

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting**  
 Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
 Web-Ex Virtual Meeting

**In Attendance:**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Additional Attendees</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Melverne Cooke	Andrea Lubin, Rutgers VTC	Christopher Vitz
Jack Holland	Stephanie E. DiPetrillo, Rutgers VTC	John Hayes
Darren Large	Lauren Cerutti, Avenues in Motion	Benjamin Peacock
Renee LoSapio	Christine Hellyer, Morris County Division of Aging, Disabilities and Community Programming	
Ilene Dorf Manahan		
Len Resto		
Manuela Schuster		
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. Nine voting members were present during roll call.

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2022 Meeting:** Approval of the minutes was moved by Ilene Dorf Manahan, seconded by Len Resto, and unanimously approved.

**Approval of Notes from July 19, 2022 Meeting:** Approval was moved by Ms. Manahan and unanimously approved.

**V. Presentation: Morris County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan:** Stephanie DiPetrillo and Andrea Lubin from the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers University, presented on their work with Christine Hellyer of the Department of Human Services in developing the Morris County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP), called “Morris Moves.” Ms. DiPetrillo and Ms. Lubin provided an overview of the study and updated the Board on the status of the project. The CHSTP focuses on identifying the mobility needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, people with low incomes and others; providing strategies for meeting these needs; and prioritizing transportation services for funding and

implementation. VTC also reported on community outreach efforts, showcased highlights of the preliminary mapping efforts, and invited Board members to provide additional feedback by visiting the [project's webpage](#) or providing input to chellyer@co.morris.nj.us and sdipetrillo@ejb.rutgers.edu.

During the discussion on transportation needs and gaps, Mr. Resto brought up the Last Mile gap and Ms. Schuster brought up the lack of public transportation to the Morris One-Stop Career Center located in Randolph and also the critical need of public transportation for low income individuals seeking employment and the impact of lack of transportation options on employers' recruiting efforts. Ms. Schuster recommended contacting the Morris-Sussex-Warren Workforce Development Board and the Morris County Economic Development for input and also surveying employers, including some who provide transportation. She also suggested overlaying the available public transportation routes on maps showing low income and senior citizen housing, in order to pinpoint the gaps.

The project team offered to provide an update on the Morris County Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan prior to the finalization of the Plan.

## **VI. Reports:**

### **A. Road & Bridge Projects:**

#### **Roads**

Christopher Vitz, County Engineer, reported that the 2022 County Road Paving Program is winding down for the year. Remaining projects include Columbia Turnpike in both Florham Park and Morris Township, and Hanover Road in Florham Park. These remaining projects are expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Other road projects that were completed as part of this year's paving program include Bartley Road in Washington and Mount Olive Townships, Loantaka Way in Madison, and South Morris Street in Dover. The design phase has begun for the 2023 Road Paving Program.

#### **Bridges**

Mr. Vitz also reported that scheduling for several bridge projects have experienced delays due to permitting issues and supply of materials. Supply chains for steel, a critical material for bridges, have struggled due to employee shortages. Ongoing bridge projects include Palmer Road bridge in Denville, and Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike bridge in Butler. Other construction projects include the replacement of a railroad culvert in Butler and a drainage project on Ridgedale Avenue in East Hanover.

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

Mr. Vitz reported that resolutions of support have been received from Morris Township, Florham Park, and Hanover allowing the project to advance to Preliminary Engineering. A letter has been submitted to NJTPA to request the project be added to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the receipt of federal funding. The funding is expected to be released sometime next year.

- B. NYS&W Updates:** Mr. Vitz provided a status update of the NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Project, which is now officially named the Pompton Valley Rail Trail.

The construction project is moving along on schedule. NJDEP Indiana bat and Northern Long-eared bat protection restrictions were lifted in early October, allowing construction crews to mobilize on tree clearing for the trail. The contractor plans to finish tree clearing by the end of the year. Work has commenced on the old Pompton River Railroad Bridge. The contractor has set up containment systems on the bridge to protect the waterway and environment from lead paint chips as they perform sandblasting on the structure. The contractor has also started some steel and concrete repairs on the bridge. Bridge efforts will continue for as long as the weather permits. At the southern end of the project in Wayne, curb and sidewalk improvements are being performed along Mountain Boulevard. Trail grade crossing treatments are also being installed throughout the project extent. The kickoff meeting was held for the slope stability project near the northern end of the project. The slope stability work can potentially continue through the winter.

Chairperson Wells requested that the agenda be updated to replace “NYS&W Updates” with “Pompton Valley Rail Trail Updates” for future meetings. Chairperson Wells also stated that public response in Pequannock Township has been primarily positive, and many folks are excited about 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 to bid for construction once the permits are approved. Construction is expected to be completed July of next year.

#### **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 contracts have been executed and a kickoff meeting is scheduled for the end of October. The design phase is anticipated to last at least one year. This project was the first County railroad project to advance through NJTPA’s Freight Concept Development Program. NJTPA and Morris County representatives are excited to see this project move to the design phase.

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

The County will be replacing the crossing of the High Bridge Branch and Berkshire Valley Road with precast concrete panels. The County advertised the project in September. Proposals were received early October. Award recommendations were sent to the Purchasing office early last week. The preconstruction meeting is

expected to take place in early November. The project should be completed in 2023.

### **County Freight Railroad Management Agreement**

The Dover and Rockaway River Railroad has been selected as the railroad operator of the County's freight rail lines. The Management Agreement will be in effect for the next five years.

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

None.

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

Darren Large has offered to hold a Board of Transportation meeting at the Morristown Municipal Airport in the spring to tour the facility and observe facility upgrades.

Mr. Hayes called for a vote on the approval of Morris County Commissioner Kathryn DeFillippo's Retirement Resolution. Approval of the Resolution was moved by Len Resto, seconded by Melverne Cooke, and unanimously approved.

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

**X. The Next Regular Meeting:** Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

**XI. Adjournment:** Adjournment of the meeting was moved by Mr. Resto, seconded by Mr. Large, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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