

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
WILL BE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH AT 1:00 PM
NEW LOCATION: BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB, PLAINSBORO CAMPUS
777 SCUDDERS MILL ROAD, BUILDING 2, PLAINSBORO, NJ
A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NOON**

**ONE PAGE OVERVIEW
CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
JULY 20, 2007 MEETING**

INTRODUCTIONS

There were over 70 participants, including representatives for 11 municipalities (5 mayors), three counties, two MPOs, two TMAs, FTA, FHWA, staff for a US Representative, and various agencies, and organizations (for-profit and non-profit).

ROUTE 1 REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH (OEG)

A meeting about the results has been rescheduled from July 31st to early fall. The report is being mailed to participants and will later be posted on the internet.

COORDINATING MAJOR ROUTE 1 PROJECTS

- > Route 1 BRT near-term elements are advancing. A highlight was Lawrence adopting changes to their master plan for the Quaker Bridge Mall Expansion that specifically includes the BRT. NJ Transit has completed rider surveys of Route 1 bus routes and is about to hold focus groups largely composed of people who currently drive to work. A report on these market research efforts is expected in the fall.
- > The NJDOT Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy will resume after the OEG report comes out. New work will be discussed with the Forum.
- > Somerset County reported on transit-friendly flexible planning at centers along the West Trenton Line. The environmental assessment of reestablishing commuter service on this 27 mile rail line is expected soon.
- > The Princeton Junction Train Station is one of the ten busiest in the country. The redevelopment study for the surrounding 300+ acres is back underway after a hiatus relating to election of new West Windsor Council members.

PROGRESS ON THE FORUM ACTION PLAN

There was discussion about the future of the Forum. The Legislative Committee reported that they want high level policy makers to come speak about priorities for Route 1 and where Route 1 fits with other priorities in New Jersey. Some participants expressed that they want more action by the Forum on major regional needs. Some participants expressed that they felt there was not enough content relating to Middlesex County.

**MEETING SUMMARY
CENTRAL JERSEY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
JULY 20, 2007 MEETING**

ATTENDEES (Approximately 70)

Mayors

Hon. Peter Cantu	Mayor	Plainsboro Township
Hon. Mildred Trotman	Mayor	Princeton Borough
Hon. Frank Gambatese	Mayor	South Brunswick Township
Hon. Bill Neary	Mayor, Executive Director	Township of East Brunswick, KMM
Hon. Shing-Fu Hsueh	Mayor	West Windsor Township
Louise Wilson	Deputy Mayor	Montgomery Township

Other Municipal Staff

Gene Strupinsky	Business Advocate	Hillsborough Township Economic & Business Dev. Commission
Pamela Mount	Councilwoman	Lawrence Township
Richard Krawczun	Township Manager	Lawrence Township
Mike Costello	Supervisor	Monroe Township Transportation
Bob Sheehan	Administrator	Plainsboro Township
Lee Solow	Planning Director	Princeton Regional Planning Board
Marvin Reed	Chairman of Master Plan Committee	Princeton Regional Planning Board
Bob Kiser	Engineer	Princeton Township
Deanna Stockton	Design Engineer	Princeton Township
Craig Marshall	Planning Director	South Brunswick Township
Edward Cohen	Economic Development	Township of East Brunswick*
Tom Vigna	Director of Community Development	Township of North Brunswick*
Heidi Kleinman	Council and Planning Board	West Windsor Township
Linda Geevers	Council Member	West Windsor Township
Pat Ward	Coordinator of Community Devel.	West Windsor Township

*Municipalities and cities not in the Forum but likely to be interested are also invited. Trenton and New Brunswick are on this list.

Counties

George Fallat	Traffic Engineer	Mercer County Engineering
George Ververides	Director	Middlesex County Department of Planning
John Hogan	Chairman	Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee
Peter Palmer	Freeholder, NJTPA Board	Somerset County, NJTPA
Robert Bzik	Director	Somerset County Planning Division
Walter Lane	Principal Planner	Somerset County Planning Division

MPOs

Barry Seymour	Executive Director	DVRPC
Don Shanis	Deputy Executive Director	DVRPC
Joe Rudnicki	Intern	DVRPC Long Range Planning
Sean Greene	Transportation Planner	DVRPC Long Range Planning
Zoe Neaderland	Senior Transp. Planner	DVRPC Long Range Planning
Eric Grugel	Regional Planner	DVRPC Smart Growth
Ron Tindall	Principal Planner	NJTPA

Other Regional Bodies

Glenn Reibman	Director of Policy and Planning	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Katherine Kish	Chairman	Einstein's Alley
Cheryl Kastrenakes		Greater Mercer TMA
Sandra Brillhart	Executive Director	Greater Mercer TMA
Marty DeNero		Mercer County Trade
Carmen Valentin	Project Manager	Municipal Land Use Center
Daniel O'Connell	Legislative Director	NJ State Legislative Board/United Transportation Union
Brian Wahler		NJ Turnpike Authority
Denise Barricklow	Director of Communications	Regional Planning Partnership
Jeffrey Wilkerson	Project Planner	Regional Planning Partnership

(Bill Neary is also the Executive Director of Keep Middlesex Moving)

Federal

Steven Hildner	Staff	US Congressmen Rush Holt
Jeannette Mar		Federal Highway Administration
Linda Beyer	Right-of-Way Officer	Federal Highway Administration
Rebecca Reyes-Alicea	Community Planner	Federal Transit Administration

State

Lorissa Whitaker		NJ Department of Community Affairs Office of Smart Growth
Miki Krakauer	Administrative Analyst	NJ Department of Transportation Bureau of Freight Services
Danielle Graves	Principal Engineer	NJ Department of Transportation Bureau of Statewide Planning
Mark Stout	Assistant Commissioner	NJ Department of Transportation Planning & Development
Bob Marshall	Acting Director	NJ Department of Transportation Project Planning & Development
Paul Cohn	Manager, Smart Growth Initiatives	NJ Department of Transportation Project Planning & Development
Arpan Dasgupta		NJ Office of Economic Growth
James Schwarzwald	Manager of Area Studies	NJ Transit
Tom Clark	Regional Manager	NJ Transit Government & Community Relations
Jerome Lutin	Senior Director	NJ Transit Intermodal Planning & Capacity Analysis
Jack Kanarek	Senior Director	NJ Transit Project Development

Nonprofit and For-Profit Organizations

Alison Miller		Friends of West Windsor Open Space
Barry Keppard		Michael Baker & Associates, Inc.
Robert Wolfe	President	Picus Associates
Pam Hersh	Vice President for Gov. Relations	Princeton Healthcare System
Kristin Appelget	Director	Princeton University Community & Regional Affairs
Walter Schmidlin		Sarnoff Corporation Corporate Real Estate
Tushar Patel	Senior Project Manager	URS Corporation
Sandra Shapiro		West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance

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

1. INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

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

2. MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Seymour asked for any revisions to the highlights of the March 16th Forum meeting as distributed in the meeting folders. There were none and the highlights were adopted.

3. ROUTE 1 REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

Arpan Dasgupta, NJ Office of Economic Growth (OEG), said the meeting scheduled by NJ Future on this project for July 31st had been cancelled. He said this is in order to speak individually with involved mayors first and that the report would be mailed to them that afternoon. He said there would be opportunity to reengage and move forward in the future.

Chris Sturm, Senior Director of State Policy for NJ Future, added that the report would be posted electronically after the meeting is held, probably in the fall. She said Forum members would more likely find it an interesting synthesis than earth-shattering news as it covers obstacles to center based growth and opportunities for change.

Mr. Seymour asked if there were questions. There were none.

4. COORDINATING MAJOR ROUTE 1 PROJECTS

A) NJ TRANSIT ROUTE 1 BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

Jack Kanarek, Senior Director of Project Development for NJ Transit, said near-term actions and ridership estimates are underway. NJ Transit held productive talks with Princeton University and the Princeton Regional Planning Board. Mr. Kanarek expressed appreciation for the efforts of Lawrence Township, NJDOT and the Quaker Bridge Mall developers, Simon and General Growth Group, for advancing how to bring the BRT through the area of Quakerbridge Road. Lawrence incorporated results into their master plan. Coordination of the BRT with the West Windsor Redevelopment Plan and the Princeton Medical Center also advanced. Engineering for the Scudders Falls Bridge and the Millstone Bridge include BRT accommodations.

Tom Marchwinski, Director of Service Planning for NJ Transit, reported on market research for transit in the Route 1 corridor. Surveys were conducted of the 600-series routes that serve the corridor now, and four focus groups were held with mostly auto drivers to gain understanding of what they would look for in considering switching to BRT service. Results of these efforts will be reported at the next meeting. Mr. Marchwinski thanked Greater Mercer TMA for holding the focus groups and noted that DVPRC, NJTPA, and NJDOT have provided some funding to continue early work with several initial corridors.

NJ Transit and NJDOT offered to help in negotiations if other projects along the possible BRT route are coming along.

The main points of the discussion follow:

- Peter Cantu, Mayor of Plainsboro, said there should be prompt action to protect needed rights-of-ways.
- Marvin Reed, Chairman of the Princeton Regional Planning Board Master Plan Committee, said his impression was that sharing the DINKY right-of-way with the BRT is alright as long as the DINKY is not threatened. He said that it would help if NJ Transit addressed public concerns about this matter.
- Sandy Shapiro, representative from the West Windsor Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance, asked if the BRT would be duplicating DINKY service and whether there could be bicyclist and pedestrian accommodations in the right-of-way instead. Mr. Kanarek clarified that the BRT would serve a broader area than the DINKY and said that accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians will be addressed.
- Linda Geevers, member of the West Windsor Township Council, asked about whether the BRT could serve the not-yet-filled office building on Alexander Road. The answer was it could, though not too many stops should be added.

B) NJDOT ROUTE 1 REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Danielle Graves, Principal engineer at NJDOT-Bureau of Statewide Planning, said they anticipate re-launching this project once the OEG Planning Through Partnerships project reaches its conclusion.

C) US 206 BYPASS AND OTHER NJDOT PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Graves provided an update on various projects. She said the Millstone River bridge replacement project (DBNUM 031A) is in Final Design. The Penns Neck "Route 1 in a cut" project (031) and Vaughan Drive connector (031B) projects are in consultant selection for design. A designer will be selected in Fall, 2007 for Route 1 ramp improvements for the overpass at Quaker Bridge Mall (013303). This effort and work on Route 1 between Nassau Park Boulevard and the I-95/295 interchange (01330A) may be combined. An update of the US 206 Bypass was included in meeting folders.

The main points of the discussion follow:

- The Harrison Street overpass is part of the Penns Neck project. In the short term, Mercer County and NJDOT are looking into an additional through and turn lane.
- The location of the Vaughan Drive extension is still being decided in a public process, in coordination with the West Windsor Redevelopment Study. All were invited to participate in that West Windsor process.

D) WEST TRENTON LINE STATION AREA STUDY

Bob Bzik, Director of the Somerset County Planning Division, presented the West Trenton Line Station Area Study. It developed transit-ready flexible changes for the master plan and zoning at the Belle Meade node in preparation for the hoped-for restoration of passenger service on the West Trenton Line, currently used only for freight rail. It was both a good planning effort and gave the transit project extra points in the FTA Small Starts funding evaluation. The Environmental Assessment for restoring service on the 27-mile long rail line was expected out shortly. He also spoke about related efforts in other municipalities along the line in Somerset County.

Jack Kanarek clarified that the proposed service would mainly serve commuters and would share track with the freight service in order to minimize the project cost. They would just add some necessary short sections of second track initially, though more could be added to provide better service in the future.

**E) MERCER COUNTY COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN**

Marty DeNero, Director of the Mercer County Transportation Resources to Aid the Disadvantaged & Elderly (TRADE) Program, spoke about coordination of special needs transportation and the newly-released Mercer County Human Service Transportation Coordination Plan. He said that the senior population is projected to grow 80% over the next fifty years. Some recommended steps are forming a coalition to work together to better provide transportation for people with special needs, putting customers first, developing a central phone number, and other short and long-term steps.

5. PROGRESS ON THE FORUM ACTION PLAN

**A) DISCUSSION OF DRAFT TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT
DISTRICT (TED) BILL**

Zoe Neaderland, Senior Transportation Planner at DVRPC, presented the conclusions of the Legislative Committee meeting in conjunction with Bob Wolfe, Chair of the Committee and President of Picus Associates. A draft TED bill was provided by Assemblyman Wisniewski in response to Forum member requests at the November 2, 2006 meeting. It was distributed at the next Forum meeting (March 16th) with agreement that it would be discussed at a Legislative Committee meeting and this Forum meeting.

The Legislative Committee agreed that a TED or other mechanism should provide additional funding, not replace state funding; an increase in the gas tax or other means should be pursued to fund transportation improvements adequately. There was not consensus on purpose; this mechanism could:

- Act on a multimodal master plan for the Route 1 corridor,
- Address all mass transit in the corridor, or
- Focus on BRT as part of a “pick a winner and get it done” strategy

The Legislative Committee concluded that it would not recommend advancing the draft TED bill at this time. The proposed near-term steps were:

- Get a clearer understanding of the State’s priorities for Route 1 and where Route 1 fits with the other priorities in the State from the highest level policy makers possible
- Encourage local entities to do what is needed to advance the BRT
- Thank Assemblyman Wisniewski

B) DATABASE OF PROBLEMS AND PROJECTS

Sean Greene, Transportation Planner at DVRPC, had discussed this small-scale element of the Forum action plan and its 2007 recommendations at previous Forum meetings and brought the final letters to the Forum for endorsement.

The main points of the discussion, which went off on a different tack, follow:

- George Fallat, Traffic Engineer for Mercer County, provided the update that a developer will provide a left-turn lane from CR 571 to Cranbury Road. He noted that

projects within the West Windsor Redevelopment Area are eligible for additional State funds.

- Frank Gambatese, Mayor of South Brunswick, said the small-scale project that should get done is extending CR 522 beyond US 130 in an easterly direction, which he said is being held up by the DEP.
- Mayor Gambatese and Mayor Cantu went on to question whether the Forum is worthwhile if it talks about matters of minor significance without making progress on major longstanding issues. Mr. Seymour sympathized about frustration with getting projects done, but noted the value of celebrating small wins and acting at various scales.
- Mr. Reed added that he wants the Forum to address big regional needs, that he is frustrated with turnover at NJDOT leading to having to convince new people of the need for projects, and that the OEG report was not available.
- Ed Cohen, Department of Planning and Engineering of East Brunswick, said that the approved widening of the NJ Turnpike will result in 4,000 trucks per year on nearby roads and that the Forum needs to address where they will go.
- Bill Neary, Mayor of East Brunswick, said there is too much discussion of Mercer and Somerset County issues and not enough about Middlesex County.
- Mr. Stout said he understood the sense of frustration but recommended being patient for a short time longer. He reminded participants that the Governor's Office had selected the Route 1 corridor as being of key importance for economic development and recognized that transportation is an important element. He added that the highway and BRT projects that are moving forward should not be overlooked.
- Mayor Cantu said he is hopeful about the OEG study and was just questioning the value added by the Forum. Mr. Seymour noted that the Forum had been asked to stand down while the Route 1 Regional Growth Strategy and OEG study developed major recommendations for the region. He said that the Forum looks forward to having those results to discuss and advance, but that if the Forum is not helping the region work together, then the MPOs will stop holding the meetings.
- Ron Tindall, Principal Planner for NJTPA, expressed appreciation that NJTPA Board member Peter Palmer was present and provided an overview of that MPO's actions that help the region.
- Conclusions included planning for a discussion of truck issues for the next meeting.

C) PLANNED PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Don Shanis, Deputy Director of DVRPC, noted that the Planned Projects Status Report included an update on all federally funded projects in Central Jersey, analysis of what they mean for the region, and now also major land development projects. Ms. Neaderland added that an annual report and the progress report on the tasks in the Forum's adopted action plan were in the meeting folders.

7. DIALOGUE

Shing-Fu Hsueh, Mayor of West Windsor, provided an update on the Princeton Junction Train Station Redevelopment Project. He spoke about the open process guided by five principles. The process halted after the 2007 elections but agreements were just being reached to resume work. Next steps include enhanced public participation and education, and analysis of financial aspects. More information is available at www.WWAllAboard.org.

Mr. Seymour expressed appreciation on behalf of the Forum to Walter Schmidlin and the Sarnoff Corporation for hosting the Forum meetings for several years. With changes in Mr. Schmidlin's duties, the Forum will be looking for a new place to meet. Mr. Seymour asked that recommendations be provided to Ms. Neaderland. Information about the next meeting will be distributed as soon as it is ready.

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