

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW
Central Jersey Transportation Forum
October 23rd, 2013 Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

There were over 84 participants, including representatives from ten municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (for-profit and non-profit). Peter Cantu, Mayor of Plainsboro, welcomed everyone to Plainsboro and praised the Forum for fifteen years of building cooperation in Central Jersey.

Action Items

Two action items were addressed to begin the meeting: The May 21st, 2013 meeting summary was adopted and the Forum voted in support of sending a letter to voting members who have not yet had Road Show presentation, asking them to schedule a presentation. There were also brief reports on the recent activities of the Rt1RGS and Transit Action Teams. Matt Lawson, Transportation Planner at the Mercer County Planning Division, provided a brief update about a series of recent meetings to improve communication about local and county road closures.

Status of Transportation and Land Use Projects in Central Jersey

Jesse Buerk, Senior Transportation Planner at DVRPC, summarized the latest edition of the *Planned Projects Status Report*, distributed with the meeting folders. The report details 22 projects, representing an investment of about \$356 million of road and bridge funds. It also includes major land development projects of which those listed as completed or under construction will add over 435,000 square feet of commercial space (including retail and office); over 1.4 million square feet of new medical and hospital development; over 4.1 million square feet of warehouse space; over 375,000 square feet of educational facilities; and nearly 5,200 housing units. Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, of West Windsor provided an update on the status of NJDOT's effort to develop a feasible set of improvements in the Penns Neck area.

Complete Streets

Charles Brown, Senior Research Specialist at the Voorhees Transportation Center, provided an update about the recent Complete Streets Summit. Sheree Davis, Section Chief of the Bureau of Commuter and Mobility Strategies in the Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs at NJDOT, described how NJDOT has integrated its CS policy into its project development pipeline process. Two municipal and one county representative shared their experiences with CS policies and implementation. David Bruccoleri, Project Manager for the NJDOT Bureau of Local Aid, discussed local grant programs to implement CS policies.

Transit

Tom Marchwinski, Director of Systems Planning for NJ Transit, provided updates on the US 1 BRT and related projects, including the CR 571 BRT study. Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director at Greater Mercer TMA, gave an update on the current and future marketing plans for the Route 655 bus. Tom Vigna, North Brunswick Township Planner and Chair of the Rt1RGS Action Team, gave an update on the status of the North Brunswick Transit Village.

Brief Updates & Dialogue

Marvin Reed, Forum Chair and Chairman of the Master Plan Committee for the Regional Planning Board of Princeton, opened a brief discussion about the status of the proposed restoration of passenger service on the West Trenton Line. Several Forum members shared updates.

**Meeting Summary
Central Jersey Transportation Forum
October 23rd, 2013**

ATTENDEES: over 84 participants – Please advise if you attended but are not on the list.

Mayors			
Peter	Cantu	Mayor	Plainsboro Township
Frank	Gambatese	Mayor	South Brunswick Township
Shing-Fu	Hsueh	Mayor	West Windsor Township

Other Municipal Staff			
Regine	Saintilien	Transportation Planner	City of Trenton, Division of Planning
Jeffrey	Wilkerson	Principal Planner	City of Trenton, Division of Planning
Theodore	Chase	Councilman	Franklin Township Council & Planning Board
Gene	Strupinsky	Business Advocate	Hillsborough Township
Ed	Cohen	Transportation Specialist	Monroe Township
Amy	Rutherford	Transportation Coordinator	Monroe Township
Gail	Smith	Engineer	Montgomery Township
Tom	Vigna	Township Planner; Chair, Rt1RGS Action Team	North Brunswick Township Community Development - Division of Planning
Les	Varga	Director	Plainsboro Township Office of Planning & Zoning
Bob	Kiser	Municipal Engineer	Princeton
Anton	Lahnston	Former Chair	Princeton Traffic and Transportation Committee
Lance	Liverman	Councilman	Princeton
Patrick	Simon	Councilman	Princeton
Deanna	Stockton	Assistant Engineer	Princeton
Marvin	Reed	Chairman - Master Plan Committee; Forum Co-Chair	Regional Planning Board of Princeton
Lee	Solow	Planning Director	Regional Planning Board of Princeton
Bryan	Bidlack	Planner	South Brunswick Township
Pat	Ward	Director of Community Development	West Windsor Township, Community Development Department

Counties			
Matt	Lawson	Transportation Planner	Mercer County Planning Division
Tony	Gambilonghi	Supervising Planner for Transportation	Middlesex County Department of Planning
George	Ververides	Director	Middlesex County Department of Planning
Walt	Lane	Supervising Transportation Planner	Somerset County Planning Division

Freeholder Peter Palmer represented Somerset County and the NJTPA Board.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations			
Jesse	Buerk	Transportation Planner	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Emily	Costello	Senior Planner	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Lisa	MacCarrigan	Intern	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Zoe	Neaderland	Manager, Transp. Safety & Congestion Mgmt.	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Barry	Seymour	Executive Director	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Lois	Goldman	Director of Regional Planning	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Mary K.	Murphy	Executive Director	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Peter	Palmer	Freeholder, Board Member	Somerset County, NJTPA Board

Other Regional Bodies			
Richard	McClellan	Director - Community Affairs	Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission
Chad	Dixson	Mobility Manager	Greater Mercer TMA
Cheryl	Kastrenakes	Executive Director	Greater Mercer TMA
Morteza	Ansari	Senior Transportation Coordinator	Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
Bill	Neary	Executive Director	Keep Middlesex Moving TMA
Joan	McGee	Watershed Policy Specialist	Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed Association
Janna	Chernetz	New Jersey Advocate	Tri-State Transportation Campaign

State Departments			
Robert	Tessier	Project Specialist	NJ Department of Community Affairs, Local Planning Services
Barry	Ableman	Principal Planner	NJ Department of State, Office for Planning Advocacy
Sheree	Davis	Section Chief	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Commuter & Mobility Strategies (Office of Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs)
Danielle	Graves	Project Engineer	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Statewide Strategies
Tom	Houck	Transportation Planner	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Statewide Strategies
Jim	Lewis	Manager	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Statewide Strategies
Komila	Pandit	Assistant Engineer	NJ Department of Transportation, Bureau of Statewide Strategies
David	Bruccoleri	Project Manager	NJ Department of Transportation, Division of Local Aid & Economic Development
Simon	Nwachukwu	Principal Engineer	NJ Department of Transportation, Division of Statewide Planning
Andrew	Swords	Director	NJ Department of Transportation, Division of Statewide Planning
Paul	Ceppi	Senior Community Development Officer	NJ Economic Development Authority
Susan	Winter	Principal Planner, Emergency Management	NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, Planning & Project Management Bureau
Tom	Clark	Regional Manager, Gov. & Community Relations	NJ Transit
Tom	Marchwinski	Director of Systems Planning	NJ Transit
Mike	Viscardi	Senior Facilities Manager	NJ Transit

Federal Agencies			
Calvin	Edghill	Planning & Environment Team Leader; Research	Federal Highway Administration, New Jersey

Other			
Brian	McGuire	Associate State Director, Advocacy	AARP New Jersey
Sarah	Thomson	Founding Member	Cranbury Road Sidewalk and Safety Project
Miguel	Gavino	Senior Associate	Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.
Ileana	Ivanciu	Vice President	Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.
Kerri	Tyerman	Project Manager	Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.
Ali	Vaezi	Associate Vice President	Dewberry-Goodkind, Inc.
Pam	Mount	Citizen, former Mayor	Lawrence Township Resident
Jim	Yeager	Department Manager - Traffic/Planning	Michael Baker & Associates, Inc.

Cyndi	Steiner	Executive Director	New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition
Curt	Emmich	Associate	Picus Associates
Sheldon	Sturges	Managing Director	Princeton Future
Pam	Hersh	Vice President for Government Relations	Princeton Healthcare System
Kristin	Appelget	Director	Princeton University, Community & Regional Affairs
Bettina	Zimny	Director of Planning	RBA Group
Nora	Shepard	New Jersey State Advocacy Organizer	Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Daniel	O'Connell	NJ Legislative Director	Smart - International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers
Eric	Payne	Realtor Sales Associate	Smart Traffic Solutions & Weichert Realty
Jerome	Lutin	Citizen	South Brunswick Township Resident
Sarah	Steward	District Director	Staff to Representative Rush Holt
Tahirih	Smith	Outreach Coordinator and Acting Executive Director	Sustainable Lawrence
Jack	Kanarek	Planning Manager – Philadelphia; Chair, Transit Action Team	Systra Consulting
Steve	Kimmelman	Citizen	Twin Rivers section of East Windsor Township
Oliver	Ernhofer	Project Manager - Planning and Transportation	URS Corporation
Charles	Brown	Senior Research Specialist	Voorhees Transportation Center
Kathleen	Brennan	Trustee	West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance
Jerry	Foster	President	West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance
Alison	Miller	Board Secretary	West Windsor Parking Authority / West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance

1. Welcome and Introductions

There were over 84 participants, including representatives from ten municipalities, three counties, two MPOs, and various agencies and organizations (for-profit and non-profit). Marvin Reed, Forum Chair and Chairman of the Master Plan Committee for the Regional Planning Board of Princeton, welcomed everyone. Peter Cantu, Mayor of Plainsboro, welcomed everyone to Plainsboro and praised the Forum for fifteen years of building cooperation in Central Jersey.

Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director of NJTPA, noted that both MPOs recently completed long-range plan updates. NJTPA's Together North Jersey effort is currently engaged in outreach efforts that include visioning sessions at local malls. She encouraged everyone to look for those events and provide input about where to focus future investments. Barry Seymour, Executive Director of DVRPC, said that the *Connections 2040 Plan for Greater Philadelphia* was recently adopted by the DVRPC Board. He noted that the Plan includes far more project needs and desires than could be funded given current funding levels. The Vaughn Drive Connector, CR 571 Improvements, and US 1 BRT projects are in the Plan as funded projects. The Penns Neck and West Trenton Line Expansion projects are listed but unfunded in the Plan. Mr. Reed emphasized that one never knows when funding will become available, so it's important to plan and prepare.

Mr. Reed said between now and the next meeting, voting members will need to complete the annual updates to their voting designation letters. He also said the election of the Forum Chair would occur at the next meeting. If anyone would like to nominate a candidate or run themselves, they should let Zoe Neaderland know.

2. Action Items

Two action items were addressed to begin the meeting:

- There were no comments on the May 21st, 2013 meeting summary, and it was adopted unanimously.

- Tom Vigna, North Brunswick Township Planner and Chair of the Rt1RGS Action Team, gave an update on the progress of the Rt1RGS Action Team, which has been focusing on delivering the Smart Growth Road Show presentation to interested municipalities and commenting on various pieces of legislation that support Smart Growth. Recently, the Action Team has hit a wall with scheduling the Road Show. Mr. Vigna noted that the presentation has been well-received each time it has been delivered and that it is generally not controversial. He asked the Forum to endorse a letter that would be sent to voting members who have not yet had Road Show presentation, asking them to contact Mr. Vigna or DVRPC staff to schedule a presentation. Mr. Seymour clarified that listening to the presentation does not mean a municipality has to sign the resolution of support, but that it's encouraged. Mr. Reed stressed the power of signing the resolution, in that it helps demonstrate that leadership in Central Jersey is moving in a unified direction. The Forum unanimously voted in favor of sending the letter. Mr. Vigna also provided updates about the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013, the 2013 Cluster Development bill, and the Gas Station Preparedness Loan Program bill that the Forum endorsed, all of which were recently signed into law.

Jack Kanarek, Philadelphia Planning Manager for SYSTRA Consulting and Chair of the Transit Action Team (TAT), gave a brief report on the activities of the TAT. The CR 571 BRT Study Work Group met in June and plans to meet again in November to review the draft report from the consultant team. The Development Review Checklist for Consideration of Transit and several other bus shelter and transit resources were posted to DVRPC's website. (See www.dvrpc.org/LongRangePlan/CentralJerseyForum/ActionTeams.htm). The Action Team is looking for input from municipalities on how to improve the checklist, and how the Action Team can assist municipalities, particularly those interested in bus shelters. He added that the TAT's work to install some new bus shelters in West Windsor Township is progressing, and that locations on US 1 have been selected. Mr. Reed noted that the most recent meeting of the TAT was well attended and that there are plans for a special meeting of the TAT to update progress on the US 1 BRT, bus shelters, and other transit topics of interest, sometime in the spring of 2014.

Matt Lawson, Transportation Planner at the Mercer County Planning Division, provided a brief update about a series of recent meetings to improve communication about local and county road closures. In May 2013, a meeting was convened by Dean Raymond, OEM Coordinator for the Mercer County Office of Emergency Management. Technical and policy issues were discussed regarding how to better communicate local road closures and integrate this information with existing systems such as NJ's 511 system. Establishing procedures to develop and review data for quality was noted as a critical issue to address. This meeting was followed by several smaller technical meetings. Mercer County staff is working to test a system to report local road closures due to maintenance activities, as well as a separate effort to test reporting local road closures due to incidents or weather. Efforts are also underway to share this information with all other counties in New Jersey. Mr. Lawson said he thought it might take a year for Mercer County to work through all the technical issues. After that, the hope is that the system could be extended to other counties.

Mr. Reed opened the floor for discussion:

- Ed Cohen, Transportation Specialist at Monroe County, asked about plans to promote local closure information once it becomes available. Mr. Lawson said the goal is to have it feed into the NJ 511 system, which is published on the internet and used by a variety of other sources, including major news outlets.
- Bill Neary, Executive Director of Keep Middlesex Moving TMA, noted that KMM has a system that allows users to sign up and receive notifications for routes they select. These notifications are fed from the NJ 511 system.
- Frank Gambatese, Mayor of South Brunswick Township, said that South Brunswick uses the Nixle system to provide similar updates. Pat Ward, Director of Community Development for West Windsor Township, said that West Windsor also uses Nixle.
- Zoe Neaderland, Manager of the Office of Transportation Safety and Congestion Management at DVRPC, mentioned that the county OEM directors have asked to provide updates to the Forum at least once per year. They will likely come to the next meeting. Ms. Neaderland announced that the next full Forum meeting would take place at the end of February.

3. Status of Transportation and Land Use Projects in Central Jersey

Jesse Buerk, Senior Transportation Planner at DVRPC, gave an update on the latest edition of the *Planned Projects Status Report*, distributed in draft form with the meeting folders. He thanked everyone who helped by contributing the information contained in the report. He noted that both DVRPC and NJTPA adopted new Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) this year. The report details 22 projects in Central Jersey, representing an investment of about \$356 million of road and bridge funds. In addition, there are two Turnpike projects and six transit projects not included in that total because those projects cover a wider area than just Central Jersey. The report includes full descriptions and financial information for all the TIP projects. The first chapter includes tables and text to make sense of it all, including updates on changes to projects still in the TIP and to details about why certain projects are no longer in the TIP. The report also includes major land development projects in Central Jersey. All together, the land development projects listed as completed or under construction will add over 435,000 square feet of commercial space (including retail and office); over 1.4 million square feet of new medical and hospital development; over 4.1 million square feet of warehouse space; over 375,000 square feet of educational facilities; and nearly 5,200 housing units. Mr. Buerk said the report is intended to help make the connection between land development and transportation improvements projects. Staff is always looking for ways to improve the report, so any suggestions along those lines are welcome. He noted that there are plans to add a map showing the land development projects along the US 206 corridor, and to make the US 1 and US 206 Timing and Status maps available online as interactive maps.

Mr. Reed asked Shing-Fu Hsueh, Mayor of West Windsor, for an update on the status of NJDOT's effort to develop a feasible set of improvements in the Penns Neck area of US 1. Mayor Hsueh said a group of mayors saw a presentation of the options. Over the next six weeks, they will work toward building consensus. After the upcoming election, he said there would be another meeting. NJDOT Commissioner Simpson has said that \$30 to \$40 million could potentially be available for a project, but only if there is a clear consensus. Mayor Hsueh noted that no one will get 100 percent of what they want, but if a compromise can be reached, the project would benefit a number of communities in the corridor.

4. Complete Streets

Mr. Reed introduced Charles Brown, Senior Research Specialist at the Voorhees Transportation Center. Mr. Brown thanked the Forum for inviting him to speak. He said that the Complete Streets (CS) Summit, held in New Brunswick on October 21st, was a success. About 300 people attended, including planners, engineers, and advocates. Recognition awards were presented to all the counties and municipalities in New Jersey with adopted CS policies. Trenton City and Cranbury Township received awards for being CS champions. In addition, there were five awards for implementation of CS policies. There were panel discussions covering topics including the health and economic benefits of CS.

Next, Mr. Reed introduced Sheree Davis, Section Chief of the Bureau of Commuter and Mobility Strategies in the Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs at NJDOT. Ms. Davis described how NJDOT has integrated its CS policy into the project development pipeline process. A CS checklist has been developed and progress is being made toward integrating the CS policy with resurfacing projects. In addition, her unit is reviewing access permits for consistency with the CS policy. She noted that NJDOT Commissioner Simpson has supported and championed this effort, which has helped make it a success. She highlighted several recent success stories, including the Route 36 Bridge, the Route 52 Causeway Bridge, and the road diet on Route 45 in Woodbury. She noted that many intersection projects have also been completed that included CS elements. In addition, NJDOT has been proactive in offering training for both planners and engineers on the CS policy and implementation.

Mr. Reed moved on to updates from Forum municipalities and counties with CS policies. Jeffrey Wilkerson, Principal Planner for the City of Trenton Division of Planning, described Trenton's experience. Beginning in 2011, Trenton's "Green Team" worked to draft a CS policy. National best practices were evaluated with the goal of developing a strong policy. Trenton's CS policy was adopted in March 2012. Staff were informed of the policy and trained on it, and the policy was incorporated into the development

application process. "Walk audits" were conducted as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. The Trenton Downtown Association contributed \$25,000 to purchase a thermoplastic machine to put markers on streets and has helped implement CS strategies downtown. Currently, Trenton is working to advance the Trenton Station Linkage Plan from concept development to final design and is developing a city-wide bicycle/pedestrian plan to guide a strategic investment strategy. Mr. Wilkerson said that moving forward, more resources and manpower will be needed for capital improvements. He said one reason for Trenton's success is that the City Council supports the CS policy and understands the economic development advantage of having a community with complete streets.

Gail Smith, Montgomery Township Engineer, described her township's experience with CS. She said Montgomery Township adopted a CS policy in October 2012, but that the town had been implementing CS strategies for years through its Master Plan, even without an official policy. She said the policy has helped to increase consideration of CS strategies in the development of road projects. Montgomery Township is a diverse community with some areas that are rural and have little traffic, and therefore do not have a great need for sidewalks and bike lanes. Montgomery Township has focused its CS efforts on connections between residential areas and parks or town centers. There are also plans to fill in missing sidewalk links and connections to bus stops. One challenge Ms. Smith noted was that the Planning Board has granted waivers for some development applications, undermining the CS policy. Another challenge is the additional cost of maintaining complete streets.

George Ververides, Director of the Middlesex County Department of Planning, said that Middlesex County adopted its CS policy in July 2012, working closely with its Transportation Coordinating Committee. Since then, the county has worked with municipalities to implement the policy through the development review process. However, he noted that even with the county CS policy in place, the decision to implement rests with the municipalities. Accomplishments for Middlesex County include finalizing a bicycle plan for the City of New Brunswick, working to improve pedestrian safety at railroad at-grade crossings, and working on a county-wide greenway project. Mr. Ververides agreed with Ms. Smith that maintenance costs are a challenge for CS implementation. He added that the cost of meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements is another challenge. Mr. Ververides noted that Middlesex County just adopted a new circulation plan that included a CS policy. He thanked Mr. Brown for the award Middlesex County received at the Complete Streets Summit.

David Bruccoleri, Project Manager for the NJDOT Bureau of Local Aid, discussed local grant programs to help implement CS policies. He listed four programs that reward CS policies and plans. These included the Municipal Aid, Transit Village, Bikeway, and Safe Streets to Transit programs. Mr. Bruccoleri explained that each of these programs use rating systems that reward applicants for having adopted CS policies and plans. He mentioned that the federal Transportation Enhancements (TE) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs also award points for CS policies and plans. He said his group works with Ms. Davis's to reward towns for their good work regarding CS. Mr. Seymour clarified that under the MAP-21 federal transportation legislation, several formerly separate programs were consolidated into the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) program, including TE and SRTS.

5. Transit

Tom Marchwinski, Director of Systems Planning at NJ Transit, said a meeting of the stakeholder group for the CR 571 BRT study had been scheduled to review the draft report with the consultant team. The draft includes several service options with cost estimates. The stakeholder group will provide feedback to help finalize the study recommendations. NJ Transit is also taking steps to advance smaller pieces of the US 1 BRT, including intersection improvements in Princeton and a new bus stop in West Windsor. NJ Transit staff met with officials from Princeton before the Forum meeting to discuss the proposed improvements. Mr. Marchwinski added that the 655 Partners group is planning to do a survey of riders to assess the Route 655 bus's performance and identify areas for improvement.

Steve Kimmelman, resident of the Twin Rivers neighborhood of East Windsor Township, spoke about the urgent need for transit service in his community and Hightstown Borough. He mentioned that private bus service in the corridor was suspended several years ago. Mr. Marchwinski said that the CR 571 BRT

study intends to address this need and that Twin Rivers and Hightstown Borough are key areas being studied as part of that work, in addition to East Windsor and West Windsor Townships.

Cheryl Kastrenakes, Executive Director at Greater Mercer TMA, gave an update on the current and future marketing plans for the Route 655 bus (the Health Line between Princeton and Plainsboro). The route has a steady core group of riders, but there's a need to boost ridership. Efforts include partnering with local businesses to help publicize the route, holding transit outreach fairs, and working with the Princeton Transit Committee to incorporate Route 655 information into the Free Bee schedule. Ms. Kastrenakes said more efforts would be forthcoming and asked for everyone's help supporting the Route 655 bus.

Mr. Vigna gave a brief update on the status of the North Brunswick Transit Village. He said there had been recent revisions to the development plan and that the first stage of the new rail station is advancing. Mr. Marchwinski said NJ Transit was working with Amtrak to have a plan in place by 2017, including the turn-back loop, station, and parking.

6. Brief Updates & Dialogue

Mr. Reed opened a brief discussion about the status of the proposed restoration of passenger service on the West Trenton Line. Highlights included the following:

- Mr. Lawson mentioned that SEPTA recently received a federal TIGER grant to help fund a joint project with CSX to separate passenger and freight rail operations along a six-mile portion of track owned by CSX between the Woodbourne and West Trenton Stations. He also said the stakeholders working on the Ewing Redevelopment plan for the former General Motors and Naval Warfare Center site are close to reaching agreement. Potential highway and transit improvements are being studied, including parking expansion plans at the rail station. He said that the preference is to not move the existing station. He emphasized the importance of separating freight and passenger rail operations for the passenger service restoration plans to advance. Peter Palmer, Somerset County Freeholder and NJTPA Board Member, said the TIGER grant would only cover the minimum necessary separation. He agreed with Mr. Lawson about the importance of separating passenger and freight rail operations on the West Trenton Line.
- Mr. Seymour added that SEPTA has studied potential system expansions, including the West Trenton Line. However, recent funding shortfalls have made system expansion impossible. [Since this meeting, a transportation funding bill was passed in Pennsylvania, which will greatly improve SEPTA's financial outlook and its ability to advance projects.]
- Mr. Reed noted that even with widespread financial shortfalls, planning efforts are continuing to advance and that small steps are now being taken to move toward accomplishing larger plans.

Other brief updates included:

- Emily Costello, Senior Planner at DVRPC, discussed a joint effort of DVRPC and NJ Future to develop guidance on New Jersey's recently improved non-contiguous clustering regulations under the Municipal Land Use Law. The meeting folders included a fact sheet with links to several resources. Ms. Costello announced a pair of upcoming webinars to provide more information and training. She said that she's happy to help anyone with questions. Ms. Costello's contact information was included in the meeting folders. [Emily's email address is ecostello@dvrpc.org.]
- Mr. Seymour noted the goals and accomplishments sheet in the meeting folders and asked anyone with updates to contact Mr. Buerk or Ms. Neaderland.
- Mr. Marchwinski announced that the new Pennsauken Transit Center was open.
- Gene Strupinski, Business Advocate for Hillsborough Township, said there was a ribbon-cutting for Section A of the US 206 Bypass project and that US 206 was being repaved in Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships. He also announced that Hillsborough was holding a transit-supportive development workshop and was soliciting bids to construct a new bus terminal.
- Mr. Lawson mentioned that Frontier Airlines was now offering service to 12 U.S. cities from the Trenton/Mercer airport. Mr. Reed said that updates about the airport could make for a good agenda item at a future Forum meeting.

Mr. Reed concluded the meeting by reflecting on big-picture planning efforts. He said he recently attended a meeting of the Regional Plan Association where the NEC Future project was discussed. Amtrak is moving ahead with its high-speed rail plans, including work in Central Jersey to boost speeds to around 160 miles per hour. Amtrak also has a new Gateway Tunnel project to replace the canceled ARC tunnel project. The new project will connect to Penn Station in New York City and will provide for two new tunnels, representing a significant capacity increase for Amtrak and NJ Transit. The first stage of the approximately \$185 million project broke ground recently. In addition, the NEC environmental impact study is scheduled to be completed soon. When the new tunnels are opened, Mr. Reed said NJ Transit would be expected to purchase access to some of the new capacity, highlighting again the importance of ensuring adequate funding for transportation. In addition to the high-speed rail efforts, Mr. Reed mentioned a number of other important transit studies. He said he raised all of these points to show that people are still talking and planning for the future, which underscores the fact that at some point, a solution to the transportation funding shortfalls will have to be found.

Mr. Reed thanked everyone for attending. There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website may be translated into Spanish, Russian, and Traditional Chinese online by visiting www.dvrpc.org. Publications and other public documents can be made available in alternative languages or formats, if requested. For more information, please call (215) 238-2871.