

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting**  
 Tuesday, April 24, 2018  
 30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor Conference Room  
 Morristown, New Jersey

**In Attendance:**

Board Members	Additional Attendees	Staff
Joe Wells, Chairperson	Jack Holland, FRAC	Christopher Vitz
Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Freeholder	Ben Schumer, Lackawanna Coalition	Gerald Rohsler
Milverne E. Cooke	Robert Wanthouse, MCEDC	John Hayes
Ilene Dorf Manahan		Joseph Russo
Leonard Resto (Alternate #1)		
Manuela Schuster		
Jigar Shah (Alternate #2)		
John Wetzel		

**I. Call to Order:** Chairperson Joe Wells called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

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

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

**IV. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Wells welcomed all attendees, and all attendees introduced themselves.

**V. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2018 Meeting:** The January 23, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**VI. Staff Reports:**

**A. Freight Activities:** Joseph Russo reported on several railroad improvement projects along the Morris County-owned railroads. The US 46 / High Bridge branch rail crossing is currently under design by JMT. The County expects to go out to bid in the spring with construction to begin in the summer, to reduce the impact on residents. Staff will meet with Roxbury in the evening of April 24 to discuss upcoming railroad improvement projects within the municipality. The rehabilitation of the Dover & Rockaway Railroad is nearly complete; the project will replace 3,000 ties and install 4,000 tons of stone. As part of this project, it is

anticipated that the crossing at the Arconic/Howmet facility in Dover will be rehabilitated in May. The County is coordinating the timing of the repairs with the company to minimize disruption of their operations.

- B. NYS&W Update:** Mr. Rohsler reported that the NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path project is moving along well. The path will be a 4.8 mile non-motorized facility starting at River Drive in Pequannock and ending at the Mountain View Train Station in Wayne. A porous asphalt path will be constructed on top of the existing abandoned railroad bed of the New York, Susquehanna, and Western (NYS&W) Railway. The County is modifying the contract with the consultant, MV5, to add additional funding to complete the design work. Final plans should be completed in fall 2018 and construction should start in spring 2019.

Ilene Dorf Manahan asked how long it will take to construct the path, and she suggested thinking about naming the path. Christopher Vitz answered construction should take about one year from the start date. Chairperson Wells said similar trails are often named after the former railroad on which they were constructed, while the Pompton Trail was given its name because it originates near Lake Pompton. He distributed a map of the Pompton Riverwalk Trail System to attendees, and shared a historic photo of the Pequannock train station, which was recently restored.

Chairperson Wells asked about the width and surface of the path, and the status of acquiring the easement for the Hoffman Grove Homeowners Association. Mr. Vitz replied that the path will be 10 feet wide with a rough surface similar to the texture of a bridge deck. Mr. Rohsler said that Morris County, in coordination with Passaic County, will be soon begin eminent domain proceedings to acquire the easement from the Association.

- C. 2018 Paving and Bridge Projects:** Mr. Vitz summarized the approved paving project schedule for 2018. There will be \$9 million in paving projects that will cover almost 30 miles, \$7.9 million coming from State funding. Additionally, there will be four bridge replacements, seven bridge designs, and \$785k allocated for County railroad improvements.

Ms. Manahan asked when the intersection of Columbia Turnpike / Park Avenue will be paved. Mr. Vitz said it should be paved this spring; the County planned to pave it last fall, but it became too cold for the work to occur.

**VII. Circulation Element of the Morris County Master Plan:** John Hayes stated 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 Morris County Planning Board approved the text in February. Staff worked on layout and graphics, and submitted the draft Element to the Planning Board in April. On April 19 the Planning Board released the draft Element for public comment. The public hearing will be held on June 21 with an anticipated adoption date of July 19.

## **VIII. New Business:**

Mr. Resto reported that he moderated a session at the 2018 TransAction Transportation Conference in Atlantic City that covered the #7 MTA Subway extension into New Jersey, an idea being promoted by the think tank group, ReThink.org. Mr. Wetzel asked for more detail on the extension proposal and thought it was a great idea to save commuters' time and money. Ms. Cooke asked who would pay for the extension. Mr. Resto explained it would require a new tunnel constructed between Hudson Yards and Secaucus, and provided further details on how the concept may affect commuters' daily trips. A study is still required to determine the idea's feasibility and the identification of potential funding sources. Mr. Rohsler added that the extension does not preclude or replace the need for the Gateway Program.

Manuela Schuster said Atlantic Health provides a shuttle that operates between the train station and their location, and it would be great to find out what other companies provide these connections. Mr. Wetzel noted that the Giralda Farms shuttle was discontinued, but said that companies that relocate to this area seem more aware and interested in funding shuttles for their employees. Mr. Rohsler explained that the Last Mile grant that funded the Giralda Farms shuttle was only a three-year program, and since no public or private sector entity decided to fund the shuttle, the service was discontinued when the grant was expended. Mr. Resto asked if anyone knew if BASF or Realology pays for shuttle service. Freeholder DeFillippo said the Morris County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) may be a good resource to find out company information on shuttle service. Robert Wanhouse of the MCEDC said he was not aware of how these shuttles are funded.

Mr. Resto said that there is no transit service at the affordable housing residences on Chateau Thierry Avenue. Ms. Schuster suggested a review to determine what public housing locations lack access to public transit. Mr. Rohsler said the Community Development Division may have the locations of affordable housing inventoried, however, he noted that NJ Transit's budget status has restricted any expansion of bus service in the Morris County. Chairperson Wells asked how transit information can be best shared with the public. Freeholder DeFillippo said NJ Transit's app provides great information with walking directions.

## **IX. Old Business:**

Len Resto reported that NJ Transit just finished repairs of the rail bridge over Fairmount Avenue in Chatham Borough; the municipality had reported corrosion under the bridge to NJ Transit. The rail bridges at Washington Avenue and Hillside Avenue are next to be repaired.

Ben Schumer said that article 5.1 the Board of Transportation's By Laws states the regular meetings will be held quarterly at 7:00pm. Ms. Cooke and Chairperson Wells said staff should update the By Laws to reflect the current meeting time.

Freeholder DeFillippo reported that the Toys R Us distribution center in Flanders was closing. Mr. Rohsler said that staff has started discussing with MCEDC the potential for marketing the location towards a future freight railroad customer.

**X. Adjournment:** Adjournment of the meeting was moved by Ms. Manahan and seconded by Mr. Resto, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

**The Next Regular Meeting:** Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room, at 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, NJ.

*Minutes prepared by John Hayes, Division of Engineering & Transportation*