

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL



ANTHONY GARAGUSO  
Council Chairman

Minutes for the Meeting of the  
**Monmouth County Transportation Council**  
Thursday, January 19, 2023  
Monmouth County Planning Board  
1 E. Main Street  
Hall of Records Annex  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

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**I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:33 p.m.**

**II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL**

Members Present

Garaguso, Anthony – Chair  
Vernick, Jeff – Vice Chair  
Barrett, Betsy  
Gregory, Allison

Staff Present

Furmanec, Victor  
Popovech, Michael  
Schmetterer, David

Members Excused

Nelson, Eric  
Lucarelli, Benjamin  
Van Nortwick, Peter

Members Unexcused

Ponzio, Nicholas

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

Council members and Staff explored the idea of different meeting schedules, such as bi-monthly or quarterly.

- 2023 Topics Discussion

Mr. Garaguso opened a discussion of topics Council members were interested in exploring and learning about in 2023. He reminded the Council that topics to be considered should align with the main responsibility of the of the Monmouth County Transportation Council as stated in the MCTC Member Guide.

Council members offered the following topics for discussion or presentation at future meetings of the Council in 2023:

- NJ TRANSIT
  - NJ TRANSIT 10-Year Strategic Plan and 5-Year Capital Plan
  - Topics/projects under NJ TRANSIT’s purview under these plans, applicable to Monmouth County where the Council provided feedback to NJT following our meetings with them in 2020 and again in 2021.
  - NJ TRANSIT Adopt a Station Program and possible MCTC participation.
- Monmouth County Parks
  - Updates regarding MC Parks trails
- Monmouth County Engineering Projects Including:
  - Rumson Sea Bright Bridge
  - Oceanic Bridge
  - Sharon Station Road

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- Main Street - County Route 537 Improvements
- Glimmer Glass Bridge
- Freight
  - Middlesex County Freight Study
- Delaware & Raritan River Railroad progress update
- Monmouth County Planning Projects
  - Barriers to Mobility Study
- NYC Congestion Pricing
- EV Charging
  - New EV only Charging Facility
  - EV Charger installation project by Monmouth County
- Ferries / Ferry projects in the region
- NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife: Connecting Habitats Across NJ
  - New research updates
  - Related Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding (IIJA)
  - Implementation of wildlife crossing in MC Engineering Sharon Station Road project.
- Active Transportation
- Fort Monmouth Redevelopment
- Council Participation in the Monmouth County Fair

Council members and staff gave a brief introduction of themselves and welcomed new member Allison Gregory of Red Bank to the council.

#### IV. **REPORTS OF STAFF**

- Transportation Council Quarterly Newsletter Analytics

Mr. Popovech gave an overview of statistics for the Winter MCTC newsletter. Growth in readership continued. Of 1,501 recipients, 484 unique individuals opened the email, 32% of those who received it. There were 698 total opens and 4% of the emails were bounced.

#### V. **MCTC OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Mr. Garaguso opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Monmouth County Transportation Council. Ms. Barrett nominated Mr. Garaguso which was seconded by Ms. Gregory. With no other nominations, Mr. Garaguso called for a vote. The Council voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Garaguso for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Garaguso thanked the Council and assumed the role of Chairperson.

Mr. Garaguso then opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Monmouth County Transportation Council. Ms. Barrett nominated Mr. Vernick which was seconded by Ms. Gregory. With no other nominations, Mr. Garaguso called for a vote. The Council voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Vernick for the position of Vice Chairperson. Mr. Vernick thanked the Council and assumed the role of Vice Chairperson.

#### VI. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Approval of the Council's September 13, 2022, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Vernick motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Garaguso. and approved by the Council with the exception of Ms. Barrett and Ms. Gregory who abstained.

#### VII. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Howard Kradjel of Middletown was interested in the council's annual topic list development. He asked if connecting communities and multi-modal transportation topics could be considered and suggested that the council may want to

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reach out to the public for additional topics. Mr. Kradjel also expressed interest in the recently adopted NJ Safe Passing law and learning more about the role the county plays in obtaining grants.

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Garaguso announced the next meeting of the MCTC will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in person with a virtual option using WebEx.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Ms. Gregory, and seconded by Ms. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.