

**MINUTES**  
**Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2011**  
**Morris County Department of Planning & Development**  
**30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room**  
**Morristown, NJ**

**In Attendance:**

Board Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Freeholder Gene Feyl	Hope Hezel	Frank Pinto
Ilene Dorf Manahan, Chairperson	Amy Magnuson, NJTPA	Gerald Rohsler
Art Valand, Vice-Chairperson	Chris Mazzei, M&E Railway	Deena Cybulski
Dudley Woodbridge, Secretary		
Milverne Cooke		
Joe Wells, Alternate #1		

**I. Call to Order:** Chairperson Ilene Dorf Manahan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

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

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

**IV. Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson Manahan welcomed Hope Hezel who manages the Morris Area Paratransit System and Chris Mazzei from the Morristown & Erie Railway.

**V. Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2010:** Art Valand offered a revision to the minutes, which was incorporated. Approval of the minutes was moved by Dudley Woodbridge and seconded by Melverne Cooke and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**VI. Report from Election Committee Chairperson & Election of Officers:** The chairperson of the Election Committee, Frank Reilly, was unable to make the meeting due to illness. He relayed his oral report to Ms. Cybulski, who shared it with the board members. Ms. Cybulski reported that Mr. Reilly had confirmed with all 2010 office holders that they would be willing to stay in their respective positions. Ms. Cybulski said that the Election Committee recommended the following 2011 appointments:

- Chairperson: Ilene Dorf Manahan
- Vice-chairperson: Art Valand
- Secretary: Dudley Woodbridge

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

**VII. Selection of 2011/2012 Meeting Dates:** After some discussion, the following meeting dates, which fall on the third Tuesday of the month, were considered. These meetings would take place at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Morris County Department of Planning & Development.

- April 19, 2011\*
- July 19, 2011
- October 18, 2011
- January 17, 2012

Approval of these meeting dates was moved by Mr. Wells and seconded by Mr. Woodbridge and the 2011/2012 meeting dates were unanimously approved.

*\*Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the April 19, 2011 meeting date conflicted with Passover. The Chairperson was consulted about this issue. It was determined that a new date of April 26, 2011 would be proposed to the board members for consideration and action would be taken via email and phone. A quorum was received on February 16, 2011 and the April 19, 2011 meeting date was changed to April 26, 2011.*

#### **VIII. Staff Reports:**

- **NJ Operation Toy Train:** Mr. Rohsler reported on the successful December 12<sup>th</sup> event hosted by the Morristown & Erie Railway in coordination with the Marines. Pictures for the train stop in Flanders were shared with the board.
- **Local Bus Service:** Ms. Cybulski informed the board about the December 16<sup>th</sup> NJ Transit mybus sign unveiling at the Morristown Railroad Station. The mybus program allows for riders to text NJ Transit their particular bus stop to determine the next scheduled bus. Board members expressed the need for the technology to reflect actual bus arrival times and not scheduled. Ms. Cybulski also explained that the local bus ridership has been low, but provided some reasoning why this might be the case.
- **Complete Streets Summit:** Mr. Rohsler explained that Morris County would be taking part in a three-county workshop with Sussex and Warren on March 31, 2011 at Waterloo Village Meeting House. The subject of the summit is Complete Streets. Former staff member, Denise Chaplick will be making a presentation at the event.
- **Transit Awareness Postcard:** Ms. Cybulski explained that the division received a small portion of the Federal Energy Grant to design, print, and mail a transit awareness postcard. A draft of the postcard was shared with the board members. Some comments were received prior to and at the meeting. A tool developed by the GIS Division was employed to extract mailing addresses for those who reside within ¼ mile of a bus stop or 1 mile of a railroad station. These residents will receive the postcard and be directed to the [www.MorrisDOT.org](http://www.MorrisDOT.org) website or division's phone number to determine if transit could work for them.

- **Freight Railroad Advisory Committee (FRAC):** Mr. Rohsler explained that there were presentations from NJDOT and a GO21 representative at the January 12<sup>th</sup> FRAC meeting. Primary issues discussed at the FRAC meeting concerned weight and height limitations along freight rail in New Jersey and how that affects Morris County.
- **Chester Branch Railroad Rehabilitation:** Mr. Rohsler showed the board members some pictures of the rehabilitation work that has been completed along the Chester Branch. He explained that work is almost complete, but that the contractor will hold off until the spring to take care of final work. He announced that the Chester Branch Rehabilitation Final Spike Driving will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Morris County Employee Vanpool Program:** Ms. Cybulski explained that the Morris County Employee Vanpool Program was evaluated over the last quarter. After careful consideration, the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders decided to end the program. The last vanpool ran on December 30<sup>th</sup>. The Division and the Morris County Motor Services did all they could to make the transition for the riders as smooth as possible.
- **NJDOT Municipal Aid:** Ms. Cybulski provided the board members with a list of Morris County projects that were awarded NJDOT Municipal Aid funds. Amy Magnuson of the NJTPA explained that funding was divided by formula to each county and then by competitive bid to each municipal project.
- **NJ Transit Billboards:** Ms. Cybulski explained that the Morris County Planning Board was notified by NJ Transit of their intention to construct billboards within the railroad station right-of-way along I-80 in Denville and I-287 in Boonton. The division was contacted by a concerned Denville resident. Aerial photographs showing the locations of the future billboards were provided by NJ Transit. The division shared this information with the concerned resident. NJ Transit is in the process of coordinating with the municipalities of Denville and Boonton.
- **Amtrak Gateway Project:** A new proposal for Trans-Hudson travel was released from Amtrak on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Rohsler provided a summary of the project to the board. Much is still unknown since environmental reports and design are yet to be completed.
- **Dover & Rockaway Railroad Realignment Considerations:** Mr. Rohsler reiterated the concept of the Dover & Rockaway Railroad realignment to the board members. He explained that a meeting was held with NJDEP Government Relations representative, Cindy Randazzo. This future project was one of the items discussed at that meeting. Ms. Randazzo was very receptive of this realignment, which would likely improve safety, rail freight service, commerce, and recreation opportunities.

**IX. Old Business:** None

**VI. New Business:** Hope Hezel provided an update on the Morris Area Paratransit System (MAPS). She explained that they are taking steps to educate their internal staff and municipal dial-a-ride representatives on transit trip planning. She will be submitting

a New Freedom grant application to the NJTPA for minimal funds to support these activities. Additionally, MAPS will be receiving NJ Transit Rural Bus Funds to enhance their service to those residents in rural areas. Ms. Hezel also expressed some concern over the recent announcement of four MAPS drivers retiring in the next three months. Mr. Rohsler noted that Manuela Schuster from the Office of Temporary Assistance will also be submitting a grant to the NJTPA for Job Access Reverse Commute funding for the continuation of the Morris on the Move Shuttle.

**XI. Public Comments:** None

**XII. Next Regular Meeting:** April 26, 2011

**XIII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

*Notes prepared by Deena Cybulski*