

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## FREEHOLD · NEW JERSEY

JAMES GIANNELL  
Chairman



JOSEPH BARRIS, PP, AICP, CFM  
Director of Planning

Minutes for the Meeting of the  
**Monmouth County Transportation Council**  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
Monmouth County Planning Board  
One East Main Street  
Hall of Records Annex Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

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### I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM

### II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

Garaguso, Anthony  
Vernick, Jeff  
Barrett, Betsy  
Ponzio, Nicholas  
Nelson, Eric  
Lucarelli, Ben

Staff Present

Schmetterer, David  
Furmanec, Victor  
Ruff, Quinn  
DeGroot, Kyle

Members Excused

Van Nortwick, Peter

### III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council's January 12, 2021, minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Lucarelli motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Barrett, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS

*- Bylaws review*

The bylaws governing the MCTC were reviewed, especially with respect to pending changes related to the membership of the Council. The following specific provisions were considered to be amended:

- Article II, Section 1 was reviewed with respect to a pending resolution before the County Commissioners that would change the number of regular members from 15 to 10. Membership would be comprised of one member of the Planning Board, to be designated by the County Commissioners, and nine members of the public. The pending resolution also provides that members would represent the needs of all travellers, rather than appointing individual members to represent specific segments of the travelling public. This particular change is in part designed to simplify the recruitment of new members by

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eliminating difficulties imposed by having to find individuals qualified to represent specified categories of the travelling public. The Council also asked that the bylaws cite the initial resolution (00-85) that established the MCTC.

- Article II, Section 2 was reviewed with respect to the specified member responsibilities. It was noted that the current provision is cumbersome, especially as the number of members is not sufficient to represent all of the specified interest groups. The Council will consider eliminating the first three provisions in this section, as only the fourth section represents the manner in which the MCTC functions. Mr. Schmetterer will prepare an amendment for consideration at the next meeting.
- Article II, Section 3 was reviewed with respect to member terms. It was suggested that the terms should be staggered to reduce the number of members whose term expires at the same time.
- Article II, Section 5 was reviewed with respect to filling vacancies. It was suggested that an amendment be considered to clarify who and how members are appointed to the Council.
- Article III, Section 3 was reviewed with respect to electing officers. It was suggested that an amendment be considered to cite manner in which the MCTC officers are elected, i.e., Article III, Section 1.
- Article IV, Section 1 was reviewed with respect to allowing meetings to be held via virtual platforms. Thus the time, place and method of the meeting would be determined by the Council. It was suggested that the agenda would be prepared by the staff advisor in consultation with the Council's officers, rather than just the Chairperson. The Chairman asked whether there should be a provision to eliminate a meeting in the month of August, as meetings have not been held in that month in the past. This issue was left for discussion at the next meeting.
- Article IV, Section 4 was reviewed with respect to what constitutes a majority vote of Council members. This issue is to be discussed further at the next meeting. The discussion then focused on who may represent the MCTC at Planning Board meetings. It was decided that this provision should be amended to provide for the staff advisor, or potentially some other designee, to make presentations to the Planning Board of behalf of the MCTC.

The discussion ended with the understanding that a proposed set of amendments would be drafted by Mr. Garaguso, Mr. Vernick and Mr. Schmetterer for presentation at the next MCTC meeting.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

*- Resolution 2021-01 Recognizing Nancy Grbelja's contributions to the Transportation Council.*

After reviewing the draft resolution, the Council discussed changing the third paragraph to acknowledge Ms. Grbelja's "personal time and energies" rather than "personal time and resources." With that change, Ms. Barrett made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Mr. Ponzio. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the motion.

*- Resolution 2021-01 Recognizing Barry Frost's contributions to the Transportation Council.*

After a brief discussion, Mr. Vernick made a motion to adopt the draft resolution, seconded by Mr. Nelson. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the motion.

*- Introduction of Michael Nei, Traffic Engineer - Design*

Joe Ettore, County Engineer, introduced a new employee in the Division of Engineering. Michael Nei has been employed as a Traffic Engineer who will be working on the design of County road projects. Mr. Ettore noted that

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Mr. Nei started his career at Monmouth County Engineering before working in Burlington County for the past 23 years. Mr. Nei will be participating in future MCTC meetings.

### *- Plan 2050*

Mr. Garaguso brought attention to NJTPA's Plan 2050 project. In particular, he encouraged everyone to go to the Plan 2050 webpage at the njtpa.org website to complete the survey, which is designed to solicit comments concerning the transportation needs of its service area.

### *- Approval for PSE&G to install infrastructure for EV charging stations*

Mr. Vernick brought the Council's attention to an article on the recent approval of State funding that will allow PSE&G to make improvements to its infrastructure needed to allow the installation of EV charges throughout its service area. The infrastructure will enable the installation of EV chargers at 40,000 residential, 3,500 commercial sites and 1,000 sites located along major highways over a period of six years. PSE&G will not own or operate the EV charging stations. Mr. Vernick requested that Andrea Friedman be invited to present an update of her November 2020 presentation to inform the MCTC on this matter, and that the MCTC investigate how the County may be able to take advantage of this funding. It was noted that much, if not all, of Monmouth County is served by JCP&L, rather than PSE&G.

### *- Complete Streets*

Mr. Lucarelli and Mr. Ettore discussed Fair Haven's bike lane project for River Road (County Route 1). Mr. Lucarelli indicated that Fair Haven would resubmit a revised proposal that more closely complies with program requirements. He noted that school children are not bused so that establishing bike lanes is important to the community. Mr. Ettore indicated he looks forward to working with Fair Haven on this project, and that he is amenable to coming before the Council to more thoroughly discuss the county's Complete Streets program.

### *- Bridges*

Mr. Ettore gave a short overview of the status of the Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge project. The County received \$100 million for construction and \$20 million for its design and inspections. The County is now authorized to seek bids from contractors. The new bridge will be constructed just north of the existing bridge, and will take about 36 months to complete. No detours are anticipated as traffic will be routed to the new bridge upon its completion. The contractor will utilize a local park in Rumson to stage equipment and materials, as well as for employee parking. Mr. Ettore indicated he would be in a better position to discuss the Oceanic Bridge after meeting with the U.S. Coast Guard in March or April. He noted that the Oceanic Bridge project was in the first of six stages (Concept Development), and that the overall process leading up to construction would take 6-8 years.

### *- Pedestrian Scramble*

Mr. Vernick brought the Council's attention to a traffic safety practice utilized in Princeton where a dedicated phase of a traffic signal allows pedestrians and cyclists to cross both intersecting streets. He encouraged the County to explore locations where this practice can be utilized in Monmouth County. (Note: The traffic signal at the intersection of Main and South Streets in downtown Freehold provides this type of dedicated phase.)

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### **VII. REPORTS OF STAFF**

#### *- Monmouth Within Reach*

Mr. Schmetterer gave status report on this study. He indicated the project was at the site selection phase, and was in process of narrowing down the list of potential destination sites to be studied in greater detail from about 24 to 5. Maps were presented showing the routes that drivers were taking to several Monmouth County destinations, such as Sandy Hook, Asbury Park, Holland Ridge Farm, Belmar, Red Bank, Freehold and Monmouth Park. The maps also showed the traffic volumes along these routes.

### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance at this meeting.

### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Garaguso announced that the next meeting of the Monmouth County Transportation Council will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held via Webex. Council members and members of the public will be provided with the Webex meeting information through the agenda notification system and email.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Mr. Lucarelli and seconded by Mr. Nelson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.