

**MEETING NOTES**  
**Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting**  
 Tuesday, July 19, 2022  
 Web-Ex Virtual Meeting

**In Attendance:**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Additional Attendees</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Ilene Dorf Manahan	Ted Ritter, NJTPA	Christopher Vitz
Manuela Schuster	Keith Hamas, NJTPA	John Hayes
Jigar Shah	Laura Cerutti, Avenues in Motion	Benjamin Peacock
Commissioner Shaw		
Joe Wells, Chairperson		

**I. Call to Order:** Chairperson Joe Wells called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

**II. Roll Call:** John Hayes read the roll call. Five voting members were present during roll call. An insufficient number of voting members were present to reach a quorum.

**III. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Wells welcomed all in attendance.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2022 Meeting:** Due to lack of quorum, approval of the April 19, 2022 meeting minutes was postponed until the next Board of Transportation meeting in October.

**V. NJTPA Report: Regional Active Transportation Plan**

Representatives of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Ted Ritter and Keith Hamas, reported on the development of the Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP). This document is being designed to guide the development of a safe and highly functional network of facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorists throughout the region. This plan also presents an opportunity for community members to share local knowledge to help identify active transportation challenges and opportunities. The NJTPA representatives invited Board members to share feedback by participating in both the online interactive webmap tool and the public survey.

**VI. Reports:**

**A. Road & Bridge Projects:**

**NJTPA Local Safety Program**

Mr. Hayes reported that two applications have been submitted to the NJTPA Local Safety Program. The first application is for East Main Street (County Route 510) from Cold Hill Road to Tempe Wick Road in Mendham Borough and Township. The installation of a roundabout is being considered for this intersection. A road

diet and pedestrian safety improvements are also being considered for this corridor. The second application is for three intersection improvements in the Town of Dover. The improvements would occur on South Morris Street (County Route 643) at the intersections of Byram Avenue, Penn Avenue, and Millbrook Avenue. Signals would be installed at Penn Avenue and Millbrook Avenue. Pedestrian improvements would be made at all three intersections. Intersection and pedestrian improvements will be made on Byram Avenue, as the intersection is heavily crossed by school children. Funding from the Local Safety Program applications would be for design and construction. Applications were submitted in June. NJTPA will probably announce the grant award recipients in the winter. Ilene Dorf Manahan inquired about the decision to consider a roundabout at the intersection in Mendham and asked for clarification on the difference between a traffic circle and a roundabout. Mr. Hayes responded that a roundabout would eliminate left turn conflicts, reduce serious crashes, and is considered a proven safety countermeasure. A roundabout is freeflow with no signals, and will include pedestrian improvements. During the design phase, the roundabout will be modeled and examined. The decision to implement the roundabout would be based off feasibility results from the modeling and examinations. Chairperson Wells inquired about the provisions for pedestrians at the roundabouts. Mr. Hayes responded that pedestrian activated flashers can be used at the roundabout. Currently, minimal pedestrian traffic occurs at the intersection of East Main Street and Cold Hill Road. Most of the pedestrian traffic, which includes a large demographic of school children, occurs at the intersection with Tempe Wick Road.

## **Roads**

Christopher Vitz, County Engineer, reported that the 2022 County Road Paving Program is underway. Kiel Avenue in Butler is complete. Upcoming paving projects include Bartley Road and Fairmount Road in Washington Township, and Hanover Road and Columbia Turnpike in Florham Park. Other roads that are currently being paved include Southern Boulevard, River Road, Passaic Street, and Green Village Road in Chatham Township. Mr. Vitz also reported that the intersection project at Center Grove Road and Quaker Church Road in Randolph is in the right of way acquisition phase. Manuela Schuster inquired about the intersection improvements. Mr. Vitz responded that the project will include new signals, sidewalks, street lighting, pedestrian ramps, and crosswalks.

Commissioner Shaw inquired about issues with NJDOT software that has delayed our 2022 Paving funding. Mr. Vitz confirmed that the delays in the County's paving program is the result of the implementation of the new NJDOT funding software. Mr. Vitz said he is hoping that 15 miles of the intended 30 miles of paving are completed this year. Outstanding projects from this year will be rolled over into 2023.

## **Bridges**

Mr. Vitz also reported that about twelve bridge projects will occur this year. The County is continuing work on property acquisition and right of way work required for the Landing Road Bridge project. Two or three properties still need to be acquired before the Right of Way phase is complete. Construction is anticipated to

start next year. The Landing Road Bridge project is one of the largest bridge projects that the County has undertaken.

### **Route 24 and Columbia Turnpike Interchange Project**

Chairperson Wells inquired about the Public Information Meeting held in May for Route 24 and Columbia Turnpike project. Mr. Vitz responded that the meeting went well and there was a very good public turnout. A resolution of support is still needed from Morris Township in order to advance the project to Preliminary Engineering. Commissioner Shaw thanked Mr. Vitz and Assistant County Administrator Deena Leary for providing information and addressing the concerns from the public during the question and answer session.

### **B. NYS&W Updates:** Mr. Vitz provided a status update of the NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Project.

Construction for the trail began in June. Due to NJDEP restrictions, work is being completed in areas that do not require tree removal. Tree removal is restricted until October due to protections of the Indiana bat and the Northern Long-eared bat. Currently, construction is occurring between River Road and Woodland Avenue in Pequannock. The contractor is completing as much as possible in the areas that are not restricted. A bat specialist surveyed the area around the old train bridge to authorize work on the structure. Shop drawings are underway for the boardwalk section in Wayne. Chairperson Wells inquired about the stabilization of the embankment near River Road. Mr. Vitz responded that this work is being performed as a separate project. The trail stabilization project is currently being advertised. Chairperson Wells inquired about the naming of the trail. Mr. Vitz responded that Morris County Park Commission is determining a name for the trail.

### **C. Freight Activities:** Benjamin Peacock provided updates on several County railroad projects.

#### **Dover & Rockaway Railroad Runaround Track**

A runaround track is being designed to improve railroad operations along the D&R Railroad in Rockaway Township. The project team is discussing permitting with NJDEP. The County will go out the bid for construction once the permits are approved.

#### **Dover & Rockaway Railroad Realignment**

The County received proposals for the design of the realignment project and the proposal review committee has selected a consultant. The County has entered into negotiations with the consultant regarding the cost proposal.

## **Berkshire Valley Road Railroad Crossing Replacement**

The County recently submitted final comments on the design plans and specifications to the consultant. The detour plan and highway occupancy permit application were submitted to NJDOT for review and approval. The County will be able to advertise the construction bid about a month after receiving NJDOT approvals.

## **County Freight Railroad Operator Agreement**

Proposals for the County's Freight Railroad Operator Agreement were due on June 16. The County received and reviewed two proposals, and invited the two companies to present their proposals to the review committee. The presentations will be held on July 26.

Chairperson Wells inquired about the status of the Berkshire Valley Road Railroad Bridge concept development study and asked which alternative was selected. Mr. Peacock responded that the preferred alternative has not yet been finalized but the options have been narrowed down. In addition to meeting the need to provide additional clearance for trucks, the project team has been investigating alternatives that will not put the freight railroad out of service for a substantial period. The County's railroad operator has indicated that a ten-day timeframe for being out of service would be acceptable. The operator could work with customers to prepare in advance of the service outage.

### **VII. Old Business:**

None.

### **VIII. New Business:**

None.

### **IX. Public Comments:** None.

**X. The Next Regular Meeting:** Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

**XI. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Dede Murray, Division of Engineering & Transportation*