

MINUTES
Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2012
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	Hope Hezel, MAPS	Deena Cybulski
Freeholder Gene Feyl	Amy Magnuson, NJTPA	John Hayes
Ilene Dorf Manahan, Chairperson	Chris Mazzei, M&E Railway	Gerald Rohsler
Frank T. Reilly		
Judith Schleicher		
Art Valand, Vice Chairperson		
Joe Wells, Alternate #1		
Dudley Woodbridge, Secretary		
Roman Zabihach		

I. Call to Order: Chairperson Ilene Dorf Manahan called the meeting to order at 2:09pm.

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

III. Roll Call: Gerald Rohsler read the roll call. Seven voting members were present during roll call.

IV. Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Manahan welcomed Hope Hezel, Amy Magnuson, Chris Mazzei, and all attendees.

V. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2011: Approval of the minutes was moved by Dudley Woodbridge and seconded by Frank T. Reilly, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

VI. Resolution Honoring Alex DeCroce: Chairperson Manahan presented a draft resolution honoring Alex DeCroce's dedication to transportation. Chairperson Manahan asked the Board to review and provide any comments or edits. After discussion and some edits, approval of the resolution was moved by Mr. Reilly and seconded by Roman Zabihach, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

VII. Report from Election Committee Chairperson & Election of Officers: Art Valand presented the Election Committee's recommendations for the election of officers for the Board of Transportation. The Election Committee recommended the following 2012 appointments:

- Chairperson: Melverne E. Cooke
- Vice-chairperson: Frank T. Reilly
- Secretary: Dudley Woodbridge

Approval of these appointments was moved by Mr. Valand and seconded by Ms. Cooke, and the appointments were unanimously approved.

Chairperson Cooke thanked Ms. Manahan for her years of service as Chairperson of the Board of Transportation.

VIII. Selection of 2012/2013 Meeting Dates: Chairperson Cooke presented the following meeting dates for 2012 and 2013:

- April 24, 2012
- July 24, 2012
- October 23, 2012
- January 22, 2013.

These meetings would take place at 2 p.m. in the conference room of the Morris County Department of Planning and Development.

IX. Staff Reports:

- 1. NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study:** John Hayes reported that the NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study has started. The study will analyze and recommend station access improvements at the three NJ Transit commuter rail stations in the NJ 124 Corridor: Chatham, Madison, and Convent Station. The municipalities in the study area and the public have indicated that access to the Morris & Essex Line is restricted due to limited parking and congested roads. The goal of the study is to determine the most effective and acceptable course of action to improve access to the train stations for or all users.

This study is funded through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's (NJTPA) Subregional Studies Program and managed by the Morris County Division of Transportation (MCDOT). The project began in January 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in March 2013. The consultant firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) will conduct the study. On January 13, 2012, a project kick off meeting was held with the consultant, MCDOT, and NJTPA to discuss project management, scope of work, and administrative items.

- 2. County Railroad Crossing Improvements:** Gerald Rohsler reported on four completed County rail crossing improvement projects. Morris County

upgraded the railroad grade crossings to improve the safety and condition of this crossing and roadway, bringing our infrastructure up to a state of good repair. These upgrades were funded by the State.

- Route 10/High Bridge Branch Crossing Replacement: On Friday, October 21, 2011 Route 10 was closed in the area of Commerce Boulevard. Eastbound lanes were closed at about 6:00pm, and westbound lanes were closed at about 8:00pm.
- Route 46/Chester Branch Crossing Replacement: On Friday, October 14, 2011, Route 46 was closed in the area of Railroad Avenue at about 7:00pm for approximately 24 hours.
- Warren Street Crossing Rehabilitation: On January 10, 2012, Warren Street was closed between Bassett Highway and West Clinton Street starting at 7:00am for approximately 48 hours.
- North Sussex Street Crossing Rehabilitation: On January 12, 2012, North Sussex Street was closed between Bassett Highway and West Clinton Street starting at 7:00am for approximately 48 hours.

Mr. Zabihach asked if Hurricane Irene caused any damage to County-owned Railroads. Chris Mazzei stated that there were some washouts along the rail lines.

- 3. NJ Operation Toy Train:** Mr. Rohsler reported on the NJ Operation Toy Train event. On Saturday and Sunday, December 10 and 11, a special train ran in Northern New Jersey, including along the Morris County-owned High Bridge Branch and Dover & Rockaway Railroad, to collect donated toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. The train stopped at 13 locations where the public could drop off toys, board the caboose to see Santa Claus, experience a variety of working railroad equipment, and meet members of the Marine Corps and Operation Toy Train. Over 8,500 toys were collected and monetary donations of \$3,500 were received during the weekend.

Mr. Mazzei stated that the number of toys donated filled a boxcar. Local businesses such as County Concrete and Castle Printing contributed to the success of the event.

- 4. NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path:** Mr. Rohsler provided an update on the design for the NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path. The path will be a 4.8 mile shared use path located primarily along the existing NYS&W railroad beginning at River Drive in Pequannock and ending at the Mountain View Train Station in Wayne. Currently, Morris County, the NJTPA, and the consultant team are investigating constructing the path on the existing rail bed as an alternative to along the rail bed. The Morris County Park Commission prefers the on rail alternative.

X. Old Business: None

XI. New Business:

1. Mr. Reilly reported that the renovation of the Morristown Train Station is almost complete.
2. Chairperson Cooke asked about the occupancy status of the new Transit Oriented Development at Morristown Station. Ms. Cybulski noted that the apartments are well occupied; however, the retail space is still vacant.
3. Mr. Valand asked if there has been any progress or action taken to expand the parking lot at Mount Arlington Train Station. Mr. Rohsler stated that the Hercules site was explored by NJ but no action had been taken. Freeholder Feyl stated that the Hercules property would be ideal for providing additional parking as the existing parking lot is at capacity. Mr. Reilly noted that the demand was underestimated when the station was constructed. Ms. Cybulski added that there is not much NJ Transit Rail service at the station and that much of the parking spaces are occupied by bus riders.

XII. Public Comments: None

XIII. Focus on Morris - Operation Lifesaver: The Operation Lifesaver Program is receiving attention again due to the recent deaths of pedestrians on railroad tracks. Erik DeLine has been trained and is certified to give the Operation Lifesaver presentation. Operation Life Saver is a national program started in 1972 which targets the safety of adults and children. The presentation is standardized and presenters are trained so that the message is clear and consistent. Visit the Operation Lifesaver website for more details www.oli.org. Mr. DeLine appeared on a broadcast of Focus on Morris to discuss the Operation Lifesaver program. The broadcast was shown to the Board and can be viewed on December 2, 2011 broadcast of Focus on Morris <http://www.youtube.com/morriscountynj>.

XIV. Next Regular Meeting: April 24, 2012, at 2:00 pm.

XV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Notes prepared by John Hayes