



NJ BPAC General Meeting
September 25, 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 **James Sinclair** standing in for Leigh Ann Von Hagen and welcoming everyone.

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

1. October is International Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Month

The 28th annual National Walk & Roll to School Day is October 9th, 2024. All month long, communities across New Jersey will be hosting events celebrating the benefits of walking, biking, or rolling to school and raising awareness of the importance of following the rules of the road no matter how you travel, especially if you are driving a vehicle in or near a school zone. If you are a parent, get out there with your child and find safe ways to be active on the way to and from school. To learn more, visit walkbiketoschool.org. Those interested in hosting or supporting an event in your community, reach out to the SRTS Coordinator at [your local TMA](#).

2. Local Safety Action Plans

Counties throughout New Jersey are developing Local Safety Action Plans that help county and local governments identify and prioritize safety improvements to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. When these efforts are completed, every county in New Jersey will have a Local Safety Action Plan, enabling counties and municipalities to seek federal funding to implement safety improvements.

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority is partnering with eight counties in their region to develop LSAPs. This is in addition to four NJTPA counties developing plans using Safe Streets and Roads for All funds and one with an existing plan. Once this effort is completed, every county in the NJTPA region will have a safety action plan, enabling those communities to seek federal funding to implement recommended safety improvements. For more information on this initiative, visit the [NJTPA website](#).

Additionally, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is developing its Regional Vision Zero program, producing a regional Safety Action Plan, which will include its four New Jersey member counties. Mercer and Burlington counties have also been awarded additional Safe Streets and Roads for All funding to expand on DVRPC's regional efforts. For more information on Regional Vision Zero, go to [the DVRPC website](#).

Furthermore, the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization is developing Local Road Safety Plans for its four counties. For more information on the South Jersey efforts, see the [Safe Roads South Jersey website](#).

3. NJDOT efforts

The Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs at the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT-BSBPP) is helping with the effort to increase awareness of New Jersey's Safe Passing Law. NJDOT has been investigating locations on state roadways for installation of 4-Foot Passing Signs and is placing them where appropriate. Notification just went out to all of the county engineers about sections of county roads that cycling clubs are concerned about and NJDOT is still working on the information provided to them about local roadways that may be good candidates for the signs. If **you** know of a location where you believe a 4-Foot Passing sign would make it safer for people on bikes, ask your municipality or county to investigate.

The NJDOT-BSBPP is also kicking off the update to the 2016 New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will soon be updating the 2020 New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Both of these projects will have ample opportunity for BPAC members and the public to get involved.

4. Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy

Last week, the NJDOT Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority hosted a free webinar on Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy. The webinar was organized by Sustainable Jersey and facilitated by Rutgers-VTC. It focused on how to create and adopt a municipal Complete and Green Streets policy using NJDOT's Complete & Green Streets for All: Model Policy & Guide. A recording of the webinar and a PDF of the slides are available on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).

As a follow-up, there will be a virtual open house on Wednesday, October 30th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This will be a live Q&A session where we will try to answer your specific questions about how to adopt and implement a policy to design safer, greener, and more accessible streets for your community.

5. Newly Adopted Complete and Green Streets Policies

Some New Jersey communities have recently passed updated Complete and Green Streets policies. NJDOT would like to congratulate the Borough of Oakland and the City of Red Bank. A full list of New Jersey communities with Complete Streets policies is available on the [NJ Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).

6. Safe Passing Law Video: Now Available in Spanish

The Safe Passing Law video produced last year by Civic Eye Collaborative with funding from NJDOT is now available in Spanish as well as English. The video has been running on TVs in NJ Motor Vehicle Commission facilities for the past year. It explains how to follow New Jersey's Safe Passing Law, which aims to prevent the near misses, injuries and deaths that can occur when motorists pass cyclists, pedestrians, or other vulnerable road users. Both English and Spanish versions of the video are available on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).

7. BPAC Subcommittee Updates

Finally, an update on our BPAC Subcommittees. Thom Stead from DVRPC will be stepping down as chair of the Design subcommittee after today's meeting.

Elise Bremer-Nei introduced **Julie Seaman** who [presented](#) on the **TA Set-Aside Program 2025 Solicitation**. The solicitation announcement is anticipated in Fall 2024. It is recommended to use past guidance to start planning applications. One-on-one meetings will once again be mandatory for grant applicants, and guidance on scheduling meetings will be provided.

Eligible projects must relate to surface transportation, must be for a complete, identifiable, and useable facility or activity, and must meet the criteria for at least one of the seven categories. The application will be released on [SAGE](#) and documentation and additional information will be available on [the Local Aid Resource Center website](#).

Ramond Joseph and **Samantha DeAndrea** from the NJ Department of Community Affairs [presented](#) on their programs that can be used for bicycle and pedestrian improvements through the Local Planning Services Division.

- The Local Planning Assistance program
- [Main Street New Jersey](#)
- [Neighborhood Preservation Program \(NPP\)](#)
- [Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit \(NRTC\)](#)

Additionally, the Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Division includes bicycle and pedestrian initiative funding through the State Fiscal recovery Fund, which has funded three relevant major initiatives:

- Newark Pedestrianization Initiative
- Boardwalk Preservation Fund
- Greenway Project

Bettina Zimny and Tiffany Robinson, NV5, [presented](#) a preview of the scope and approach they will take on the **2025 State of New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**. The presentation summarized the scope and project purpose, an overview of previous master plans, and highlights from research in advance of meetings with NJDOT management.

James Sinclair opened the subcommittees at 10:30.
(See *subcommittee notes for additional information*).

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

Thom Stead reported back for the Design subcommittee. Today's meeting included a presentation on the DVRPC EXPO project (Experimental Popups). The presentation discussed the collaborative nature of the projects they are working on around a school. The presentation slides are available on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).

Lyndsey Scofield reported back for the Policy subcommittee. The meeting included a discussion on Complete and Green Streets policies. Specifically, there was a discussion of integrating Complete Streets Policies into ongoing comprehensive safety action plans. There are resources available, including the model policy and guide, to support the development of a CGS policy. The target zero bill is working its way through the legislature. There is draft language for automated enforcement legislation for school zones. NJ DHTS is undertaking an assessment, which will come up with recommendations for driver behavior as well as bicycle and pedestrian focused recommendations. Additionally, the subcommittee discussed potential topics for a transportation primer, which is hoped to compile resources and information on funding resources and street design.

Greg Woltman reported back for the Safety Subcommittee. Today's meeting included a presentation on crash databases and the state of crash reporting at the state level across the United States. The presentation slides are available on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#). The discussion following focused on different databases and dashboards which visualize publicly available crash information in New Jersey. Additionally, the group discussed disparities in crash data geolocation rates, where some municipalities have a much lower percentage of reported crashes with geographic coordinates or other location information. With a larger number of police departments using the NJCrash application for crash reporting, which has risen to 86% of municipal police departments, the rate of non-geolocated crashes is going down.

Additional Announcements

On September 14, Jersey City held its Annual Kids Bike Ride and Scavenger Hunt, which is an opportunity for families to explore the city's protected bike lane network. The event was a success with a lot of participation from the community. Hudson TMA gave away close to 100 helmets as part of the event, and BikeJC provided group rides as part of the event.

The NJ Bike and Walk Coalition's next SAFE network meeting is Tuesday, October 15. The webinar will include a panel discussion on working with your municipality, with participants from different positions in municipal government.

There will be a Big Bike Bus [event](#), "Bike with Balto," in Montclair, this Friday, Sept. 27. All are welcome to join. Coach Balto has been a social media sensation, inspiring many communities around the country to create their own Bike Bus activities to school.

NJTPA is holding various outreach events for its [safety action plans](#).

The NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center, with support from NJDOT and NJTPA, and in partnership with Sustainable Jersey, held a [webinar](#), “Crafting an Effective Complete and Green Streets Policy”. A Q&A style open house will be held on October 30. Registration and other information is available on the [NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website](#).

James Sinclair adjourned the meeting at 11:35.

The [next BPAC meeting](#) is Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Attendees:

- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- Nikita Soni, Rutgers-VTC
- Samantha DeAndrea, NJ DCA
- Ramond Joseph, NJ DCA
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Tiffany Robinson, NV5
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- Cole Johnson, Rutgers-VTC
- Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Julie Seaman, NJDOT Office of Local Aid
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Mohammad A. Islam, NJDOT
- Marhaba Omer, NJDOT
- Jacob Cummings, SJTPO
- Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Chris Townley, Greater Mercer TMA
- Robert DiCroce, CME Associates
- Madison Fallacara, Hudson TMA
- Mike Viscardi, NJ TRANSIT
- Christina Arzola, Hudson TMA
- Liza Betz, Union County
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- William Riviere, NJDOT-BSBPP
- Thom Stead, DVRPC
- John Mascaro, HBK Engineering
- Anne Heasly, Sustainable Jersey
- Jill Shah, City of Jersey City
- Jonathan Eagle, Somerset County
- Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA-NJ
- Kristen McLaughlin, Cross County Connection TMA
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Noelle Santos, BIANJ
- Peri L. Nearon, NJ DHS
- John Wheeler
- David Verdia, McCormick Taylor
- Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Jenna Monaghan, SJTPO
- Michael Rizol, NJ DHTS
- Adam Iaccheo, EZ Ride
- Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
- Elizabeth Ward, Highlands
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Jessica Johnson, Avenues in Motion
- Dan LiSanti, NJDOT
- Nazhat Aboobaker, NJDOT
- Zeke Weston, NJ Future
- Simran Riar, NJ DCA
- Loretta Kelly, NJ DOH
- Mike Johnson, EZ Ride TMA
- Cassidy Boulan, DVRPC
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Michael Popovech, Monmouth County
- Jen Farris, DVRPC
- Lisa Lee, EZ Ride TMA
- Kathleen Ebert, Greater Mercer TMA
- John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

- Marissa Volk Binjaku, DVRPC
- Sofia Barandiaran, East Coast Greenway