

# 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, November 14, 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 - 7:00 p.m.

## II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

### Members Present

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

### Staff Present

Barris, Joe  
Christianson, Sidney  
Ettore, Joe  
Furmanec, Victor  
Popovech, Michael  
Schmetterer, David

### Members Unexcused

Lucarelli, Benjamin

## III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council's October 10, 2023, meeting minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Vernick motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Gregory, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

## IV. PRESENTATION

- Kean Burenga and Sean Dolan of the Delaware & Raritan River Railroad

Mr. Burenga overviewed the reactivation of the Freehold-Farmingdale section of the Freehold Secondary line connection. Mr. Burenga emphasized how contractors were able to clear vegetation that had overtaken the tracks, months ahead of schedule.

Mr. Burenga, council members, and staff discussed the following items pertaining to the Delaware & Raritan railroad at various points throughout the meeting:

- Railroad ties and restorations of grade road crossings
- Future inactivity of the Southern Secondary between West Earle to Red Bank
- Public reaction to the reopening of the Freehold Secondary track between Freehold and Farmingdale
- New business opportunities along the rail line
- Next phase of revitalization plan
- Source of funding for project

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- Weight, size, and speed limitations for railcars
- Planned signage and signal devices at grade crossings
- Reinvestment to continuously improve rail line and crossings
- Connection to other Chesapeake & Delaware lines
- Transferring of freight at stations
- Dimensions of bridge crossings

- Paul Gleitz of Monmouth County Parks

Mr. Gleitz gave a presentation pertaining to the Monmouth County Park System covering changes and developments throughout the county during the past year. Mr. Gleitz spoke about the potential to develop a trail within the Freehold Secondary Line right-of-way. This project is supported by the D&RR but needs approval from NJ TRANSIT, Conrail, etc.

The following topics relating to the Monmouth County Park System were discussed:

- Park System's Open Space Plan
- Land Acquisitions
- Rails to Trails
- Capital Improvement Projects, Reinvestment, and Future Capital Improvement plans
- Project Funding
- Linkage of trails / parks
- Henry Hudson Trail
  - NJ TRANSIT Matawan station connection
  - Downtown Freehold extension

## V. NEW BUSINESS

It was brought to the attention of the council that NJ TRANSIT is conducting a Transit Oriented Development study along the Rt. 9 corridor and its study team is looking for members to participate with the technical advisory committee.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard Kradjel, resident of Monmouth County, commented on connecting open space along with the trails and brought up the possibility of linking other trails in western Monmouth County such as the Union Transportation Trail.

## VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dolan of Delaware & Raritan notified the Council of "Operation Toy Train," which will be using the new reopened D&RR route to collect toys for disadvantaged kids during the holiday season on Sunday December 3, 2023. The train first starts at 10:00 a.m. in Farmingdale and proceeds to stops in Freehold and Manalapan, from where it heads out to the last stop in Jamesburg at 3:15 p.m..

Mr. Garaguso announced the next meeting of the MCTC will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 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. Vernick to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Ms. Gregory, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.