

MEETING MINUTES
Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting
 Tuesday, October 23, 2018
 30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor Conference Room
 Morristown, New Jersey

In Attendance:

Board Members	Additional Attendees	Staff
Joe Wells, Chairperson	Brian Kincaid, FRAC	Christopher Vitz
Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Freeholder	Jack Holland, FRAC	Gerald Rohsler
Milverne E. Cooke	Mark Corley, FRAC	John Hayes
Frank Reilly	Ben Schumer, Lackawanna Coalition	Joseph Russo
Leonard Resto (Alternate #1)		Benjamin Peacock
Manuela Schuster		
Jigar Shah (Alternate #2)		

I. Call to Order: Chairperson Joe Wells called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

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

III. Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Wells welcomed all attendees.

IV. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2018 Meeting: Len Resto submitted edits for the April 24, 2018 meeting minutes to staff prior to this meeting; edits were completed. Approval of the minutes was moved by Mr. Resto, seconded by Freeholder Kathryn A. DeFillippo, and was unanimously approved.

V. Adoption of new By-Laws: The By-Laws were amended to update the regular meeting date, time, and location, the Department and Division names, and various other items. The Board of Transportation reviewed the revised By-Laws and made several additional edits. Adoption of the new By-Laws was moved by Melverne E. Cooke, seconded by Manuela Schuster, and was unanimously adopted.

VI. Staff Reports:

A. Freight Activities: Joseph Russo reported on several railroad improvement projects along the Morris County-owned railroads.

- The Kenvil Team Track is a transload facility located along the High Bridge Branch at Berkshire Valley Road (642) north of US 46 in Roxbury Township. The Kenvil Team Track Improvement Project includes paving the fenced-in

portion of the transload facility and providing a new connection from the facility to a neighboring property to allow truck traffic to enter from Berkshire Valley Road and exit onto US 46. These upgrades will improve operations at the site. Additionally, a 3 phase, 200 amp electrical service will be installed to power engine block heaters for locomotives in the winter months, that will reduce fuel consumption and noise. Security lighting, powered by the new electrical service, will also be provided as part of this project. TomCo Construction Inc. was awarded the contract and work is anticipated to start in November.

- JMT was contracted to design Main Street and North Road (619) railroad crossings along the High Bridge Branch in Mount Olive Township. The designs are anticipated to be finalized in early 2019, and construction should start later in the year.
- Morris County was awarded \$2.2 million from the State's FY 2017 Rail Freight Assistance Program to rehabilitate the High Bridge Branch. This project will include 7,000 new ties, 9,000 tons of new stone ballast, 80 lengths of new or relay (used) 115-pound rail, back-saver switch arms, and brush clearing. The County signed the State's agreement in October and is currently waiting for the State's signature before the project can start. Construction is expected to begin in 2019.

Freeholder DeFillippo noted that during the last railroad rehabilitation project, it took a while for the old railroad ties to be picked up, and asked if that could be addressed faster. Mr. Russo indicated that the ties should be picked up faster as part of this project. Freeholder DeFillippo also asked about the public meeting for the Dover & Rockaway Railroad Realignment Concept Development Study. Mr. Russo described some public feedback received at the October 16 public information meeting, including some attendees not wanting to see the railroad removed as it has been a part of Dover, and others supportive of its removal as it is part of the municipality's master plan. He also reported that there will be a public information meeting on the Philipsburg Bridge Concept Development Study on October 23.

- B. NYS&W Update:** The NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path will be a 4.8 mile shared-use facility starting at River Drive in Pequannock and ending at Mountain View Boulevard, a short distance from the Mountain View Train Station in Wayne. Mr. Rohsler reported that the project's public information meetings on the final design were held in Wayne on October 3 and in Pequannock on October 11. The meeting in Pequannock was well attended, while only a few people attended the meeting in Wayne. The County is expecting 90% complete design plans from the consultant this week. Mr. Rohsler also reported that NJDOT authorized right-of-way acquisition and NJDEP mitigation requirements substantially increased the cost of project.

Freeholder DeFillippo asked how the cost increase will be funded. Mr. Rohsler responded that NJTPA will add the funding to the project.

Ms. Cooke asked about the construction start date. Christopher Vitz said construction might begin in summer 2019, however the County needs to complete the right-of-way acquisition first.

Chairperson Wells asked about the start date for right-of-way acquisition and easements, and where construction will start along the right-of-way. Mr. Vitz responded that right-of-way acquisition has begun, easements are complete, and the contractor will be free to begin construction anywhere along the property. However, Mr. Rohsler stated that constructing the trail crossing over the Norfolk Southern rail is a priority because the NJDOT order authorizing the crossing improvements will be expiring. Construction is anticipated to last 18 months.

- C. Capital Budget:** Mr. Vitz summarized the proposed 2019 Capital Budget request. There will be an anticipated \$11.7 million coming from grants; \$7.9 million of that total are for road paving projects and \$3.4 million for bridge projects. The County portion of the funding will be determined.

Mr. Resto asked about the status of the N. Passaic Avenue project in Chatham Borough. Mr. Vitz said that the municipality wanted to add sidewalks to the project, however, due to the early cold temperatures, the project will have to be completed next year.

VII. Circulation Element of the Morris County Master Plan: John Hayes stated that the transportation planning staff has been working with the Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation and the Long Range Committee of the Planning Board to advance the Circulation Element. The draft Element was posted on the Office of Planning & Preservation's website on May 10, and hard copies were delivered to all the municipalities in the County. The public hearing was held on June 21 and comments were due on June 22. The County received 108 comments from 18 people. Responses to all the comments were prepared, and some edits and clarifications were made to the Element in response to the feedback. The Morris County Planning Board adopted the Circulation Element on October 18.

VIII. Old Business:

Following up from the last Board of Transportation meeting, Ms. Schuster acquired a list of companies that provide shuttle service for their employees from the Morris County Economic Development Corporation. She also shared a map of affordable housing locations prepared by Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation. She reported that company-provided vanpools are mostly bringing workers from Essex and Union Counties. She noted that transportation and housing are critical to economic development, and that she and Jane Armstrong (Workforce Development Board Director) are working with MCEDC on identifying the workforce talent needs of Morris County businesses.

IX. New Business:

Mr. Reilly discussed and shared a document he prepared on two topics related to motor fuel tax revenue: New Jersey's gas tax increase and electric vehicles. He announced that the 2019 TransAction Transportation Conference will be held in April, and the conference committee will meet on October 31 to begin discussing

session topics; he also said that Board members should email him if any would like to suggest a topic. Mr. Reilly also reported that Millington Train Station received a historic site marker by the Morris County Heritage Commission.

Ms. Schuster reported she was copied on a letter sent to David Helmer, the Morris County Park Commission Director, regarding the naming of the NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path. Chairperson Wells said the Park Commission will determine the official name of the path.

Mr. Rohsler introduced the Division of Engineering & Transportation's new transportation planner, Benjamin Peacock.

Chairperson Wells announced that new officers would be elected at the next Board of Transportation meeting in January.

X. Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was moved by Mr. Resto, seconded by Freeholder DeFillippo, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

The Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the 2nd floor conference room, at 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, NJ.

Minutes prepared by John Hayes, Division of Engineering & Transportation