

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, July 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

Garaguso, Anthony
Vernick, Jeff
Nelson, Eric
Ponzio, Nicholas
Grbelja, Nancy
Barrett, Betsy
Frost, Barry
Van Nortwick, Peter

Staff Present

Bonanno, James – Staff Advisor
Schmetterer, David

Members Excused

Lucarelli, Ben

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Council's approval of the June 9, 2020 minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Ms. Grbelja motioned to accept the June 9th minutes which was seconded by Mr. Vernick and accepted unanimously by the Council with the exception of Mr. Van Nortwick who abstained.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

- NJ TRANSIT 10-Year Strategic Plan and 5-Year Capital Plan

Mr. Vernick began by outlining NJ TRANSIT's 10-Year Strategic Plan. He explained that this document is a road map for how NJ TRANSIT will be prioritizing issues and improvement for the decade to come. The Plan's strategies are organized under NJ TRANSIT's five main goals: Ensure the reliability and continued safety of our transit system, deliver a high quality experience for all our customers with their entire journey in mind, power a stronger and

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

fairer economy for all communities in the region, promote a more sustainable future for our planet, and build an accountable, innovative, and inclusive organization that delivers for New Jersey. Each of these goals is followed by a number of strategies that are organized into time frames of 0-2, 3-5, and 6-10 years. Mr. Vernick encouraged the Council to review the strategies proposed in this document to ensure they encompass all areas NJ TRANSIT is in need of improvement.

Mr. Vernick continued onto NJ TRANSIT's 5-Year Capital Plan and explained that while the information in this plan only builds on that of the Strategic Plan, it does give a much clearer view of how NJ TRANSIT plans to meet their goals previously outlined. Infrastructure, technology, and program spending are all defined within this Plan.

Mr. Vernick offered a few courses of action for the Council's review of NJ TRANSIT's plans: members could either each review the documents on their own, or form a subcommittee to review the documents with the review focusing on strategies and goals that may be missing and what strategies align with Monmouth County's existing goals.

Mr. Garaguso thanked Mr. Vernick for introducing the plans to the council and asked the council how they felt and what path they would like to take in reviewing these documents. Ms. Grbelja expressed that she is very happy to see NJ TRANSIT has a plan and that this is a big improvement from how they have been operating in previous years. Mr. Frost agreed and shared Ms. Grbelja's sentiments that this plan is a positive move for NJ TRANSIT. He also expressed his desire for all members to review the documents separately as he felt these plans were too important to be left to a subcommittee and requires the full attention of all council members.

Considering that some states, cities, and municipalities are now planning to reduce funding for police departments, Mr. Ponzio noted that because public transit has felt much safer in recent years and thanks to the officers employed by NJ TRANSIT and the Port Authority, he felt that NJ TRANSIT's Strategic Plan's goals for safety should be a strong priority.

Due to the Council not having a scheduled meeting in August, Mr. Garaguso recommended council members and staff share thoughts and continue the conversation over email. The Council felt this was the appropriate action to take and staff recommended the council decide on a few defined questions to help council members guide their review of the documents. Staff built off of Mr. Vernick's suggestions and offered: what additional strategies and goals do you feel should be included, what initiatives align with Monmouth County goals or could be piloted within Monmouth County, and what strategies or goals are lacking complete information and can be improved on. Mr. Garaguso agreed and asked Staff to reach out to the Council later in the week and provide links to the NJ TRANSIT documents as well as the questions discussed to spur discussion and guide everyone in their review. He also directed staff to arrange a meeting in August between staff, himself and any volunteers to have an additional discussion prior to the Council's September meeting. Mr. Vernick and Mr. Frost volunteered to take part.

VI. TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

- July Newsletter Analytics

Staff informed the Council that the Summer Newsletter was distributed to 905 subscribers which is an increase of 95 subscribers from the previous Spring Newsletter. Along with subscriptions the number of newsletter opens and clicks has also increased although the percentage of total opens and clicks has remained the same. The most popular articles pertained to NJ TRANSIT's contactless ticket machine pilot program, extensions to driver license, and vehicle registration and inspection deadlines, NJ Turnpike Authority toll hikes, and how transportation trends may change in the world after COVID-19.

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL
Planning Board Chairman



Anthony Garaguso
Council Chairman

Staff also reminded the Council of their request in June for a quicker and easier method of subscribing to the newsletter, and presented them with a new subscription overlay for their webpage. All visitors to the Transportation Council webpage will now be met with an overlay of the webpage that invites them to subscribe for the newsletter before they proceed onto the webpage. The Council thanked staff for the update and overlay and asked that staff provide a link to the Transportation Council's webpage in the meeting chat so anyone interested could subscribe to the newsletter.

VII. REPORTS OF STAFF

- Tourism and Events Demand Management Update

Staff updated the Council that the project team and consultants kicked off the project in June and have begun collecting location based data sourced from mobile devices and GPS units. The consultant team also presented to staff a recent Travel Demand Study they completed in New York that is similar to the Tourism and Events Demand Management Study to help staff better understand how they intend to move forward with this study.

Staff announced that the study has received a name which is "Monmouth Within Reach." The name is meant to imply that this study will help find ways to improve access to both entertainment and necessities that residents and visitors often find are pushed slightly out of their reach because of complications arising from difficulties in accessing Monmouth County's popular tourism attractions.

Staff also announced that the Advisory Committee is currently being formed and requested a member of the Council, whether they are a volunteer or appointee, to take part in the Monmouth Within Reach Advisory Committee as a representative for the Transportation Council. Mr. Garaguso stated that he found his time on the Moving Mindfully Study Advisory Committee very informative and asked if anyone would like to volunteer for the Monmouth Within Reach Advisory Committee. Staff explained that the volunteer would be expected to represent the interests of the Transportation Council and no in person meetings are currently planned. As of right now all meetings are expected to take place over the internet. Mr. Garaguso asked Council members to consider volunteering and to please reach out to Staff if they are interested.

- Resolution Thanking Front-Line Transportation Workers

Staff reported that the Monmouth County Planning Board mailed the Transportation Council's Resolution Thanking Front-Line Transportation Workers to each recipient specified by the Council.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting will be – 7:00 PM Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The meeting will either 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.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ms. Grbelja and seconded by Mr. Nelson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.