

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, May 11, 2021
Monmouth County Planning Board
One East Main Street
Hall of Records Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:05 PM

II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

Garaguso, Anthony – Chair
Vernick, Jeff – Vice Chair
Barrett, Betsy
Nelson, Eric
Ponzio, Nicholas
Van Nortwick, Peter

Staff Present

Ettore, Joe
Furmanec, Victor
Nei, Michael
Popovech, Michael
Ruff, Quinn
Schmetterer, David
Shanahan, Ashlyn

Members Unexcused

Lucarelli, Ben

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council meeting minutes for March 9, 2021 and April 13, 2021 was tabled to the next meeting.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- NJ TRANSIT Projects Relating to Monmouth County

Christopher D'Elia of the NJ TRANSIT Office of Government & Community Affairs and Louis Millan and Michael Viscardi of the NJ TRANSIT Office of Planning gave an overview of emerging projects affecting Monmouth County that are discussed in NJ TRANSIT's 10-year Strategic plan or 5-year Capital plan. Projects included:

- Bus Shelter redesigns and rebuilds.
- Bus "Queue Jump" lanes and traffic signal priority.

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- Redeveloping municipalities parking management strategies.
- Battery Operated Train pilot project from Long Branch to Bay Head.
- Henry Hudson Trail extension projects.

Council and Staff members asked questions relating to projects discussed, including:

Q: At an intersection, what differentiates a bus proceed signal from other vehicle traffic proceed signals?

A: The bus's location in the queue jump lane as well as modifications to the existing traffic signals at the intersection to convey bus priority. Such options are to be researched.

Q: Why are existing shoulders required to be rebuilt?

A: Shoulders will have to be rebuilt to support the weight of buses traveling on the shoulder at peak hours.

Q: As NJ TRANSIT has existing dual mode train engines, what is the purpose of the battery train pilot?

A: It would be both an environmentally friendly way and cost-effective way to test the technology on the NJ TRANSIT rail system without significantly effecting commuters and other rail operators if issues were to emerge as this technology is in its infancy.

The Council asked what it can offer in assistance to NJ TRANSIT and NJ TRANSIT Staff so that projects discussed can progress and reach their goals. NJ TRANSIT Staff replied that where coordination of municipality and public engagement is needed during further stages of these projects, they will call upon the assistance of the Council.

Council members noted the importance of maintaining open communication between the parties and that it be continued so that residents of the county may be included and engaged in projects as they progress.

The Council thanked Mr. D'Elia, Mr. Millan, and Mr. Viscardi for presenting and bringing these projects to their attention.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Bylaws Update vote

Following a motion to accept the By-law revisions, made by Mr. Ponzio and seconded by Ms. Barrett, the By-laws were approved as revised through a roll call vote.

| Voting Members | Offered By | Seconded | Affirmative | Negative | Abstain | Absent |
|---------------------------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Betsy Barrett | | x | x | | | |
| Ben Lucarelli | | | | | | x |
| Anthony Garaguso – Chair | | | x | | | |
| Eric Nelson | | | x | | | |
| Nicholas Ponzio | x | | x | | | |
| Jeff Vernick – Vice Chair | | | x | | | |
| Peter Van Nortwick | | | x | | | |

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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VII. REPORTS OF STAFF

-Tourism and Events Demand Management Update - Monmouth Within Reach

Mr. Schmetterer gave a status report for this study. Since the last MCTC meeting, draft mitigation, condition, and final reports have been provided by the consultant and are being reviewed by Staff and NJTPA. A public meeting to introduce the major findings of the study to the Monmouth County community is planned to be held on May 27, 2021, from 6 to 7pm.

- CMAQ Program

Mr. Schmetterer indicated that an example request for proposal was drafted for the Brookdale Shuttle project funded by NJTPA. The Electric Vehicle Charger program did not have an update.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received at this time.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Garaguso announced that the next meeting of the Monmouth County Transportation Council will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 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.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Ponzio, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.