

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
WILL BE **FRIDAY, JULY 20TH** AT 9:00 AM
LIGHT BREAKFAST AT 8:30 AM**

**ONE PAGE MEETING SUMMARY
CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
MARCH 16, 2007 MEETING**

INTRODUCTIONS

There were approximately 60 participants despite inclement weather, including representatives for eleven municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, two TMAs, and various state agencies, authorities, and organizations (for-profit and non-profit).

DRAFT TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT DISTRICT (TED) BILL

Assemblyman Wisniewski followed through on his offer at the November meeting and provided a draft TED bill focused on Route 1 that would help fund the BRT. The Forum will act on it at the next meeting.

ADVANCING THE ROUTE 1 BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) EFFORT

The BRT effort is advancing through NJ Transit's work on specific pieces. Since the last Forum meeting there has been an interagency meeting, a BRT Committee meeting, and coordinated applications for a federal earmark.

ENHANCING TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COORDINATION

Brent Barnes made a presentation on the Mobility and Community Form Element, which may be used by municipalities to make BRT more successful.

COORDINATING MAJOR ROUTE 1 PROJECTS

Chris Carew, NJ Office of Economic Growth, said the report on interviews done for the Planning Through Partnerships Project is progressing. Danielle Graves, NJDOT, said the Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy will integrate that report and resume with the subregional meetings cancelled last summer. She also gave an update on how the various Penns Neck projects are advancing.

COMMUNICATING FORUM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DVRPC staff provided updates on tasks underway for the Forum action plan, including discussing the list of recommended projects from the database of small east-west needs and reporting on agreement efforts that help existing east-west corridors satisfy everyone's needs as best as possible. The results are being implemented for CR 571 and work on an agreement is underway for CR 518. One result of these efforts is Monroe Township (Middlesex County) is coordinating with the five Mercer County municipalities along CR 571 to hopefully provide transit service in that corridor. An updated atlas of the Forum region was distributed. It includes work done for these east-west corridor tasks, such as uniform summaries of municipal circulation elements.

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
MARCH 16, 2007 MEETING**

ATTENDEES

(Approximately 60)

Name	Organization
Glenn Reibman	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Patricia Saulino	Dewbery-Goodkind, Inc. Business Development
Sean Greene	DVRPC
Eric Grugel	DVRPC
Zoe Neaderland	DVRPC
Barry Seymour	DVRPC
Don Shanis	DVRPC
Janice Mironov	East Windsor Township (Mayor)
Katherine Kish	Einstein's Alley
Alison Miller	Friends of W. Windsor Open Space
Sandra Brillhart	Greater Mercer TMA
Cheryl Kastrenakes	Greater Mercer TMA
David Nettles	Hopewell Borough (Mayor)
Richard Krawczun	Lawrence Township
Pamela Mount	Lawrence Township Council
Matthew Lawson	Mercer County Planning Department
Basil Giletto	Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC)
Jim Yeager	Michael Baker & Associates, Inc.
Tony Gambilonghi	Middlesex County Department of Planning
Mike Costello	Monroe Township Transportation
Judy Kolva	National Transit Institute
Russell Like	NJ Department of Community Affairs Office of Smart Growth
Paul Cohn	NJ Department of Transportation Project Planning & Development
Danielle Graves	NJ Department of Transportation Bureau of Statewide Planning
Miki Krakauer	NJ Department of Transportation Bureau of Freight Services
Jim Lewis	NJ Department of Transportation Bureau of Statewide Planning
Kimberly Mooring	NJ Department of Transportation
Mark Stout	NJ Department of Transportation Planning & Development
Chris Carew	NJ Office of Economic Growth
Tom Clark	NJ Transit
Jack Kanarek	NJ Transit
Jerome Lutin	NJ Transit
Thomas Marchwinski	NJ Transit
Janice Pepper	NJ Transit
James Schwarzwaldner	NJ Transit
Brian Wahler	NJ Turnpike Authority
Ron Tindall	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
David Parris	Penns Neck Community
Ron Yake	Plainsboro Township
Arch Davis	Princeton Borough Traffic and Transportation Committee
Pam Hersh	Princeton Healthcare System

Marvin Reed	Princeton Regional Planning Board
Lee Solow	Princeton Regional Planning Board
Bob Kiser	Princeton Township
Kristin Appelget	Princeton University Community & Regional Affairs
Ed Zimmerman	Rocky Hill Borough (Mayor)
Walter Schmidlin Jr.	Sarnoff Corporation Corporate Real Estate
Robert Bzik	Somerset County Planning Division
Joe Fishinger	Somerset County Engineering Division
Walter Lane	Somerset County Planning Division
Craig Marshall	South Brunswick Township
Bill Neary	Township of East Brunswick & KMM
Tushar Patel	URS Corporation
Sandra Shapiro	West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance
Linda Geevers	West Windsor Township Council
Shing-Fu Hsueh	West Windsor Township (Mayor)
Heidi Kleinman	West Windsor Township Council & Planning Board
James Parvesse P.E.	West Windsor Township Engineering Division
Pat Ward	West Windsor Township Community Development Department

Please advise if you attended but are not on the list. It is helpful for everyone to sign in.

1. INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Don Shanis, Deputy Executive Director of DVPRC, and Mark Stout, Assistant Commissioner of Planning and Development at NJDOT, welcomed participants. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Shanis asked for any revisions to the highlights of the November 2, 2006 Forum meeting as distributed in the meeting folders. There were none.

As Assemblyman Wisniewski had offered at the November meeting, he provided a draft TED bill focused on Route 1 that would help fund the BRT. The Forum will act on it at the next meeting in July.

3. ADVANCING THE ROUTE 1 BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

Mr. Shanis provided an overview of progress and next steps on the BRT efforts. This project has secured some short-term needed financial resources, helping small scale projects advance, phasing the project into pieces that can advance, continuing to work with communities, refining forecasts, securing right of way, and building legislative buy-in. Mr. Shanis noted that several participants had coordinated to submit requests for federal earmark funding for this project.

Jack Kanarek, Senior Director of Project Development for NJ Transit, said there seems to be gathering excitement about the possibility of the BRT system. He reported that work is coming along well in coordinating with Princeton University and the DINKY. BRT

concept design work is underway in coordination with Princeton University and the relocation of the DINKY station for the area district project. Additionally, a charette was held and coordinated work is in progress with the Quaker Bridge Mall expansion. NJ Transit is working with bridge projects over the Millstone River and at Scudders Falls, so a BRT would be accommodated in those designs. In addition to these immediate issues, NJ Transit is working on phasing the project into 5-10 year actions and longer term steps. Short-term actions could include expanded bus service along Route 1.

Tom Marchwinski, Director of Service Planning for NJ Transit, reported on survey work underway. Updated forecasts would be needed to advance the project especially if federal Small Starts money were to come into the picture. NJ Transit is also running focus groups and Mr. Marchwinski requested volunteer employers to host them. The focus groups will focus on getting a better understanding of what people who currently drive to work would look for to consider using a BRT.

The main points of the discussion follow:

- Ron Tindall, Principal Planner at NJTPA, said that they are funding two BRT studies in North Jersey this coming fiscal year. The one in New Brunswick would connect with the Route 1 BRT. They are also doing a study in Elizabeth, New Jersey.
- Arch Davis, member of the Princeton Borough Traffic and Transportation Committee, asked about access from I-95 and shuttles. Mr. Kanarek clarified that there is an extensive system of park and ride lots and shuttle services recommended in the 2006 Alternatives Analysis Study. They include several lots in each Pennsylvania and New Jersey along I-95.
- Sandy Shapiro, representative from the West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance, asked about bicycle access and wetland issues. Mr. Kanarek said the focus has been on north-south bicycle access along the DINKY/BRT right-of-way, but that NJ Transit would work with communities on east-west access as well. He said wetlands are a big issue in the corridor.
- Shing-Fu Hsueh, Mayor of West Windsor, noted that they have incorporated the BRT into their circulation element. He brought copies of the relevant material and offered to work with other municipalities. He also provided an update on the Princeton Junction Train Station Redevelopment Study. More information is available at www.WWAllAboard.org.

4. ENHANCING TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COORDINATION

Mr. Stout introduced Brent Barnes, Director of Systems Planning and Research at NJDOT. Mr. Barnes made a presentation on the Mobility and Community Form Element and provided an update on the NJ Access Code Reevaluation Study. He brought copies on CD and offered more copies upon request. [Contact NJDOT staff member Susan Weber at (609) 530-3658]

Mr. Barnes gave his presentation on an approach sometimes called form-based codes. This is a “soup-to-nuts” approach of coordinated land use and transportation planning. A mobility and community form element is being proposed as an acceptable alternative to the current circulation and land use section of master plans. Mr. Barnes invited municipalities interested in participating in a pilot program being run by NJDOT to contact him.

The key points from the discussion of the first item were:

- Bill Neary, Executive Director of KMM and Mayor of East Brunswick, expressed interest in following up with NJDOT the pilot program.
- Mr. Davis noted that ultimately the consumer has to buy into these new developments for them to work and asked about how that is coming along. Mr. Barnes had previously spoken about the Santana redevelopment project in San Jose, California as an example and he noted that the market had been very positive for it.
- Ms. Shapiro asked about how the roads into these new, denser developments fair, asking specifically about what might happen to the roads around the Princeton Junction Train Station Redevelopment area. Mr. Barnes said that the real reason NJDOT is involved in this project is that these redevelopments reduce demand on state highways by making more trips possible by walking, bicycling and transit.

Mr. Barnes also provided an update on the State Highway Access Code Reevaluation Study. The access code is another tool to achieve some of the same transportation and land use coordination goals. The current work will increase multimodal aspects and address main streets. An option municipalities may wish to pursue is better aligning their ordinances with the access code. Another option is developing an access management plan. The current update work will go through notice of proposed rulemaking and may require updating the authorizing State act. The stakeholder working group expects to complete work by the end of the calendar year, however, some pieces may be broken off for earlier rulemaking. Material will be rolled out before the notice of proposed rulemaking.

Matthew Lawson, Transportation Planner for Mercer County, encouraged the updating of standards such as those in Appendix B. Mr. Barnes concurred.

5. COORDINATING MAJOR ROUTE 1 PROJECTS

A) PROVIDE BASIC OVERVIEW OF REPORT THAT WILL DRAW ON INTERVIEWS DONE FOR PLANNING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS LED BY NJ OFFICE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Chris Carew, Director of Government Relations for the NJ Office of Economic Growth complimented DVRPC and the Forum for their good work. He complimented the professionalism of NJDOT and NJ Transit and also the townships of Lawrence and West Windsor for their open-minded participation in the Quaker Bridge Mall expansion discussions.

Mr. Carew said he had hoped to have the report resulting from interviews with municipalities ready. He emphasized that the problem was not with New Jersey Future's work, but rather with getting signoffs on summaries of interviews from a last few municipalities. He said they were going to go forward regardless at this point and provide other state agencies twenty days to review the report. After that he said he hopes to have it up on a web page and provided to the Forum.

The report will include a wish list, obstacles, and an assessment by state agencies of what items they can address. This would likely be set up as what state agencies can do and what they would expect in return to facilitate regional planning. It will

particularly address similar needs of contiguous municipalities. The report will include a menu for moving toward next steps.

B) EXPLAIN NEXT STEPS FOR THE ROUTE 1 REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY LED BY NJDOT

Danielle Graves, Principal Engineer for NJDOT-Bureau of Statewide Planning, said that once the NJ Office of Economic Growth report comes out, the Growth Strategy project will get back underway. Staff will incorporate the new information and findings to work on an initial growth strategy and NJDOT will inform everyone of a new schedule.

C) PRESENT BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON ROUTE 1 PENNS NECK AREA PROJECTS

Ms. Graves provided an update on the following projects:

- Millstone Bridge- Project is in Final Design. Construction is expected in 2008 (DBNUM 031A)
- Vaughn Drive Connector – NJDOT met with West Windsor and they are looking into public-private partnership opportunities. This project is expected to go into Design in 2008 and Construction in 2012 (DBNUM 031B)
- Mainline Route 1 – Project is scheduled for Design in 2009 and Construction in 2012
- US 1 Southbound Operational Improvements at I-95/295 – Construction bids have been signed and work is about to begin on short-term safety improvements in the vicinity of the ramps (DBNUM 01330B)
- US 1 Northbound Project – A project to address the merge of I-95/295 ramp onto Rt. 1 northbound in front of the MVC was being initiated in DPPD
- Alexander Rd. Bridge replacement contract was awarded in March 2007 with completion in October, 2008. (DBNUM 99414)

The discussion covered the following matters:

- Marvin Reed, Chairman of the Princeton Regional Planning Board Master Plan Committee, asked for an update on discussions about a Route 1 interchange at Quaker Bridge Mall in the vicinity of the Wyeth tract (DBNUM 01330A1). Mr. Stout said NJDOT would report on it at the next meeting.
- There was discussion of the Harrison Street intersection with Route 1. Bob Kiser, Engineer for Princeton Township, clarified that a problem statement was submitted to NJDOT for this matter last year. Two things are in discussion: a turn lane/other short-term improvements and the Penns Neck Study Harrison Street overpass of Route 1. Mr. Stout agreed to provide an update on the Route 1 mainline project and its relationship to the overpass at the next meeting. He clarified that all the pieces of the Penns Neck Study results are advancing.

6. COORDINATING MAJOR ROUTE 1 PROJECTS

A) DISCUSS RECOMMENDED PROJECTS FROM DATABASE OF PROBLEMS AND PROJECTS

Sean Greene, Transportation Planner at DVRPC, presented the draft recommended projects included in the meeting folders for a last review before staff works a bit more with involved stakeholders on possible solutions. With regard to the idea of

improving pedestrian safety at the intersection of the D&R Canal and CR 571, Mr. Kiser suggested lights embedded in the pavement. Mr. Davis expressed concern with that approach on a high speed road. Otherwise, participants seemed comfortable with advancing this task.

B) PRESENT GENERAL OVERVIEW OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OF CR 571 CORRIDOR STUDY

David Anderson, Senior Transportation Planner at DVRPC, said he still needs to present the draft recommendations to the core steering group and get feedback before they are finalized. He said some items likely to be presented include pipeline 4 projects in advance of long-term Penns Neck improvements (such as improved signage and pavement markers) and addressing other safety and operations issues on CR 571. The discussion veered into comments on the need to do both state-funded transportation improvements and forward-thinking local land use planning at the same time.

C) APPLAUD ACTIONS MUNICIPALITIES ARE TAKING TO PROVIDE TRANSIT ON CR 571

Mike Costello, Transportation Supervisor for Monroe Township, described an exciting multi-municipal cooperative effort that came out of the east-west existing corridors task on CR 571. Monroe has initiated several services for its residents, including regular runs to Princeton destinations via CR 571. The municipalities along CR 571 had all met and discussed ways to coordinate on a few additional stops along the route to serve more people generally within the existing schedule.

D) RECOGNIZE EFFORTS ON THE CR 518 EAST-WEST EXISTING CORRIDORS TASK

Zoe Neaderland, Senior Transportation Planner at DVRPC, reported that municipalities along CR 518 had agreed to work together and a productive first meeting had been held. As with the CR 571 task, the effort had started with a transportation summary map and a uniform summary of each municipality's circulation element. As the east-west existing corridors task continues, there will be a uniform summary of the circulation element of each Forum municipality which is a practical step toward the goals Mr. Barnes had covered. The maps get included in the Forum Atlas. The updated Transportation/Land Use Atlas was distributed in the meeting folders.

E) SUMMARIZE PROGRESS ON FORUM ACTION PLAN

Ms. Neaderland summarized progress on the tasks in the Forum's adopted action plan and noted that a summary table is distributed each meeting.

7. DIALOGUE

Participants provided highlights of related projects as follow:

- Katherine Kish, Chairman of Einstein's Alley, described what that organization does and expressed her interest in coordinating with the Forum. Einstein's Alley is about branding central New Jersey, sort of like the Research Triangle. It involves communication, coordination, possible signage, and raising funds for other ways to draw attention to the area's livability. She said they have recently been designated a nonprofit organization. Their region is five counties, including Monmouth. She

said it may be an urban legend, but 50-70% of the technical businesses in New Jersey are thought to be located in this corridor.

- Mayor Hsueh provided an update on the Princeton Junction Train Station Redevelopment Project charettes and reminded participants of the upcoming one on April 19th. One alternative that will be investigated is the result of doing nothing and they do not know what will emerge as they continue to interact and shape the alternatives. Anyone interested can stop by and communicate directly with the architects at 500 Alexander Road or visit www.WWAllAboard.org. He said that privacy concerns have been a strong issue; for example, over sixty out of over four hundred participants refused to provide their names at a charette.
- Judy Kolva, Instructional Designer for the National Transit Institute, reported that the Route 1 BRT work has been selected for the exercise sections of the revised national BRT course. DVRPC provided maps from the Atlas. The local dates for this course will be provided to Forum participants [The information for the June 5-6 presentation of the course in New Brunswick was provided by e-mailed to Forum participants].
- Mr. Davis said he would like to see more highways, but in the meantime we should do a better job of using technology on roads. He recommended doing better work with traffic signals.
- Linda Geever, Council Member in West Windsor, expressed concern that commuters are stakeholders in the various efforts relating to the Princeton Junction train station who are not being adequately included. She said they are worried about whether they will be able to get seats on the trains to New York City as well as being able to get to the station. Participants in the West Windsor and BRT projects responded about park and ride lots and shuttle services being developed. Mayor Hsueh added that West Windsor also has a task force investigating the needs of senior citizens. One idea that has emerged is a designated park and ride area for commuters off CR 571 at the Community Park with a shuttle that would also serve seniors during off-peak hours. Mr. Tindall offered extra copies of the Route 1 BRT report CD and Ms. Ward offered to put the full report up on the West Windsor web site [This turned out not technically feasible, but all the BRT material is available from Jim Schwarzwald at JSchwarzwaldern@njtransit.com].

Mr. Shanis expressed appreciation on behalf of the Forum to Sarnoff Corporation for hosting the meeting. DVRPC will notify Forum participant of the next meeting date once it is determined.