

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL



ANTHONY GARAGUSO
Council Chairman

Minutes for the Meeting of the
Monmouth County Transportation Council
Thursday, February 16, 2023
Monmouth County Planning Board
1 E. Main Street
Hall of Records Annex
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:05 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

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

Staff Present

Furmanec, Victor
Pene, Jason
Popovech, Michael
Schmetterer, David

Members Excused

Ponzio, Nicholas
Van Nortwick, Peter

Members Unexcused

Lucarelli, Benjamin

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council's October 11, 2022, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Vernick motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and then accepted unanimously by the Council with the exception of Ms. Gregory who abstained.

Approval of the Council's January 19, 2023, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Ms. Barrett motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Gregory, and then accepted unanimously by the Council with the exception of Mr. Nelson who abstained.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Council members and Staff explored the idea of different meeting schedules, including the 2nd Tuesday or 3rd Thursday of each month. Ms. Barrett motioned for MCTC meetings to continue to be on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, seconded by Ms. Gregory, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- 2023 Topics Discussion

Mr. Garaguso opened a discussion of topics Council members were interested in exploring and learning about in 2023, continuing from last month's meeting.

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- NJ TRANSIT
 - NJ TRANSIT's 10-Year Strategic Plan and 5-Year Capital Plan
 - Topics/projects under NJ TRANSIT's purview under the above-noted plans, and in particular as the plans apply to Monmouth County and follow-up regarding feedback the Council provided to NJ Transit following meetings with them in 2020 and 2021.
- Monmouth County Engineering projects:
 - Rumson Sea Bright Bridge
 - Oceanic Bridge
 - Sharon Station Road
 - Main Street - County Route 537 improvements
 - Glimmer Glass Bridge
- Freight
 - Middlesex County Freight Study
- Monmouth County Planning Projects
 - Barriers to Mobility Study
- NYC Congestion Pricing
- EV Charging
 - New EV charging facility
 - Monmouth County's EV charger installation project
- NJ/NY ferry projects
- NJDEP 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 for Sharon Station Road project.
- Future of transportation and transportation planning
- Fort Monmouth redevelopment
- Council participation at the Monmouth County Fair

Monmouth County Planning staff started a discussion for greater MCTC involvement with the Planning Board. In particular, the potential for a member of the Council to deliver a summary of MCTC discussions. The presentation could be provided in person or via a written summary that articulates the thoughts and opinions of the MCTC.

Councilmembers discussed potential involvement in NJ TRANSIT's Adopt-a-Station program. Mr. Popovech gave an overview of the requirements of the program. The idea of collaborating on this project with another group such as the Monmouth County Environmental Council was discussed. Staff noted that since the MCTC represents the County, administration must be consulted before involvement with this program can progress.

Mr. Vernick provided an update on progress with re-activating service along the Freehold secondary rail line. He displayed photos that showed the progress of vegetation clearing and track laying.

VI. REPORTS OF STAFF

Monmouth County staff reports that the County was awarded a Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant via the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's (IIJA) first round of funding. The County as well as Bradley Beach Borough, Highlands Borough, and Holmdel Township were collectively awarded 1.18 million to create comprehensive safety action plans for county and municipal roads, respectively. After creating these plans the county and municipalities can then apply for implementation funds.

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VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard Kradjel of Middletown applauded the County's SS4A grant award. He noted the vulnerabilities of cyclists and pedestrians along county routes in Middletown and discussed how New Jersey recently passed a safe passing law to combat this, although education is needed regarding the new law. He recommended a public awareness campaign designed to better inform residents of the county. He suggested using the county's mobile electronic signs to raise awareness for the Safe Passing Law. Staff will relay his concerns and ideas to County Engineering.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Garaguso announced the next meeting of the MCTC will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in person with a virtual option using WebEx.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Vernick to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Ms. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.