

MINUTES
Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2013
Morris County Department of Planning & Development
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor Conference Room, Morristown, NJ

In Attendance:

Board Members	Staff
Melverne E. Cooke, Chairperson	Deena Leary
Ilene Dorf Manahan	Gerald Rohsler
Frank T. Reilly, Vice Chairperson	John Hayes
Art Valand	Joseph Russo
Joe Wells	

I. Call to Order: Chairperson Melverne E. Cooke called the meeting to order at 2:25 pm.

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

III. Roll Call: Gerald Rohsler read the roll call. Four voting members were present during roll call. Frank Reilly arrived at 3:00 pm, at which point a quorum was reached and voting would be able to proceed.

IV. Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Cooke welcomed all attendees.

V. Staff Reports:

- 1. NJ 124 Corridor Transit Access Improvement Study:** John Hayes reported that since the October Board of Transportation meeting, two Technical Memorandums were completed and posted on the project webpage, and three are close to completion. The development of the recommendations report is well underway by the consultant team. The second Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held on November 28. The study, being conducted by VHB, will analyze and recommend station access improvements at the three NJ Transit commuter rail stations in the NJ 124 Corridor: Chatham, Madison, and Convent Station. The project began in January 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in March 2013. More information and the study documents can found at on the project webpage at www.morrisdot.org/NJ124/.
- 2. Rail Activities:** Mr. Rohsler reported that the Annual Toys for Tots Rail Car was successful, The U.S. Marine Corps' Operation Toy Train, ran on December 15

making stops in Roxbury, Dover, and Rockaway to accept donations. More information can be found at <http://toysfortotsnj.com/>.

Mr. Rohsler also reported that the Kenvil Team Track Design and Bid Specification project is almost complete. Morris County is discussing some final details with Roxbury Township. The engineering for the improvements to the Kenvil Team Track, located in Roxbury off of US 46 and Berkshire Valley Road, is being provided by CHA.

3. **Morris/Warren Rail Corridor Study:** Chairperson Cooke requested an overview of the study. Mr. Russo described that the purpose of the Morris/Warren Rail Corridor Study is to inventory the vertical height clearance and weight constraints along the rail lines within and connecting Morris and Warren Counties. Businesses within the counties of Morris and Warren receive freight rail service via the Washington Secondary from the Lehigh Rail Line in Phillipsburg. This rail line currently has a known rail car vertical clearance limit of 16'6" under the bridge on South Main Street over the Washington Secondary Line. This restricts rail cars traveling into the region by this line to Plate C (16'5") rail cars; the national standard is Plate F (17'0") rail cars. The study also contains an economic analysis component, which includes the examination of vacant parcels near the railway corridor. Recently, the consultant team received permission from NJ Transit to enter the rail right-of-way in order to measure the height of the East Hanover Avenue Bridge that crosses over the Morristown Rail Line. Mr. Rohsler added that it appears that six bridges in Morris County have weight issue restrictions. Clearance issues with centenary wires in addition to bridge heights have been identified as well.

VI. Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2012: Ms. Manahan identified a few edits to the minutes, which were agreed to by the members of the Board. Approval of the October 23, 2012 meeting minutes was moved by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Joe Wells, and unanimously approved.

VII. Report from Election Committee Chairperson & Election of Officers: Art Valand presented the Election Committee's recommendations for the election of officers for the Board of Transportation. The Election Committee recommended the following 2013 appointments:

- Chairperson: Melverne E. Cooke
- Vice-chairperson: Frank T. Reilly
- Secretary: Joe Wells

The election of the 2013 appointments was moved by Mr. Valand, seconded by Ms. Manahan, and unanimously approved.

VIII. Selection of 2013/2014 Meeting Dates: Chairperson Cooke presented the Board of Transportation meeting dates for 2013 and 2014. Mr. Reilly suggested that the proposed April meeting be moved from the third Tuesday to the fourth Tuesday of the month. The approval of the following 2013/2014 meeting dates were moved by Ms. Manahan, seconded by Mr. Reilly, and unanimously approved:

- April 23, 2013
- July 16, 2013
- October 15, 2013
- January 21, 2014.

These meetings will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Morris County Department of Planning and Development.

IX. Old Business: None

IX. New Business:

- Ms. Leary asked the Board to identify any candidates for the Freeholders to consider for appointment to Board of Transportation to fill member vacancies.
- Ms. Manahan reported that on January 23, 2013, a public open house will be held as part of the development of Morristown's Master Plan. Mr. Rohsler stated that he is on the Technical Advisory Committee for the plan and will be attending the open house. Chairperson Cooke inquired to the status of the Speedwell Avenue redevelopment and requested a report on the Morristown Master Plan development at the next Board meeting. Ms. Leary reported that a grant for the community garden was awarded by Morris County, CVS submitted their site plan application, and the first phase of the Speedwell redevelopment project has started.
- Mr. Reilly announced that two rail cars from the Boonton Museum will be at the Grand Central Station Centennial Celebration.

X. Public Comments: None

XI. Next Regular Meeting: April 23 2013, at 2:00 pm in the 4th floor conference room, 30 Schuyler Place, Morristown, NJ.

XII. Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was moved by Ms. Manahan and seconded by Mr. Reilly, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by John Hayes