

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

Minutes for the Meeting of the
Monmouth County Transportation Council
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
Monmouth County Planning Board
One East Main Street
Hall of Records Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Freehold, NJ 07728

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM

II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

Frost, Barry
Vernick, Jeff
Nelson, Eric
Garaguso, Anthony
Grbelja, Nancy
Ben Lucarelli
Nicholas Ponzio
Barrett, Betsy

Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor
David Schmetterer
Joe Ettore

Members Excused

Van Nortwick, Peter

III. MCTC OFFICER ELECTIONS

Chairman Garaguso opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Monmouth County Transportation Council. Mr. Nelson nominated Mr. Garaguso for the position of Chairman which was seconded by Ms. Grbelja. With no other nominations for the position of Chairman, Mr. Garaguso asked for a vote on the appointment. The Council voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Garaguso for the position of Chairman.

Mr. Garaguso thanked the Council and assumed the role of Chairman. He then opened the floor for nominations for a Vice Chairman. Mr. Nelson nominated Mr. Vernick to continue in his position as Vice Chairman which was seconded by Mr. Frost. With no other nominations for the position of Vice Chairman, Chairman Garaguso asked for a vote. The Council voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Vernick for the position of Vice Chairman.

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Council's approval of the November 12, 2019 minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Nelson motioned to accept the November 12th minutes which was seconded by Ms. Barrett and accepted unanimously by the Council.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- NJ TRANSIT Customer Advisory Board (CAB) and Passenger Advisory Committee (PAC)

Staff informed the Council they have been in contact with Stewart Mader, NJ TRANSIT's Chief Customer Experience Officer and Customer Advocate regarding the organization's new Customer Advisory Board and Passenger Advisory Committee. Mr. Mader is responsible for the Customer Advisory Board which released a press release inviting potential candidates to apply for a position on the Board. Staff was made aware that the Customer Advisory Board and Passenger Advisory Committee are two different entities within NJ TRANSIT. The appointment of Passenger Advisory Committee members is regulated by legislation similar to the NJ TRANSIT Board while the Customer Advisory Board had an open invitation for candidates to apply.

Staff also spoke with NJ TRANSIT's Interim Government Relations contact Chris D'Elia who informed them there have been no new appointments to the Passenger Advisory Committee.

Through news articles, staff was able to learn that there have been four new appointees to the NJ TRANSIT Customer Advisory Board. Mr. Vernick reminded the Council that the NJ TRANSIT Board has been understaffed with only three members for a number of years and asked if the four new appointees were enough to fully staff the Board. Staff responded that the Board is intended to have a total of thirteen members and other potential appointees are still being discussed and vetted. Mr. Vernick added that he submitted an application for the Customer Advisory Board but has not heard anything back yet. Staff added that they have no new information to report regarding Freeholder actions to request a Monmouth representative on the Passenger Advisory Committee as recommended by the Council and Planning Board by resolution.

In addition, staff reported that Mr. Mader was open to coming to speak to the Council about the Customer Advisory Board and is investigating the best way to fostering cooperation between the Customer Advisory Board and organizations such as the Transportation Council.

- Response to Public Request

Mr. Garaguso recalled for the Council an email from a Mr. Logrippo suggesting the Council investigate the possibility of implementing High Casualty Route Signage similar to examples Mr. Logrippo encountered while traveling abroad. The Council had directed Staff to investigate similar signage already in use within New Jersey which resulted in the Council's review of New Jersey's Safe Routes Corridor Program. Similar to the High Casualty Routes Signage, this program targets routes that experience high number of collisions but also included increased enforcement, fines, and grant opportunities to improve road safety. The Council also considered that signage design standards set by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices are intended to allow for drivers to easily recognize signage without being distracted from the act of driving. The Council felt the Safe Routes Corridor Program was a productive and effective program and did not want to possibly cause confusion or distractions by adding new signage unfamiliar to drivers.

The Transportation Council instructed Staff to respond to Mr. Logrippo expressing their gratitude for his participation and for sparking a lively discussion and learning opportunity for the Council however; they do not feel High Casualty Route signage would be appropriate for Monmouth County.

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

- New Jersey Real ID

At previous meetings Council members expressed having difficulties scheduling an interview with the Motor Vehicle Commission to acquire a Real ID. Staff notified the Council they had investigated further and prepared a draft email outlining the Council's concerns with the current process and asking for clarity. Additionally, in their research staff discovered the Motor Vehicle Commission recommends those whose current identifications are scheduled to expire in the last three months before the October 1, 2020 deadline should wait until their expiration to receive Real ID's. The email asks if these individuals will be permitted to acquire their Real ID's through the usual walk-in process associated with renewing an expired identification, or if they must still schedule an interview via the online scheduling system. Allowing these people to walk-in without scheduling interviews to receive Real ID's should provide some ease on the online scheduling system as it is currently fully booked.

Ms. Barrett reiterated her experiences of the slow loading scheduling calendar and requested more information be provided on the webpage to notify people when the calendar is fully booked. As it currently stands, there is no legend to explain which days are available and which are not. When Ms. Barrett visited the website and saw all days illustrated the same, she did not understand they were all booked and was under the impression the website was not working correctly. Staff is limited to characters in their email as it is through the Motor Vehicle Commission webpage but agreed to add text explaining that website responsiveness is slow which creates confusion and the calendar could be improved on with the inclusion of a legend.

The Council agreed on the email's subject matter and directed Staff to send the email upon final approval of the Council Officers.

- NJ TRANSIT Improvements

Mr. Garaguso reminded the Council of their discussion in November regarding NJ TRANSIT's declining service's potential effect on real estate prices in train station adjacent municipalities, and that discussion at the last meeting had suggested the possibility that Monmouth County Mayors may want to contact their legislators directly regarding this issue. Mr. Lucarelli reported that he had not discussed this with other Mayors yet but will do so soon and report back to the Council. Mr. Garaguso tabled this issue until the Council's February meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Transportation Council 2020 Calendar

The Meeting Calendar has a scheduled meeting on the second Tuesday of every month excluding August and June. In June the Council is scheduled to meet on the third Tuesday or the month due to a conflicting conference multiple Council members attend annually.

Before voting on the meeting schedule, Mr. Garaguso asked Council members for potential meeting topics or general topics of interest. Mr. Vernick was interest in the progress of the Henry Hudson Trail. Staff volunteered to get an update from Paul Glietz of County Parks on their progress along the Henry Hudson Trail and ask if Mr. Gleitz would be willing to come discuss it with the Council. Mr. Ponzio informed the Council of newly passed legislation calling for reductions in vehicle emissions, establishing rebates for the purchase of new electric vehicles, setting targets for numbers of electric vehicles to be sold, as well as money for new vehicle chargers. Staff assured the Council they have been keeping track of this legislation but will look for someone willing to speak with them about its specifics. If staff is unable to find someone, they volunteered to update the Council as best they can. Mr. Garaguso brought up installation of 5G equipment and Mr. Lucarelli added that AT&T was scheduled to speak about 5G at his next Mayor's meeting. He offered to attempt to connect the AT&T representative with Staff to

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

hopefully arrange a presentation. Staff had previously informed the Council that Mr. Mader of NJ TRANSIT was willing to come speak to them. Mr. Garaguso suggested if Mr. Mader was coming, NJ TRANSIT may be willing to also send their new government affairs representative once Mr. Clark's replacement has been established. Staff agreed and explained they are also preparing a presentation of CHANJ data within Monmouth County for their consideration. Mr. Frost suggested the topic of senior and disabled transportation as a meeting topic, to which Mr. Lucarrelli narrowed the subject to Monmouth County's SCAT service. The Council agreed an overview of SCAT's service and performance may be informative. The Council tasked staff with arranging for these topics at future Council meetings.

With the discussion of meeting topics at an end, Mr. Lucarrelli motioned to accept the Transportation Council's 2020 Calendar as proposed. Ms. Grbelja seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously by the council. The Council also discussed topics of interest for the upcoming year such as the completion of the Henry Hudson, Electric Vehicle legislation, 5G implementation, County SCAT services, and speaking with NJ TRANSIT.

-Mr. Frost Highway Signage

Before the close of New Business Mr. Frost proposed the Transportation Council reach out to the Turnpike Authority and suggest the installation of exit number signage at the entrance ramps of highways. He explained that this additional signage would help orient drivers entering the highway to their current location as well assist lost drivers where they are in respect to their appropriate highway exit or entrance.

VII. QUARTERLY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

- Winter 2020 Newsletter Analytics

Staff summarized the analytics of the January newsletter released on January 6, 2020 for the Council. The number of people subscribed to receive the newsletter has increased by 22 people since October to total of 724 recipients. The number of articles opened in the newsletter increased as well and the percentage of total recipients opening articles has been fluctuating slightly around 25% for the past year. The most popular articles were pertaining to Real ID's, the absence of a toll hike on the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Expressway, winter driving tips, electric car charging station legislation, Portal Bridge's permanent closure during rush hour, and Monmouth County's new GIS open data portal tool.

VIII. REPORTS OF STAFF

- Tourism and Events Demand Management Update

Staff reported that the final comments have been received on the projects Request for Proposal and will be finalized and released as soon as possible. Staff is hopeful to have a consultant on board within the next few months. Mr. Vernick asked if the Council will be participating in Tourism and Events Demand Management Study. Staff informed the Council that their participation will be requested as a part of the Study's Advisory Committee.

- Monmouth Representative for EZ Ride's Board of Trustees

Staff had no new information regarding the EZ Ride Board of Trustees Resolution

- Active Shooter Guidance for Transit Customers

Staff informed the Council that prior to this meeting Mr. Garaguso signed a finalized letter that is to be sent to Chris D'Elia of NJ TRANSIT later this week. Additionally, Kevin Corbett of NJ TRANSIT and James Giannell of the Monmouth County Planning Board will be receiving copies. Staff assured the Council that they would report back with any response they received.

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be – 7:00PM Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the Monmouth County Division of Planning Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ms. Grbelja and seconded by Ms. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.