

**MINUTES**  
**Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2011**  
**Morris County Department of Planning & Development**  
**30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room**  
**Morristown, NJ**

**In Attendance:**

Board Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Milverne E. Cooke	Freeholder Thomas J. Mastrangelo	Gerald Rohsler
Freeholder Gene Feyl	Chris Mazzei	Deena Cybulski
Ilene Dorf Manahan, Chairperson	Jan Williams	John Hayes
Frank T. Reilly		
Judith Schleicher		
Art Valand, Vice-Chairperson		
Dudley Woodbridge, Secretary		
Roman Zabihach		
Joe Wells, Alternate #1		

**I. Call to Order:** Chairperson Ilene Dorf Manahan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**II. Open Public Meeting Statement:** Chairperson Manahan read the Open Public Meetings Act compliance statement.

**III. Roll Call:** Deena Cybulski read the roll call. Seven voting members were present during roll call.

**IV. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Manahan welcomed Freeholder Thomas J. Mastrangelo, and Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist from the Morris County Department of Planning and Development, Preservation Trust.

**V. Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2011:** Approval of the minutes was moved by Dudley Woodbridge and seconded by Art Valand and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**VI. Board Action: Consideration of a resolution to call upon NJ Transit to reactivate commuter rail service on the New York, Susquehanna, and Western Railway located in Morris, Sussex, and Passaic Counties along NJ 23.**

Gerald Rohsler provided some background on the New York, Susquehanna, and Western Railway (NYS&W) and discussed the resolution supporting the reactivation of commuter rail service in order to reduce automobile congestion and improve commuter mobility along the NJ 23 corridor. Passenger rail service was discontinued on the NYW&W along the NJ 23 corridor on June 30, 1966. Freight service on the rail line continues. The reactivation of the service was studied by Morris County, Sussex County, and NJ Transit in 1995. The Federal Transit Administration gave the proposed reactivation a “Finding of No Significant Impact” in regards environmental impact. This finding authorized the project to receive Federal funding. However, the reactivation was not advanced because of the lack of capacity at New York Penn Station and the lack of projected passenger demand in Sparta. However, ridership projections were significant to Stockholm, which would be a good location for a large train station park and ride.

Chairperson Manahan stated that ridership figures should be included in the resolution to make a stronger case for reactivation.

Freeholder Mastrangelo asked if new infrastructure would be required in Bergen County.

Ms. Cybulski stated that the project is in the early stages and the ridership numbers would have to be reexamined. The goal of the resolution should be to bring this project back to the attention of NJ Transit.

Frank Reilly suggested that the resolution includes language referencing the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and recommended a new study be conducted. There was enough projected ridership for the rail line to be authorized to receive Federal funding.

Freeholder Gene Feyl expressed support for the passage of the resolution by the Morris County Board of Transportation, with the changes to the language and reference to the NJTPA. The Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders’ resolution should reaffirm the Board of Transportation resolution and the resolution should be shared with other counties in the region and the legislative delegation.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Reilly and seconded by Judy Schleicher. The Board of Transportation unanimously voted in support of the resolution.

## **VII. Special Presentation: History of Morris County Streets**

Jan Williams, Cultural and Historic Resources Specialist, from the Morris County Department of Planning & Development Preservation Trust gave a presentation of county efforts to record and share Morris County history with the public.

The Department of Planning and Development has begun updating the Morris County Cultural Resources Survey. The survey catalogs the county’s historic and cultural features. The update is being conducted to document changes that have occurred to existing historic sites and identify any historic sites that were not recorded in the previous survey in 1986.

Ms. Williams discussed and demonstrated the features available Cultural Resources Survey webpage <http://www.morrisplanning.org/survey/>, and invited all meeting attendees to visit the website and share content and their knowledge of local history. The resources available on the Cultural Resources Survey webpage are:

- Cemetery Burial Sites
- Freeholders of Yesterday
- Historic Maps
- Municipal Surveys
- Street Histories

## **VIII. Staff Reports:**

### **1. Morris County Freight Infrastructure & Land Use Analysis**

Mr. Rohsler summarized some of the highlights and findings of the nearly completed consultant-supported freight study. The Morris County Freight Infrastructure and Land Use Analysis was a two year comprehensive study that examined the impact and role of the goods movement industry on the county's transportation network, land use, and economy. The study has provided a final report that includes recommendations for physical infrastructure improvements, identification of potential freight-related development locations, an economic impact analysis of the value of the goods movement industry to Morris County, a guide to freight planning for municipalities, and a marketing plan to promote economic development and transportation in the county. The Municipal Guide for Freight Planning and the Marketing Plan was distributed to attendees and will be distributed to municipalities in the county. The Morris County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) will work with the Morris County Economic Committee (MCEDC) update their database with vacant land/available land around rail for property for industrial purposes.

The study in its entirety and related presentations are available on the division's website. <http://morrisdot.org/accessories/transportation-freightstudy.asp>

### **2. Upcoming Rail Freight Corridor Study**

Mr. Rohsler announced that the NJTPA will conduct the Morris/Warren County Rail Corridor Study to assess the conditions and constraints along the Washington Secondary, which is Norfolk Southern's primary freight rail route serving Warren and Morris County. The Washington Secondary begins in Phillipsburg, connects to the NJ Transit Morristown Line at Hackettstown, and continues on to Morristown, the study's eastern limit. This corridor also connects a number of other branch lines to the national freight rail network.

This study was generated from the NJTPA Subregional Studies Program “Morris County Infrastructure and Land Use Analysis.”

The study will assess the vertical height clearance and weight constraints along the route. Norfolk Southern connections from the west are limited by the 16’6” height under the bridge at South Main Street in Phillipsburg. Plate F (17’0”) rail cars that have become the new standard height for box cars in the railroad industry but cannot be used by railroad customers along the Washington Secondary, the Morristown Line, and other branch lines that are accessed via this route. This affects lumber shipments and mixed freight shipped in box cars to industries in the two-county region. This study will also investigate increasing the rail car weight limit from 263,000 pounds to 286,000 pounds, the national standard. The study will begin this winter.

### **3. NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study**

Ms. Cybulski reported that the MCDOT is undertaking a consultant-supported study of transit access in southeast Morris County at three railroad stations along NJ 124. The three stations are, from west to east, Convent Station in Morris Township, Madison Station in Madison Borough, and Chatham Station in Chatham Borough. These three municipalities along with the neighboring municipalities, Harding Township, Florham Park Borough, and Chatham Township, have expressed the need for expanding transit options. This study is Federally-funded through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Subregional Studies Program. A technical advisory committee (TAC) will be formed which will include representatives from MCDOT and the Morris County Division of Engineering, each of the three municipalities in the study, surrounding municipalities, NJTPA, NJ Transit, NJDOT, and TransOptions. The study is expected to begin at the end of 2011.

### **4. Transit Awareness Postcard Results**

Ms. Cybulski reported that the division received a small portion of the Federal Energy Grant to design, print, and mail transit awareness postcards. The postcard was designed in-house. The postcards were printed and mailed in May by a printer to addresses of those residing within ¼ mile of a bus stop or one mile of a train station. Postcard recipients were invited to visit the division’s website, [www.MorrisDOT.org](http://www.MorrisDOT.org), or call the division’s phone number to determine if transit could work for them. The division received around 150 phone calls and emails inquiring about transit options in the county. The transition of bus ownership from PABCO to NJ Transit this spring has delayed reporting of ridership numbers.

**IX. Old Business:** None

**VI. New Business:**

Freeholder Feyl announced several upcoming managerial changes in Morris County. Thomas A. Markt will be retiring as Assistant County Administrator. Mary Jo Buchanan, Director of the Department of Human Services, will become the Assistant County Administrator. Frank T. Pinto Jr., Director of the Department of Planning & Development, will become the Director of Human Services. Deena Cybulski, Assistant Director Division of Transportation, will be the next Director of the Department of Planning & Development.

Mr. Woodbridge reported that an acquaintance had found the Morris County Transit Guide to be very useful and asked about the guide's distribution plan. Ms. Cybulski explained that the Transit Guide was distributed to municipal buildings, libraries, TransOptions, colleges and universities, not-for-profits, hospitals, and senior centers in Morris County. Additionally, Ms. Cybulski announced that TransOptions will give a presentation at the Riverdale Senior Center on how to ride public transit.

Freeholder Feyl asked Ms. Cybulski to summarize the recent change to the operation of Transportation Management Agencies (TMA) in New Jersey. Ms. Cybulski explained that the TMAs, such as TransOptions, had received funding and direction from NJDOT. Now NJTPA has taken on that role. NJTPA's will work on improving the coordination of work programs and communication with the subregions.

Mr. Reilly reported that NJ Transit has been rehabilitating the Gladstone Branch of the Morris & Essex Line and has installed automated ticket vending machines at the train stations along the Raritan Valley Line. On August 20, there will be an open house at the New Jersey Railroad Museum in Boonton with passenger cars, old electric cars, and a variety of old locomotives on display. The Whippany Railroad Museum was awarded a grant to restore a locomotive from Morris County. On Sunday, July 24, there will be a New Jersey Firefighter race in Stirling.

Chris Mazzei announced that the South Jefferson Road grade crossing in Hanover Township will be reconstructed from July 20 through July 21. South Jefferson Road will be closed for two days. A detour will be in place.

Mr. Valand and the board members thanked Ms. Cybulski for her years of working with the Board of Transportation and gave their congratulations.

**XI. Public Comments:** None

**XII. Next Regular Meeting:** October 18, 2011

**XIII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

*Notes prepared by John Hayes*