for Successful Grant Applications

The 2024 Safe Routes Academy presentations are available on the NJ Safe Routes Resource Center [website](#).

Deb Kagan from the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition reported on the Bike & Walk Summit. Approximately 200 people attended and the keynotes were well received. The first was Beth Osborne from Transportation for America who discussed how money is being made available to communities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She emphasized the importance of advocacy at the state and local level to make sure those funds go to building safe and sustainable streets. Barkha Patel, who is the director of infrastructure in Jersey City, highlighted how many of the priorities in Jersey City's transportation and infrastructure improvements are driven by the values of the Vision Zero movement and how those values are tied to sustainability and environmental justice. Shawn LaTourette, NJDEP Commissioner, talked about the importance of sustainability and DEP's work to help develop a statewide trail network. In total, there were 16 sessions offered at the summit including the Safe Routes Academy.

6. ATIIIP applications due in June

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) announcing up to \$44.5 million in new funding for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIIP). Grants are available for the planning, design, and construction of active transportation networks across the United States. This funding can be used to build walking and bicycling trails, shared-use paths, bike lanes, and sidewalks that connect destinations within communities and/or connect communities to each other. Applications are due to via grants.gov no later than **Monday, June 17, 2024**.

7. Presentations Available on NJ BPRC YouTube

Materials from previous BPAC meetings are available online, including [agendas, notes, presentation slides](#), and [video recordings](#). Presentation slides from the January meeting include *Walking and Cycling During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic* by Dr. Hannah Younes of Rutgers, as well as *Burlington County: Downtown Access for Bicyclists and Pedestrians* by Mark Morley and Kendra Nelson of DVRPC. Recordings are up on the BPRC YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/@njbikeped>.

The recording of Jeremy Chrzan's presentation on the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) is available on the NJ Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center YouTube page. A PDF of slides from this presentation can be found on the BPRC [website](#).

Feature Presentation: NJDOTs Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Assistance Program

by Elise Bremer-Nei, Bettina Zimny, Rachana Sheth, and Pete Kremer

Presentation Slides: https://njbikeped.org/wp-content/uploads/NJDOT_BPPA_slides_05.22.2024.pdf

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xOs5WMT0NI>

Summary:

Elise Bremer-Nei presented on the NJDOT's role in creating and continuing the Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program.

Sam Rosenthal shared updates to the NJ Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center website that include a list of the planning studies performed by NJDOT's on-call consultant teams as well as copies of reports completed in the last ten years.

Bettina Zimny, NV5, explained the on-call consultant role in the Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Assistance Program and introduced other on-call consultants to present on various projects.

Rachana Sheth, NV5, discussed the West Orange Vision Zero Action Plan, one of the most recent projects in the program. This plan involved local communities in West Orange and identified ways in which residents would like to make their streets safer. The Vision Zero Action Plan follows the principles of the Safe System Approach, tying into the requirements of a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan and focusing on FHWA Proven Safety Countermeasures.

Bettina Zimny presented several projects. First was the City of Hoboken's 2010 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan, which was a citywide plan that pushed the city forward as a national leader in safe streets. Many of the recommendations made in the Hoboken plan were implemented or informed future changes to local streets.

Maplewood's 2018 study focused on four corridors to address safety and introduce traffic calming. The plan included a lighting assessment, intersection design review, and planning level concepts for redesign.

The Delaware River Heritage Trail Feasibility Study in 2010 was one of the first Circuit Trail projects in the program. The Local Bicycle & Pedestrian Assistance Program has included studies for several regional trails, including some that are a part of the Circuit Trails network and the East Coast Greenway. The program funded the route planning for the East Coast Greenway.

The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway Bergen County Implementation Study, completed in 2008, was a limited-scope project to identify gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian route along the Hudson Riverfront from Jersey City to Fort Lee. It looked at the real estate for ways to access the riverfront in those gaps to connect the existing segments.

One of the most significant benefits of this program is the potential to use these plans for TAP and SRTS funding.

Pete Kremer, Michael Baker International, presented on the challenges and rewards of working with communities, with a special focus on equity communities in New Jersey.

The 2021 Perry Street Future project focused on a corridor and highway interchange in Trenton. The roadway exemplifies some obsolete design, primarily consisting of features engineered for vehicle movement at high speeds, leading to safety issues for vulnerable road users and a high number of crashes and injuries.

The Bike Paterson plan, completed in 2023, began with public engagement at the National Night Out to get high amount of visibility with the community, especially considering the ongoing issues with community engagement during COVID-19 pandemic. The study team also engaged local teens with the Ride Out for Unity, which was a group ride with police leading and protecting the group. In 2022, the City of Paterson received a Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant to develop a Safety Action Plan.

The 2016 Bike Ironbound plan proposed five pilot projects in Newark. The city focused on three of the projects, from which findings became the driving factor behind implementing the Bike Newark plan.

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

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

Leigh Ann Von Hagen reported on the Design meeting as Thom Stead was unable to attend. The subcommittee discussed the best places to install the new 4-foot bicycle clearance signs (based on the recent update to the MUTCD). Attendees discussed the possibility of adding pedestrians to the sign. Engineers in the meeting reviewed old versions of the MUTCD as well as the California version, which includes a similar sign, for guidance. There is a process for revision to the MUTCD but it is complicated. On a separate note, NJ Transit has awarded a contract to Oonee to put up as many as 12 bike kiosks near transit stations around the state.

Keith Hamas reported on the Safety subcommittee meeting. The main topic of discussion was the SS4A program and various comprehensive Safety Action Plans under development in the state. They discussed how best to coordinate between counties and municipalities during creation of these plans. There is concern about a lack of municipal participation in some counties. Additionally, there was a conversation about the recent revelation that SS4A demonstration activities will need to go through the NEPA process. This will present a number of challenges and attendees wondered if counties and MPOs would provide support and assistance to make that process less burdensome for grantees across the state.

Lyndsey Scofield reported back on Policy. The subcommittee focused on NJ's Safe Passing Law and the newly signed law updating Title 39 to define personal conveyance. VTC staff shared some research performed for the NJ Micromobility Guide (under development). The meeting attendees identified a need to keep track of and engage with legislation around e-micromobility at the state, county, and municipal levels. In other news, NJ DCA shared that the subcommittee's recommendations for changes to the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) will be on the agenda for the upcoming June 13 meeting. In addition, NJDEP shared a vision for a statewide trail network and discussed what subcommittee participation in the development process could entail.

Additional Announcements

DVRPC is currently working on their 9-county regional Vision Zero Plan, which includes coordination with four New Jersey counties. Some of the counties are also developing county-level Vision Zero plans, and DVRPC is asking them to coordinate with their municipalities.

Governor Phil Murphy issued a proclamation that in New Jersey, May is Bike and Walk to School Month and National Bike Month. Copies of the proclamations can be found here:

<https://www.saferoutesnj.org/walk-and-bike-to-school-month-2024/>

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

The [next BPAC meeting](#) is **Wednesday, July 24, 2024**.

Attendees:

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Denise Nickel, Middlesex County
- Jonathan Gray, NJ Transit
- Rachana Sheth, NV5
- Steph Brody, Rutgers-VTC
- Ramond Joseph, NJDCA
- Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Rebecca Levitsky, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Ranjit Walia, Civic Eye Collaborative
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Maham Khurshid, Rutgers-VTC
- Matthew Maher, Stantec
- Keith Hamas, NJTPA
- Michael Russo, McCormick Taylor
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County
- Mike Viscardi, NJ Transit
- Tiffany Robinson, NV5
- David Guinan, NJ State Police
- Marhaba Omer, NJDOT
- Kathleen Ebert, GMTMA
- Rebecca Wetzler, DVRPC
- 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
- Loretta Kelly, NJDOH
- Brendan Torres, Rutgers University
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Andrew Lappitt, Middlesex County
- Michael Rizol, NJ DHTS
- Lindsey Sigmund, NJ Future
- Mohammad A. Islam, NJDOT
- Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion TMA
- Colin Roche, Rutgers University
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Peri Nearon, NJDHS, Department of Disability Services
- Grace Jacob, NJDEP
- Delfina Picchio, Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
- Paul Lenarczyk, NJDOT
- Jonathan Eagle, Somerset County
- Samantha Donovan, Sam Schwartz
- Luis Delgado, Hudson TMA
- Thomas DiBiase, Michael Baker International
- Marcelo Remond, Stantec
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Ek Venin, Borough of Pompton Lakes
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride TMA
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Syd Chan, Enovate
- Chris Townley, GMTMA
- Lisa Serieyssel, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Jonathan Gray, private citizen (UPS)