



BPAC Policy Subcommittee Meeting
September 25, 2024 10:10 am to 11:05 am
Online Zoom Meeting

Attendance:

Lyndsey Scofield (Chair), City of Jersey
City
Kathleen Ebert, GMTMA
Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
Peter Bilton, NJTPA
Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
Mike Manzella, City of Jersey City
Mike Johnson, EZ Ride
Jill Shah, Rutgers
Micheal Rizol, NJ DHTS

Joe Rapp, NJDOT
Johnathan Eagle
Erlea Maldonado, EZ Ride
Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
Tiffany Robinson, NV5
Samantha DeAndrea, NJDCA
Cole Johnson, Rutgers-VTC
Anne Heasly, Sustainable Jersey
Andrea Lubin, Rutgers-VTC
Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
Chris Townley, GMTMA

Complete Streets Efforts

- Committee members discussed how to integrate Complete Streets efforts with the local safety action plan process.
- It was noted that one New Jersey municipality received a silver level recognition for the Safe Routes Recognition Program, but did not reach gold because they did not have a Complete Streets policy.
- The group was asked if anyone had any ideas for assisting counties in developing Complete Streets policies.
- Subcommittee members discussed possible statewide outreach for the Complete Streets Model Policy, including ways to disseminate information about funding opportunities to more municipalities.
- There was some agreement that it would be useful if Municipal Aid or other grants for towns gave a boost to those with Complete Streets policies. This could be a way to incentivize municipal Complete Streets policy adoption across the state.

- Sustainable Jersey and VTC have been doing work to spread awareness about Complete Streets through conferences like the Bike Walk Summit. This has been useful, as Complete Streets policies are voluntary and are not regulatory requirements.
- NJ Future is working on a housing campaign right now, a big part of which has been addressing parking requirements and raising awareness about parking minimums and their associated costs.

Legislative Updates

- The Target Zero bill will be on the assembly floor in the coming days.
- Senate Appropriations will be happening soon.
- Language regarding school zone speed cameras is currently being developed. The first draft of that legislation is only focused on school zones. The legislation is still early in development and input is welcome.

Transportation Primer

- Subcommittee members discussed an ongoing effort within the subcommittee to develop a primer on the regulations that influence transportation decisions in New Jersey.
- Municipal planners may not have to have a total and complete understanding of the funding structure of every project and grant, because there are so many and they can vary so widely. A simplified education project that provides a broad understanding for wide audiences who only need a familiarity, not a complete knowledge of regulations.
- The subcommittee is looking for ideas on which topics would be most useful to include in a transportation primer for those unfamiliar with the field.
 - Matching money with programs and projects, including the different requirements for different pots of money, especially for competitive grants. This could include a workflow chart that clearly shows what grants and programs will accomplish what, and what kinds of projects would be best suited for each grant.
 - The primer can also include a guide that describes what different organizations in New Jersey do, including NJDOT, NJDCA, and the MPOs.
 - The primer should point people toward guides like the Complete Streets Design Guide, the School Zone Design Guide, and others.
 - The primer should provide information on vocabulary terms related to transportation planning.
 - NJDOT has a lot of information that can be combined with other organizations' findings in a guide on what works and what doesn't when it comes to municipal plans.
 - For a lot of lower-level planners, they shouldn't need to be an expert on all of the state's programs. They just need to know which programs to apply to based on their community's circumstances, which they are in a unique position to understand.

Other Updates

- The Division of Highway Traffic Safety is conducting a bicycle and pedestrian safety program assessment, which is initiating in-person interviews to gather information on statewide programs and projects. They are looking for someone to interview on Vision Zero to provide their experiences and point of view, as well as someone who can speak to equity and underserved communities.