

MEETING MINUTES
Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Web-Ex Virtual Meeting

In Attendance:

Board Members	Additional Attendees	Staff
Kathryn DeFillippo	Ted Ritter	Christopher Vitz
Ronald Francioli		John Hayes
Jack Holland		
Darren Large		
Ilene Dorf Manahan		
Frank Reilly		
Chairperson Len Resto		
Jigar Shah		
Commissioner Stephen Shaw		

I. Call to Order: Chairperson Len Resto called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call: John Hayes read the roll call. Nine voting members were present during roll call.

III. Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Resto welcomed everyone in attendance to the Board of Transportation Meeting.

IV. Election of Officers: Mr. Hayes announced the nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the 2026 Board of Transportation. Kathryn DeFillippo volunteered to fill the opening at the Secretary position. Approval of the following members was moved by Chairperson Resto, seconded by Frank Reilly, and unanimously approved:

- Len Resto, Chairperson
- Frank Reilly, Vice-Chairperson
- Kathryn DeFillippo, Secretary

V. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2025 Meeting: Approval of the minutes was moved by Chairperson Resto, seconded by Ms. DeFillippo, and unanimously approved.

VI Approval of 2026 Board of Transportation Meeting Dates: Approval of the following 2026 Board of Transportation meeting dates was moved by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Darren Large, and unanimously approved:

- April 21, 2026
- July 14, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- January 12, 2027

VII. Reports:

A. Freight Activities

Rail Freight Assistance Program Applications: Mr. Hayes reported that Morris County submitted applications for two rail bridge projects to NJDOT's FY 2026 Rail Freight Assistance Program in October.

The County applied for funding for the design of a new Chester Branch Rail Bridge over Berkshire Valley Road (Bridge 14C42.37) in Roxbury that would provide sufficient clearance for trucks to safely pass under the bridge. There is long history of trucks striking the bridge. The County completed \$150k in repairs during the summer of 2025. The County's annual railroad bridge inspection program has given the bridge a low sufficiency rating indicating that it needs to be replaced.

The County also applied for funding to rehabilitate bridge 14D30.78 which is a 76-foot-long bridge located along the Dover and Rockway Railroad in Rockway Borough, north of East Main Street (CR 644). The rehabilitation plans are being prepared now so if NJDOT selects this project, the County would be ready to bid the project shortly after the grant contract is executed. The grant would pay for sandblasting, painting, and repairing the steel structure and abutments.

Roslyn Khurdan (Assistant County Engineer) and Mr. Hayes met with NJDOT in Rockaway Borough on December 12 to discuss and present the applications. NJDOT typically announces grant awards around March and usually executes the grant contracts a few months after the award announcement.

Rehabilitation of Bridge 14D30.56: Mr. Hayes reported that the County has a NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program grant to fund the rehabilitation of Dover and Rockway Railroad bridge 14D30.56 in Rockaway Borough. The grant was awarded in 2025. The 200-foot-long bridge crosses the Rockway River. The rehabilitation plans are advancing. The project involves replacing ties, sandblasting and painting, and repairing the steel structure, abutments, and piers. The consultant will need to prepare and submit a permit application to NJDEP because some of the repair work activity will be in the Rockaway River.

Dover & Rockaway Railroad Realignment: Mr. Hayes reported on the plan to remove a portion of Dover & Rockaway Railroad from downtown Dover, which the town would like to replace with a shared use path/greenway along the Rockaway River. Currently, the County railroad connects to NJ Transit west of Dover in Wharton. To allow the removal of the rail, the connection would be moved east of downtown Dover.

The County's consultant is designing a connection that would start from an existing siding located east of Dover Train Station; the new rail would run adjacent to NJ Transit's existing rail, cross under South Salem Street Bridge,

cross the Rockaway River, and connect to the Dover & Rockaway Railroad near Sammis Avenue. The rail from Mercer Street to the west to Wharton would be removed allowing for nine public and one private rail crossings to be removed.

The consultant has completed the field survey and mapping except for NJ Transit's right of way. Since our last meeting the application submitted the application to access and survey NJ Transit property. After the design team completes the survey, the hydrology analysis can begin. This analysis will be critical for designing the new rail bridge to ensure it can handle floodwaters without increasing flooding elsewhere. NJDEP permits will be required.

East Hanover Avenue Bridge Catenary Rail Clearance Project: Mr. Hayes reported that the first public meeting for the East Hanover Avenue Bridge Catenary Rail Clearance Project was held on October 14. This project is part of NJTPA's FY 2025 Freight Concept Development Program. The study is looking at the catenary wires suspended under the bridge, as well as the wires along the Morristown rail line between Denville and the Whippany Rail Line in Morristown. The wires are too low to allow for Plate F rail cars to pass beneath the bridge, and potentially at other locations along the corridor such as under NJ 10 bridge at the Morris Plains/Parsippany border. Plate F are the standard size, shorter rail cars are no longer being manufactured and are becoming increasingly difficult to secure for goods movement. Addressing these clearance issues would allow Plate F rail cars to reach Morristown & Erie's Whippany Line railroad. The study will be completed and the preferred alternative will be identified by June 2027.

B. Route 24 & Columbia Turnpike Interchange Project:

Christopher Vitz, County Engineer, reported that work is proceeding on the Route 24 & Columbia Turnpike Interchange Project. Morris County awarded the design contract for Preliminary Engineering to Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI). Preliminary Engineering includes NJDEP permitting, base survey, and traffic counts. GPI has completed the traffic counts at the intersections and ramps in the study area. Once the consultant has completed data collection and prepared a report, the County will schedule a meeting with the municipal officials in the area. There will be a public information meeting later in the year.

Chairperson Resto asked about recent crashes in the study area. Mr. Vitz replied that he does not have that data yet. Ms. DeFillippo asked if the traffic count data was received yet. Mr. Vitz said it was not yet submitted, however based on Morris County's traffic count program, volumes are generally back to pre-Covid levels, and he expects to see that similar trend in the study area. However, office occupancy levels in the area might affect traffic, as some companies have moved or may still have remote work. Ms. DeFillippo asked about the property acquisition that is needed for this project. Mr. Vitz said that part of the office parking lot, south of the bank that is being redeveloped, would need to be acquired for the ramp to Park Avenue.

Ron Francioli stated that the intersection will be impacted by the renovation of the old MetLife building and the addition of 150 condo units near the building. Mr. Vitz responded that any information that was available on pending developments was provided to the consultant to include in their traffic study. Chairperson Resto asked who was moving into the MetLife building. Mr. Francioli said they do not know who the tenants will be, however the uses will be medical related.

C. Road & Bridge Projects:

Mr. Hayes reported that NJTPA is funding a Trail Crossings Pilot project to design safety improvements at 54 trail crossings in Morris County. The Division of Engineering & Transportation will be working with NJTPA, the County Park Commission, and a consultant team on this project. The design contract is currently advertised and will start later this year. Mr. Hayes reported that the County Commissioners adopted a new official county map on 12/17. The Division helped the County Planning office with this effort over the past year or so, providing the GIS road and rail layers used in the map, as well as confirming County road jurisdiction and other information.

Mr. Hayes also announced that the County fall traffic count program was completed, counts at 30 locations were completed. The Division's intern started reviewing the data and will enter it into the traffic count database. Traffic counts were not taken in the spring because I-80 was closed; there was concern the counts would have been irregular as drivers took alternate routes.

Lastly, Mr. Hayes said the County's ash tree removal program continues this year. The emerald ash borer beetle has infected and killed ash trees throughout the region. The County and consultant tree inspector have GPSed the location of ash trees along County roads, and the Division is using GIS to track removals and develop work programs. Contractors hired by the County have removed over 3,800 trees countywide. Additionally County Shade Tree and paving contractors have removed hundreds of trees as well. The contract for Phase 7 for 320 trees was awarded on 11/5. This should be the last ash tree removal contract.

Mr. Vitz reported that the 2026 paving program is set and includes about 22 miles of road. The County Commissioners approved the capital budget, and the Division will start to advertise the paving projects for bidding when the funding becomes live. The County will start bidding paving projects in the spring and continue throughout the remainder of the year. There are several bridge projects in design. Construction will start shortly on three bridges once environmental permitting is approved, and several other bridge projects will start construction later this year. The County is waiting on contracts from NJDOT to start construction on Landing Road Bridge project in Roxbury.

Chairperson Resto asked if Shunpike Road (CR 646) between Green Village Road and Noe Avenue will be repaved. Mr. Vitz said it is not on the paving list, but he would find out.

Ms. DeFillippo asked when Landing Road Bridge construction is expected to start. Mr. Vitz replied that it will probably be later summer.

Ted Ritter, NJTPA, announced that the NJTPA had its reorganization meeting on January 12, which happens every two years. Middlesex County Commissioner Charles Kenny was selected as the new Chairperson. The executive committee was also approved, including Morris County Commissioner Shaw as 3rd Vice Chair. Mr. Ritter congratulated the executive committee.

Mr. Ritter also announced that this year's NJ TransAction Conference will be the conference's 50-year anniversary. The conference sessions cover transportation planning and engineering, he said he has gained much professional knowledge attending TransAction. He congratulated Frank Reilly on shepherding this event and invited anyone to attend this year if they were considering it.

Mr. Reilly provided some history on the origin of the TransAction Conference. It was started in 1976 to help improve communication with NJDOT. The conference began before the NJTPA was formed. It took a few years to get the conference going. Mr. Reilly was the conference chair for all the years except for three year which he was vice-chair. TransAction started with 30 attendees in 1976 and had over 1,250 attendees in 2025. Mr. Ritter added that this year they are aiming for over 1,500 attendees. Mr. Reilly mentioned that there will be between 160 and 170 exhibitors and possibly a dozen vehicles in the large exhibitor hall. Mr. Ritter confirmed that the conference will be April 14 to April 17 in Atlantic City. Mr. Reilly added that there are currently 80 sessions scheduled, and possibly more.

VIII. Old Business:

Chairperson Resto referenced the e-bike discussion from the last Board of Transportation meeting. He reported that he shared Ms. DeFillippo's comments from the meeting with Madison's Mayor Conley. The comments were regarding Madison's proposed e-bike ordinance and her recommendation that e-bikes and non-e-bikes are treated the same. Chairperson Resto said he would follow up with Mayor Conley about the status of the ordinance. He also mentioned that he emailed East Hanover and Florham Park to ask if their e-bike ordinances were adopted, but he had not heard back. Mr. Francioli reported that East Hanover and Florham Park had adopted the ordinances.

Ilene Dorf Manahan reported that she was happy to see signs for No Bike/E-Bike Riding on the Sidewalks in Morristown. Chairperson Resto said that he was hit by a child on a bicycle on the sidewalk at corner of Main Street and Fairmount in Chatham Borough. Fortunately, Chairperson Resto was not injured. He hopes the state will address the issue with a law that covers everywhere, instead of a hodgepodge with towns having different rules from each other. Ms. Manahan said the law did not allow bicyclists to ride on the sidewalk when she was a child.

Chairperson Resto asked about the potential for a traffic signal at the intersection of North Passaic Avenue (CR 607) and Weston Avenue. This was discussed at the Chatham Borough Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Currently a flasher with push button activation is present. He reported observing drivers ignoring the flashers and not stopping for pedestrians. Mr. Vitz said the Division would review it.

Chairperson Resto asked about how to request expanded service on the NJ Transit 873 bus that runs through Chatham Borough. Ms. Manahan responded that the Board has reached out before to different people about bus changes. Mr. Reilly recommended

writing a letter to the head of NJ Transit. Chairperson Resto said he would contact NJ Transit since it is coming from the Chatham Borough Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Ritter said he can provide NJ Transit contact information if needed.

Mr. Hayes announced that Assistant Planner Kevin Stephens took a different job opportunity and left employment with Morris County. The Division wishes him the best.

Mr. Reilly announced that the Morris Area Paratransit Service (MAPS) was started 40 years ago. He provided some history on the formation of MAPS and the constitutional amendment that dedicated a portion of casino tax revenue to fund paratransit in the state. He described the training office staff and drivers took on addressing the transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

Chairperson Resto reported that the Chatham Borough Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is trying to work with AARP to have the Borough designated as an age-friendly community.

Mr. Hayes reported that NJDOT retimed US 202 corridor from Cory Road to NJ 53, including at the intersection of East/West Hanover Avenue (CR 650).

IX. New Business:

Mr. Francioli asked if the County is still looking at the intersection of US 202 and Hanover Avenue. He reported that East Hanover Avenue westbound approaching US 202 is backing up from 3pm through 6pm. He asked if there is the possibility of examining a dedicated right turn lane from East Hanover Avenue westbound onto US 202. Mr. Vitz said the County received a redevelopment application for the former Acme property, and the right turn lane can be considered during the site plan review.

Mr. Francioli said Hanover Township has been concerned about congestion at the intersection of NJ 10 and South Jefferson Road. He mentioned the lack of a right turn lane on South Jefferson Road onto NJ 10 and asked if the County was looking at that road. Mr. Vitz responded that North and South Jefferson Roads are not County roads, they are under municipal jurisdiction. NJDOT had a plan to look at the intersection but was considering canceling the project a few years ago. The County has not heard anything since. Mr. Vitz said he would reach out to Hanover Township's engineer and see if the Township has any updates on the project.

X: Public Comments: None

XI. The Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

XII. Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was moved by Mr. Reilly, seconded by Ms. DeFillippo, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by John Hayes, Division of Engineering & Transportation