



NEW JERSEY COUNTY PLANNERS ASSOCIATION

President
Francesca Giarratana
Hudson County

Treasurer
Tom Stanuikynas
Burlington County

Secretary
Mark Villinger
Ocean County

President Emeritus
Ranae Fehr
Atlantic County

NJCPA Regular Meeting – Virtual

Friday, April 1, 2022 at 11:00AM

Minutes

1. **Welcome and Roll Call** – President Giarratana welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11AM. She performed the Roll Call. Quorum was achieved.
2. **Panel: “Freight Planning at the 3 NJ MPOs”:**

President Giarratana noted due to timing restrictions the MPO presentation will be moved up in the agenda.

 - a. **NJTPA**

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Director of Freight Planning, provided an overview of freight planning in the NJTPA region. She noted that New Jersey is the Supply Chain State. Over 600,000 workers are employed in transportation logistics, and distribution and we have the largest port on the East Coast. She noted many of the NJTPA freight initiatives including the NJTPA Freight Initiatives Committee, Freight Activity Location, Truck Parking, Freight Concept Development Program, participation in the MAP Forum and several others. Anne shared the Goods Movement tool available on the NJTPA website which can address questions and issues regarding moving goods by truck into, out
 - b. **DVRPC**

Kristen Scudder, Freight Planning, DVRPC provided an overview of freight planning in the DVRPC Region. She highlighted their tool, Philly Freight Finder, which helps users explore the freight economy and its regional impact. She noted their “Impacts of E-Commerce” study which is currently underway. They are tracking industrial growth and development in the region. The study will develop resources and document strategies for member governments to minimize impacts to their local communities.
 - c. **SJTPO**

William Schiavi, Principal Planner at SJTPO provided an overview of freight planning in the SJTPO region. Similar to the rest of NJ, the SJTPO region is seeing the freight demand expansion. SJTPO is participating in the NJ Statewide Freight Plan. He noted their Port of Salem Corridor Freight/Rail Intermodal Study completed in 2018 and the current regional data collection & analysis study which is ongoing. The Data and Analysis study will provide necessary information for the State plan as well as identify needs and issues for local communities.

Donna Rendeiro (NJ OPA) reminded everyone that her office is currently working on developing warehouse siting guidance for municipalities. The studies coming from the MPOs will be helpful for this work. They are mainly focus on land use implications, flooding, air quality as it relates to truck emissions, impacts on environmental justice communities, etc. The document is anticipated to be released for comment in the next couple weeks. Counties can play a big role in inventorying appropriate sites for development of these

warehouses. The MPO data will be a great resource for everyone.

President Giarratana asked Kristen Scudder about Urban Freight category, and how the analysis differs between urban and regional freight. Kristen noted the general difference is the localized and corridor level of urban freight versus the regional level. Focus on curb management, loading zones, etc. She noted that for urban environments that freight recommendations should be incorporated into complete streets guidelines.

3. Business

a. **Executive Committee Report:**

President Giarratana reported that the salary survey results are in. She shared that 13 Counties out of the 21 responded. The survey consisted of questions regarding Planning structure within each County, services offered, number of employees (major 10 to 15 employees), planning and related titles. We also asked about different benefits offered which may be helpful to see what is being offered for retention of employees. Other questions included starting salary and if advanced degrees or licenses impact that starting amount. Across the board no planning staff worked remotely before the pandemic. Many did during the pandemic with a handful of Counties continuing to do hybrid work.

Bylaws ad hoc committee did meet and review bylaws. One more meeting is expected to be held before the next Association meeting.

The “County Planning Provides Value from an Officials Perspective” session proposal for the NJAC conference was submitted and we are waiting for a response. Panel participants will be Somerset, Passaic, and Hudson Counties.

With the scheduling of the next meeting there are a lot of different events going on. National Planning Conference is April, NJAC in May, NJ APA in June. President Giarratana recommended moving summer tour to July 29th for better turnout because of these events.

Mercer had requested Planning Board Engineer would like to have an informal meeting with County Planning attorneys on Warehouse Development approvals. Interested Counties should reach out so we can coordinate a meeting to discuss.

John Donnadio (NJAC) sent a request to ask if Counties allow billboards or advertisement in County ROWs. Responses can be sent to President Giarratana to follow up with John.

b. **February 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

President Giarratana offered the February meeting minutes for action. Tom Stanuikynas (Burlington) made a motion to approve, Kamal Saleh (Union) seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

c. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Treasurer Stanuikynas shared the Treasurer’s Report for the month. He noted a few checks have come in for 2022 dues. Expenses between February 1 and March 31st totaled \$176.07. The March 31st ending balance is \$15,126.62. Eight purchased have been received for 2022 dues. He encouraged any Counties that have not yet submitted their dues for the year to please do so. He offered the report for a motion. Walt Lane (Somerset) made the motion to approve, Joe Barilla (Morris) seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

President Giarratana noted that there was a low response rate for attending this meeting in person. She asked if any conditions changed in Counties that would prohibit the travel for in person meetings to please let her know. Thanks to those who are able to attend the virtual meeting.

4. **County Planning Efforts Involving Freight Planning:**

President Giarratana introduced a lightning round for several Counties to discuss ongoing Freight Planning studies.

a. Monmouth/Mercer- “Moving Mindfully: Monmouth/Mercer” (2019)

David Schmetterer (Monmouth) introduced this project that was an NJTPA sponsored study partnership between Monmouth and Mercer. The study focused in 3 towns: Robbinsville, Allentown, and Upper Freehold. The major roads system included NJ 33, US 130, NJ Turnpike, and I-195. The intent of the study is to mindfully focus on all users for mobility.

b. Union – “Union County Truck Mobility Study” (2021)

Liza Betz (Union) said their NJTPA Subregional Studies Program study concluded in June 2021. Working with their consultant WSP the study goals were to better understand and improve how trucks move through Union County. There are 174 miles of County roadways that serve as the backbone of mobility for the County. The study focused on safety upgrades for all modes of travel and users, identifying freight-focused improvements, meeting challenges and opportunities of growth in the County, identifying funding sources and targeting investments. The study identified 10 locations for targeted improvements as high priority for future upgrades and investment.

c. Middlesex – “Southern Middlesex County Freight Movement Study” (Current)

Michael Dannemiller (Middlesex) introduced his study which kicked off two weeks ago. This is also an NJTPA funded study. The focus is on southern Middlesex in Cranbury, Jamesburg, Monroe, and South Brunswick. The greater area around these municipalities will also be evaluated. The schedule for the study was just established and there will be an emphasis on needs assessment and public engagement. The goal of the study is to foster collaboration, evaluate the existing infrastructure and movement in the primary study area and into the secondary area. The study will complement and help inform Middlesex County’s strategic plan, Destination 2040.

d. Hudson- “Hudson County Trucking Study” (Current)

Kevin Force (Hudson) introduced Hudson’s study which is just kicking off. The study is anticipated for completion in spring 2023. While there is a robust rail freight network, the focus will be on truck freight in Hudson. Due to the strategic location of Hudson County near ports in Manhattan and Newark, there is a lot of manufacturing, logistics and trucking facilities located in Hudson. The study will provide an understanding how the freight trucking industry impacts the County’s economy, traffic, health and safety, and its communities. Recommendations may be new technologies, truck routes, and will help direct infrastructure spending. The study will also focus on curb management for various freight trucking that utilizes curb space.

5. **Agency / Partner Updates (NJTPA, DVRPC, SJTPO, OPA, NJDEP, NJAC, RPA, NJEDA, etc.)**

Donna Rendeiro (NJOPA) noted that when the governor revoked the public health emergency it was anticipated that plan endorsement and town centers would also expire but the Executive Order did extend those centers. It does allow rule making entities to modify that order. She stated there are 21 out of 94 municipalities that have specifically stated no interest in pursuing the center endorsement again. She would be making the recommendation

Peter Zambito (NJTPA) noted that on March 14th NJTPA approved the FY 23 Unified Work Program, there will be 4 Subregional Studies Program studies starting. NJTPA’s Active Transportation Plan is also underway.

Karen Morris (DVRPC) wanted to share two recently published studies. 1)

Cultivating Camden Report– Campbell’s Soup Foundation previously partnered on a food access and insecurity study in the City of Camden. There was a look back to review the outcomes of the study and 17 out of 33 recommendations were found to be completed or in process. 2) Travel Market Analysis for Atlantic City rail line completed for NJ Transit released in December. The study found that ridership has declined since 2009. They are actively discussing improving connections to the line for commuter use.

Allen Weston (NJAC) reiterated the interest in hearing from Counties about whether they permit billboards or advertising with County ROWs.

He also noted that NJAC has been asked to weigh in on the proposed NJ PACT regulations from NJDEP. There is nothing yet released for public comment but there have been several webinars on this. If there are any concerns Counties have about what they have heard so far, please email him comments at Allen@njac.org. This will help NJAC keep up with the concerns of the Counties. As a reminder NJPACT is the result of an Executive Order and not legislation.

Lastly, he wanted to remind everyone about the NJAC conference starting on May 4th.

6. Committee Updates

There were no Committee updates this month.

7. Other Updates/Necessary Business

It was discussed that end of last year most of the Counties indicated that in person meeting would be preferred for 2022. If anything has changed please let President Giarratana know.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Stanuikynas (Burlington), seconded by Michael Dannemiller (Middlesex). Meeting was adjourned.

County Attendees

Frances Brown	Atlantic
Ranae Fehr	Atlantic
John Peterson	Atlantic
Tom Stanuikynas	Burlington
Lauren Purdom	Cape May
Vincent Viera	Hudson
Thomas Malavasi	Hudson
Mark Serrano	Hudson
Francesca Giarratana	Hudson
Kevin Force	Hudson
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon
Kristopher Melchers	Hunterdon
Matthew Zochowski	Mercer
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex
Linda Weber	Middlesex
Michael Dannemiller	Middlesex
Kyle DeGroot	Monmouth
David Schmetterer	Monmouth
Michael DiGiulio	Morris
Joe Barilla	Morris
Dan Sindoni	Ocean

Jason Miranda	Passaic
Salvatore Presti	Passaic
Angela Knowles	Somerset
Kenneth Wedeen	Somerset
Walter Lane	Somerset
Adam Bradford	Somerset
Autumn Sylvester	Sussex
Liza Betz	Union
Kamal Saleh	Union
Philip Kandl	Union
Dave Dech	Warren
Ryan Conklin	Warren

Partner Agencies/ Presenters

Kristen Scudder	DVRPC
Karin Morris	DVRPC
Michael Ruane	DVRPC
Allen Weston	NJAC
Peter Zambito	NJTPA
Chris Wichman	NJTPA
Anne Strauss-Wieder	NJTPA
Donna Rendeiro	OPA
Amal Muse	Rutgers
Bill Schiavi	SJTPO
Jennifer Marandino	SJTPO
Alan Huff	SJTPO