

CJTF: Goals And Accomplishments¹

The Forum has been meeting since 1999 to address concerns of municipalities in Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, and Hunterdon counties focused on the US 1 corridor.

The Overall Goal Of The Forum Is To:

Achieve improved and more integrated regional land use and transportation planning that will result in better quality of community life.

The Forum Accomplishes Its Goal By Implementing An Action Plan.

Currently, The Two Highest Priority Action Items Are:

- > Preparing packages of some practical, relatively low-cost improvements for a few existing regional east-west corridors and getting them funded;
- > Moving forward with the Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study and its recommendations.

The Key Issues To Be Addressed By The Action Plan Are:

- > East-west access;
- > Improving the coordination of transportation and land use in this high growth, congested area;
- > Transit.

The General Structure Of The Forum Is:

High-level representatives from twenty-one municipalities, counties, state agencies, and organizations meet three to four times per year to coordinate and to initiate solutions. The Forum facilitates political will to get agreed-upon projects underway. It encourages multi-municipal approaches and projects. It assists municipalities that want help on technical matters that improve regional transportation, such as circulation elements. The Forum itself is not an implementing agency. This partnership is supported through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, and New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The Members Of The Forum Steering Committee Are:

- > Donna Allison – Executive Director, Ridewise of Raritan Valley
- > Brent Barnes – Director of Systems Planning and Research, NJDOT
- > Diane Brake – President, PlanSmart NJ
- > Bob Bzik – Director of Planning, Somerset County
- > Tom Clark – Regional Manager, Government and Community Relations, NJ Transit
- > James Crane – Project Manager, Ridewise of Raritan Valley
- > Lois Goldman – Director of Regional Planning, NJTPA
- > Danielle Graves – Project Engineer, Bureau of Statewide Planning, NJDOT
- > Cheryl Kastrenakes – Executive Director, Greater Mercer TMA
- > Walter Lane – Principal Planner, Somerset County Planning Division
- > Donna Lewis – Director, Mercer County Planning Department
- > Jim Lewis – Manager, Bureau of Statewide Planning, NJDOT
- > Tom Marchwinski – Director of Systems Planning, NJ Transit
- > Bill Neary – Executive Director, Keep Middlesex Moving, Inc.
- > George Ververides – Director, Middlesex County Department of Planning

¹ Goals, priority items, and general structure are from the CJTF website, <http://www.dvrpc.org/LongRangePlan/CentralJerseyForum/>