

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, October 10, 2023
Monmouth County Planning Board
1 E. Main Street
Hall of Records Annex
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:02 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

Furmanec, Victor
Popovech, Michael
Nei, Michael
Christianson, Sidney

Members Unexcused

Lucarelli, Benjamin

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council’s September 12, 2023, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Vernick motioned to accept the minutes with amendments to the minutes as directed by the chairman, seconded by Mr. Ponzio, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

IV. PRESENTATION

- Delaware & Raritan Railroad Press Release, Michael Popovech, Monmouth County Planning

Mr. Popovech gave a summary of the Delaware & Raritan River Railroad (D&RR) press release. The message of the press release was announcing the “final spike” ceremony happening in Farmingdale on Friday October 13, 2023, at 1pm as well as report on the history and progression of the project. Mr. Vernick and Ms. Barrett acknowledged the DRR president will be speaking at the next meeting and want to get the word out to more members of the public. Mr. Garaguso and the Council will discuss what the most productive course of action will be for the November meeting.

- NYC Congestion Pricing Update, Sidney Christianson, Monmouth County Planning

Mr. Christianson informed the Council about the ongoing deliberation of congestion pricing and its impacts on the surrounding areas. Members of the Council asked questions that Mr. Christianson will follow up with replies upon the release of the presentation being made available to the Council on Basecamp. Questions included:

- Projected NJ Transit/ North Jersey Coast Line rail ridership due to the congestion pricing.

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- Expansion of Bus/Rail terminals to accommodate an increase in ridership.
- Electric Vehicle exemptions.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gregory asked about an update to a streetscape plan in Red Bank along Shrewsbury Ave. and the Swimming River Park in Red Bank. Mr. Nei responded that Red Bank secured a grant through NJDOT, and the plan is currently under design being led by the borough. Additionally, the area Ms. Gregory was referring around the Swimming River Park to is an area of interest that is currently under review for additional improvements.

Mr. Vernick noted that the state is developing a new state plan which comes with a cross-acceptance process. The New Jersey Planning Officials website (NJPO.org) is holding webinars to inform the public on different facets of the state plan. These interactive webinars will be held throughout the month of October.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kradjel acknowledged the NJTPA's active transportation plan offers suggestions on access to points of mass transit in relation to the NYC Congestion Pricing report.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Vernick notified the Council of "Operation Toy Train" which will be using the new DRR route to collect toys for underprivileged kids during the holiday season on Sunday December 3, 2023, in Freehold and Farmingdale.

Mr. Garaguso announced the next meeting of the MCTC will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 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 Mr. Ponzio, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.