



**BPAC Policy Subcommittee Meeting
May 22, 2024 10:20 am to 11:15 am
Online Zoom Meeting**

Attendance:

- Lyndsey Scofield (Chair), City of Jersey City
- Colin Roche, Rutgers-VTC
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Lisa Serieyssol, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Steph Brody, Rutgers-VTC
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
- Sam Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Lindsey Sigmund, NJ Future
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC

Legislative Updates

- [New legislation defining "personal conveyance"](#) was signed by Governor Murphy.
 - According to the law, the definition of "personal conveyance" includes, but is not limited to, a low-speed electric bicycle, a low-speed electric scooter, a manual wheelchair, a motorized wheelchair or a similar mobility assisting device used by persons with physical disabilities or by persons whose ambulatory mobility has been impaired by age or illness, an electric personal assistive mobility device, a motorized scooter, a skateboard, a motorized skateboard, roller skates, or any other device used by a person for transportation.
 - Subcommittee members discussed that the new legislation clarifies the New Jersey Safe Passing Law in some ways, but leaves open the question of how the definition of "personal conveyance" may be applied to current and future legislation. Language in Title 39 does not account for the variety of micromobility devices. It is currently unclear the extent to which the new definition of "personal conveyance" covers gaps in the law, as it seems to be referenced only in the Safe Passing Law at this point.
 - In the TR-1 crash reporting manual used by police, personal conveyances (including e-bikes and e-scooters) are categorized as pedestrians. Further clarification on this inconsistency is needed.

- A Target Zero bill to create a statewide task force is slowly moving forward. BPAC should get involved as progress continues.
- E-mobility legislation is going to become increasingly important as devices gain popularity.
 - Current legislative efforts are aimed at insurance and registration. Many advocates oppose these laws, such as a recent effort aimed at requiring e-bike owners to register their devices and purchase insurance, which discourages e-mobility use.
 - Legislation is in the works to support e-bike subsidies for direct tax credits (A660) and for the BPU to establish a rebate program (A1487).
 - Jersey City and Hoboken are taking the initiative by passing e-mobility legislation now. Subcommittee members suggested examining the approaches of other states and municipalities to identify best practices.
- Rutgers-VTC is developing a Micromobility Guide for New Jersey. The goal is to release it by the end of year. The work is being funded by NJDOT.
 - The guide will address micromobility laws, regulations, and safety best practices, including bringing devices onto transit, parking, and battery fire safety.

Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) Updates

- NJ Future has an upcoming call with the NJ Department of Community Affairs in preparation for the Site Improvement Advisory Board meeting to determine whether they will be included on the agenda. The next meeting is June 13th and NJ Future will be in attendance.
- Of the proposed changes, the topic of parking was especially contentious. Assemblyman Calabrese is interested in addressing the issue of parking in RSIS.
- A bill introduced last session post-budget (which means it needs to be reintroduced) would reduce parking requirements in proximity to transit. The Board claims changes were made in September 2023 to allow exceptions regarding minimum parking standards, but clarification is needed on whether this language has been codified.
- Many communities refer to the RSIS when writing their local zoning codes.

Complete and Green Streets

- Rutgers-VTC is developing a primer in response to legislation passed last year directing NJDOT to update its Complete Streets policy to address individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs).
 - The primer synthesizes research regarding Complete Streets for individuals with ASD and IDDs, including information collected from a literature review and from interviews with subject matter experts. The work is being funded by NJDOT.
 - NV5 and Toole Design are working with NJDOT to develop design guidance.

Statewide Trails

- NJDEP is working on a statewide trail network update. In the coming months, NJDEP will provide more details and identify ways for BPAC to become involved.
 - Subcommittee members discussed the opportunity to integrate this plan with NJDOT's statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (BPMP).

Transportation Primer

- The subcommittee previously discussed developing a primer covering Title 39, RSIS, and other regulations that govern active transportation planning in New Jersey. This can be addressed at a future Policy subcommittee meeting.