

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

**JAMES GIANNELL**  
Planning Board Chairman



**ANTHONY GARAGUSO**  
Council Chairman

Minutes for the Meeting of the  
**Monmouth County Transportation Council**  
Tuesday, July 10, 2018  
Monmouth County Planning Board  
One East Main Street  
Hall of Records Annex Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Freehold, NJ 07728

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM**

## **II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL**

### Members Present

Frost, Barry  
Garaguso, Anthony  
Grbelja, Nancy  
Hennessy, Thom  
Van Nortwick, Peter  
Vernick, Jeff  
Barrett, Betsy

### Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor  
David Schmetterer  
Joe Ettore

### Members Excused

Nelson, Eric  
Doyle, Peter

## **III. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

The Council's approval of the May 8, 2018 minutes was sought by Chairman Garaguso. Vice Chairman Vernick offered a motion to approve the minutes, which was then seconded by Ms. Grbelja, and approved unanimously by the Council. Ms. Barrett abstained due to her absence from the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

No minutes were recorded for the Transportation Council's scheduled June 12, 2018 meeting due to the meeting's cancellation.

## **IV. PRESENTATION**

*GenZe Electric Bike and Scooter Share, Hal Hochhauser*

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Staff introduced Hal Hochhauser, Regional Sales Manager for GenZe. Mr. Hochhauser began by explaining that his company specializes in electric bicycles and scooters designed to be used for shared services such as bikeshare or scootershare. Among other locations, GenZe currently has 1,200 electric scooters in use in San Francisco's scootershare. GenZe sells vehicles and rideshare software to organizations interested in starting new shared mobility services but does not run the shared services themselves. Bicycles are either electric assisted or fully electric, while scooters are large ride on electric scooters capable of reaching speeds up to thirty miles per hour. Organizations are able to govern the maximum speed of the vehicles to suit the needs of their communities and software can be purchased to assist organizations who are unused to providing shared services. The application can be accessed by cellular devices and allow users to locate a vehicle, check the amount of battery charge available, and reserve vehicles for rentals. In states that require helmets, GenZe offers a compartment that contains two helmets for public use which is unlocked upon the start of each rental.

Mr. Hochhauser noted that GenZe manufactures the vehicles but does not operate programs for shared transportation services; they simply sell the vehicles and technology necessary for an agency to run their own. Mr. Vernick asked if GenZe can provide maintenance services for the upkeep of bicycles and scooters. Mr. Hochhauser replied that GenZe is not responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles once sold, but they do build them resilient enough to withstand some abuse they may receive during use. If agencies run into problems with software or electronics, GenZe will work with the agency to find a solution and replace parts, but services and materials will have to be compensated for.

Mr. Hochhauser elaborated on the service options agencies could employ. All bicycles and scooters are able to be deployed in a dockless system where users can end and start rentals from any location they like, or GenZe can assist agencies with establishing rental start and end locations of varying size similar to a docked system. Mr. Hochhauser recommended this "docked" system over the dockless because it allows for the easy charging of vehicles. Agencies will be responsible for recirculating vehicles, which is more labor intensive in a dockless system, and vehicles will have to be recirculated more often if they are rarely left at charging stations. By providing incentives such as surcharges for vehicles left out of designated end rental areas, or simply prohibiting the end of a rental outside designated areas allows for users to plug vehicles in to charge once done with their rental. The software is very customizable and GenZe will help tailor it to the buying agency's needs.

At this time Council members accompanied Mr. Hochhauser outside to test drive the electric assist bicycle, full electric bicycle, and electric scooters.

Upon returning from the test ride, Mr. Hennessey asked how far these vehicles could travel on a single charge and how many miles can the scooter travel over the life of the battery. Mr. Hochhauser explained that the scooters could travel thirty thousand miles while an electric bicycle can range between thirty and fifty thousand miles over one battery's life span. The charge of a scooter tends to last thirty miles while an electric bicycle could range from twenty to fifty depending on how much electricity each ride consumes. This directly affects the full life of a battery. Ms. Grbelja asked what licensing was required to operate these vehicles, to which Mr. Hochhauser responded that a driver's license is required to operate a scooter but any adult can operate an electric or electric assist bicycle.

The Council thanked Mr. Hochhauser for coming and speaking with them, and expressed their gratitude for being given the opportunity to test drive the vehicles.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

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## *Master Plan Update 2018*

Staff thanked the Council for the input it received from members and informed them that staff is in progress drafting an addendum to the 2015 Master Plan and plans to have the addendum completed and accepted by the Planning Board this Fall. Mr. Frost asked, as this is a living document, will addendums be made every year? Staff explained that this is the first addendum and they are unsure if a yearly addendum will be necessary and is going to move ahead performing updates as the need arises until a preferred timeframe is decided upon.

## *Historical Transportation Research*

Mr. Vernick provided staff with books from his private collection including: *Jersey Central Traction Co., Trolley to the Bayshore* by Joseph Eid, *Henry Hudson Trail*, *Central RR of NJ's Seashore Branch* by Tom Gallo, and *Railroads of Monmouth County* by Tom Gallo and William B. Longo, and offered to make other rarer sources available to staff at the next Council meeting if staff was interested.

Mr. Van Nortwick also provided trolley information in the form of a book called *From Indian Trail to Electric Rail* by Thomas Henry Leonard and an interesting map of The Leonard Tract in Middletown from 1911 which depicts Railroad and trolley lines traveling through what is better known today as Campbell's Junction.

Ms. Grbelja suggested the Council schedule a future meeting at the Monmouth County Library to allow the Council members to explore some of the historical documents and history the Monmouth County Archives has collected on this subject. Ms. Grbelja offered to ask the Library Commission what information was available and if the Council could visit.

## *Transportation Council Bookmark Discussion*

Staff began by thanking Mr. Frost for his submission of slogans and text for bookmarks. To move forward, staff requested that Council members submit additional draft ideas to help staff better define a layout and allow staff to show samples to other departments or organizations in order to help receive resources for printing and distribution. Mr. Garaguso requested that staff email the bookmark template to the Council and for members to provide staff with some draft ideas of what kind of product they would like.

## **VI. QUARTERLY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

### *Update on July Newsletter*

Staff informed the Council that the newsletter subscriptions have increased by more than a hundred since the release of the July newsletter, and that while percentages of clicks and opens have remained steady from the previous month, the increase in the number subscriptions points to more people opening and exploring the newsletter than previous months. Mr. Van Nortwick asked if staff would be able to include historical information in upcoming newsletters to which staff was very receptive. Staff is willing to include any information the Council would like as long as it has a link to an outside source. Mr. Vernick asked what the most popular item on the most recent newsletter was; staff informed him that the article on NJ TRANSIT's efforts to install Positive Train Control received the most attention, followed closely by the link to information about the upcoming Monmouth County Fair.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### *Recent NJ TRANSIT Experience, Betsy Barrett*

Prior to this meeting, Ms. Barrett and staff discussed possible solutions to Ms. Barrett's experience with an unsanitary restroom aboard an NJ TRANSIT train. Staff outlined the discussion for the Council and Ms. Barrett expressed her interest in pursuing the solution suggested by staff which was to recommend NJ TRANSIT include

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restroom cleanliness in their upcoming quarterly customer survey taking place in the Fall. Staff had knowledge of NJ TRANSIT's quarterly survey but was unsure what information was included. After a quick investigation it was found that restrooms were not included in the survey questionnaire at all. It is the opinion of staff and Ms. Barrett that recommending that restroom cleanliness be included in future surveys is a constructive way to approach Ms. Barrett's negative experience. Mr. Garaguso directed staff to draft a letter to the Planning Board requesting the Planning Board send a letter to NJ TRANSIT recommending the inclusion of restroom information in future surveys.

#### *AMTRAK Service Downgrades, Vice Chairman Vernick*

Mr. Vernick brought information to the attention of the Council and staff pertaining to AMTRAK's plans to drastically alter their long distance services by removing dining cars, remove passenger service along freight lines that do not have positive train control, and focus service on short trips rather than longer trips connecting major cities, suburbs, and states. Mr. Vernick is concerned for the future of AMTRAK and long distance train service and feels this is an issue the Council should investigate and review new information once it becomes available. Mr. Garaguso agreed and tabled the issue until the next Transportation Council meeting.

#### **VII. REPORTS OF STAFF**

##### *Historical Road Signage*

County Engineer Mr. Joseph Ettore updated the Council on an older issue, the resigning of historical roadways along County Route 522. The County has agreed to replace old signage along CR 522 designating it as a historical roadway with newer more vibrant signage. Funding is to be provided by Monmouth County.

##### *Bike Share Metrics Analysis Update*

Staff updated the Council on their work to analyze bike share activity within the County. Zagster has provided Monmouth County with trip data spanning from August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 to July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. Keyport also launched a new dockless bikeshare service operated by LimeBike. Staff has spoken to the town's administrator about sharing future data once it becomes available.

##### *Joint Meeting with Ocean County Transportation Advisory Committee*

Staff has reached out to Ocean County Advisory Committee about arranging a joint meeting of the two Councils in October. Staff will continue with this effort and keep the Council informed of any new information as it arises.

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be— 7:00PM Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at the Monmouth County Division of Planning Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ms. Grbelja and seconded by Mr. Frost, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.