

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

JAMES GIANNELL  
Planning Board Chairperson



ANTHONY GARAGUSO  
Council Chairperson

Minutes for the Meeting of the  
**Monmouth County Transportation Council**  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
Monmouth County Planning Board  
1 E. Main Street  
Hall of Records Annex  
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

---

## I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:01 p.m.

## II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

### Members Present

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

### Staff Present

Ettore, Joseph  
Furmanec, Victor  
Popovech, Michael

### Members Unexcused

Lucarelli, Benjamin

## III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council's February 16, 2023, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Nelson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Gregory, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

Approval of the Council's April 11, 2023, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Nelson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ponzio, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

## IV. PRESENTATION

- Monmouth County Capital Improvement Program, Joe Ettore; Monmouth County Engineering  
Mr. Ettore provided a presentation about ongoing engineering projects in Monmouth County. Projects discussed included the following:

- Replacement of Bridges **S-32, on CR520; S-31 on CR 8A; and W-7, W-8, W-9**
  - Bridges will be up to current standards.
  - Bridges will include lanes for pedestrians and cyclists.
  - These bridges serve as coastal evacuation routes across the county.
- Bridge improvements to **O-12, 3B-40**
  - Address structural and operational damage.
  - The bridges will provide ADA accommodations improving pedestrian mobility.
- Roadway improvements to **CR 524, CR 539A, CR 571, CR 8 A/B, CR 537, CR 3, CR 40A, CR 57, CR 25**

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

**JAMES GIANNELL**  
Planning Board Chairperson



**ANTHONY GARAGUSO**  
Council Chairperson

- Improvements include upgrades to current roadways.
- Upgraded traffic signals.
- Traffic easement roundabouts.
- Bike and pedestrian accommodations.

The Council had the opportunity to ask Mr. Ettore about different projects going on in Monmouth County which included:

- The council asked about how construction debris can be repurposed.
  - The response was that a meeting happened with a contractor regarding how bridge debris can be reclaimed as a possible fishing pier or artificial reef. It is not an obligation but is on the table moving forward.
- The council asked if the county engineering department can explore seeking Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding recently made available to incorporate animal crossing improvements into transportation projects
  - Mr. Ettore noted that County Engineering is obligated to look at current environmental regulations regarding habitats when initiating a project and is looking into ways to secure funding for these kinds of terrestrial crossing projects.
- The council asked if there were any new technological advancements that have been developed since the original construction of the Highlands-Sea-Bright bridge 15 years ago.
  - It was noted that advancements in electrical mechanical systems, and many of the new improvements are being built into the new bridges to make them more efficient and reliable. For example, new steel coatings require less maintenance in the harsh marine environment and extend bridge girder lifetimes.
- The council mentioned Netflix's intended opening of its East Coast studios in Fort Monmouth in the coming years and asked if engineering is evaluating potential traffic impacts, especially truck travel, and key roadway access needs in the area once the studios open
  - Engineering identified the CR 537 corridor as an area of importance.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

- Route 9, Salem Hill Road to Texas Road (CR 690) Intersections Preliminary Project Plan  
The Council discussed Route 9 traffic patterns and the proposed corridor improvements.

- Elimination of Courtesy Busing for 2023-2024 School Year, Freehold Regional High School District  
The Council discussed this new development and the potential for vehicle traffic to increase in the areas surrounding the schools as a result of the proposed elimination of courtesy busing. Discussion also focused on encouraging municipalities to include sidewalks where applicable, which would facilitate walking to schools in the future should issues like this continue to rise.

- NYC Central Business District Congestion Pricing  
Council members noted the Federal Highway Administration's recent approval of New York City's environmental assessment for congestion pricing in Manhattan.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard Kradjel of Middletown acknowledged the barriers for people impacted by the courtesy bus elimination, Mr. Kradjel applauded the capital improvement projects and emphasized cyclist and pedestrian accommodations being implemented into plans moving forward.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

**JAMES GIANNELL**  
Planning Board Chairperson



**ANTHONY GARAGUSO**  
Council Chairperson

Mr. Garaguso announced the next meeting of the MCTC will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in person with a virtual option using WebEx.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion by Mr. Nelson to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Ms. Gregory, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.