

MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

FREEHOLD · NEW JERSEY

JAMES GIANNELL
Chairman



JOSEPH BARRIS, PP, AICP, CFM
Director of Planning

Minutes for the Meeting of the
Monmouth County Transportation Council
Tuesday, June 8, 2021
Monmouth County Planning Board
One East Main Street
Hall of Records Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Freehold, New Jersey 07728

I. CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 PM

II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

Garaguso, Anthony – Chair
Vernick, Jeff – Vice Chair
Barrett, Betsy
Lucarelli, Ben
Nelson, Eric

Staff Present

Furmanec, Victor
Mallm, Amber
Nei, Michael
Popovech, Michael
Schmetterer, David
Shanahan, Ashlynn

Members Excused

Ponzio, Nicholas
Van Nortwick, Peter

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the Council's March 9, 2021, minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Lucarelli motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Nelson, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

Approval of the Council's April 13, 2021, minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Nelson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Vernick, and then accepted unanimously by the Council.

Approval of the Council's May 11, 2021, minutes was sought by Mr. Garaguso. Mr. Nelson motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Vernick, and then accepted unanimously by the Council with the exception of Mr. Lucarelli who abstained.

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IV. OLD BUSINESS

- NJ TRANSIT Discussion Follow-up: NJ TRANSIT initiatives relating to Monmouth County

Based on the Council's May 12, 2020 meeting conversation with NJ TRANSIT staff to explore opportunities to advance the following solution strategies consistent with NJ TRANSIT's 10-Year Strategic Plan and 5-Year Capital Plan:

- Bus Shelter and amenity improvements
- Bus "Queue Jump" lanes and traffic signal priority along U.S. Route 9
- Battery Operated Train pilot project from Long Branch to Bay Head
- Henry Hudson Trail extension projects to connect to the Aberdeen-Matawan Rail Station.

Council members determined that the best course of action would be to maintain an open dialogue between NJ TRANSIT and the Transportation Council and to have NJ TRANSIT staff update the council in 4-6 months on progress to projects that NJ TRANSIT intends to advance.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety in NJ

The Council held an open discussion about potential ways to achieve safe streets for all travelers in Monmouth County. Strategies discussed included:

- Opportunities based on Monmouth County and municipal "Complete Streets" policies
- Enhancements to need-based sidewalk planning and construction such as the Township of Manalapan's Sidewalk Fund Ordinance (NO. 2019-03).
- Visual changes to roadway lane widths and design that can reduce speeding
- Conducting road safety audits
- Promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety education campaigns (e.g., "BeStreetSmartNJ.org").
- Ensuring that future mobility planning considers both vehicular and non-vehicular transportation needs.

- Warehouse Sprawl Prevention Bill

Mr. Furmanec gave an overview of NJ Senate bill S3688, which proposes that review of retail warehouse development applications be expanded to include decisions by adjoining municipal governments. The council discussed potential benefits and challenges of the draft legislation including:

- This being the first instance where municipalities in New Jersey can officially review development applications external to their own jurisdictions.
- The requirement for conducting regional economic impact reports to evaluate impacts to traffic, the environment, socioeconomics, land supply and demand, future public costs, and future public revenues.
- Potential consideration of other types of developments which cause traffic increases in the surrounding region.

VI. REPORTS OF STAFF

- CMAQ Program

Mr. Schmetterer reported that discussions with EZ-Ride have restarted regarding implementing seasonal Middletown train station - Sandy Hook bus shuttle service. The Brookdale Shuttle project and the Electric Vehicle Charger program did not have an update.

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- Tourism and Events Demand Management Update - Monmouth Within Reach

Mr. Schmetterer provided an overview of the anticipated outcomes from the project. This project team studied the locations of Red Bank, Asbury Park, Sandy Hook/Sea Bright, the East Freehold Showgrounds, and County Agrotourism destinations to develop reports on best practices and opportunities to lessen congestion during major event days at those sites and for future sites throughout the county. Staff noted that while the study is ending, the work in participating with municipalities throughout Monmouth County is not over and that the action of implementing suggested strategies is only just beginning. Mr. Schmetterer noted that informing the public and interested parties of the existence and applicability of the study is the first step in engaging a conversation about using suggested strategies.

- MCTC Newsletter

Mr. Popovech provided an update to the progress of compiling articles for the Summer 2021 Issue of the Monmouth County Transportation Council Newsletter. He asked if the Council had any recommendations for relevant topics to research, to which Council members provided suggestions to include in the newsletter.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Garaguso announced that the next meeting of the Monmouth County Transportation Council will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held via Webex. Council members and members of the public will be provided with the Webex meeting information through the agenda notification system and email.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting, made by Mr. Vernick and seconded by Ms. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.