

# MONMOUTH COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

FREEHOLD · NEW JERSEY

PAUL KIERNAN, Jr.  
Acting Chairman



EDWARD SAMPSON, PP, AICP  
Director of Planning

Minutes for the Meeting of the  
**Monmouth County Transportation Council**  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015  
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 – 7:00PM

II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

Frost, Barry  
Garaguso, Anthony  
Nelson, Eric  
Vernick, Jeff  
Barrett, Betsy  
Hennessy, Thom

Staff Present

Gamallo, Anthony  
James Bonanno – Staff Advisor

Members Excused

Del Tufo, Gerard  
VanNortwick, Peter  
Grbelja, Nancy  
Doyle, Peter  
Burke, Tom

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the October 13, 2015 minutes was sought by Chairman Nelson. Vice Chairman Vernick commented that he would like to see more specific wording referring to his discussions with NJ Transit about scheduling mistakes. Mr. Frost motioned to accept the minutes with proposed changes requested by Vice Chairman Vernick. The motion was seconded by Mr. Garaguso and unanimously accepted by the council.

IV. New Business

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The council discussed the meeting schedule for the upcoming 2016 year and decided that the Master Plan discussion must take priority and the calendar and meeting schedule discussion should be tabled until the council's January Reorganization meeting.

## V. REPORTS OF STAFF

### **NJ.com article discussing "Why Suspended Drivers Might be able to Stay Behind the Wheel in NJ"**

Chairman Nelson introduced the article "Why Suspended Drivers Might be able to Stay Behind the Wheel in NJ" found on NJ.com. He outlined the issue that legislation is being proposed to allow people with suspended driver's licenses to obtain restricted driver's licenses that would allow them to use their vehicle to complete everyday tasks such as driving to work, and to doctors' appointments.

The Council felt this piece of legislation would be difficult to enforce and could lead to suspended drivers taking advantage of their restricted licenses. Ms. Barrett pointed out that it is difficult to define hardship and that many of these people lost their driving privileges for a reason and permitting them to drive while suspended could put other drivers and pedestrians at risk. It is the opinion of the council that those that have lost their driving privileges have sufficient transportation alternatives that can be utilized to reach their everyday destinations.

Chairman Nelson suggested the topic be tabled until next meeting, giving Mr. Bonanno time to research the proposed legislation more deeply.

### **NJ.com article outlining "The Economics of Gateway" Conference**

Mr. Bonanno introduced the article "The Economics of Gateway" from NJ.com which was a summary of The Economics of Gateway Conference that was held a few weeks prior.

Vice Chairman Vernick suggested we review the Gateway Project Resolution during the council's discussion of "The Economics of Gateway" article. Vice Chairman Vernick read the resolution aloud and suggested a few edits. Mr. Frost suggested the addition of more specific information pertaining to the number of people using the tunnels which Vice Chairman Vernick suggested wording for that was to be later included into the resolution by Mr. Bonanno. After the discussion of this article the council voted on the resolution.

### **NJ.com article outlining a "House Transportation Bill Strips \$50M from NJ Transit**

Vice Chairman Vernick introduced the "House Transportation Bill Strips \$50M from NJ Transit" article from NJ.com. This proposed bill by the House would eliminate an existing transportation funding program available to NJ Transit to make funding more available to public transit entities throughout the country. Vice Chairman Vernick reminded the council that NJ Transit recently had a 9% fare increase and that this loss of funding could force NJ Transit to raise fares again. This bill has a number of other transportation implications that would affect transportation in New Jersey however; the loss of funding to New Jersey Transit is the largest concern to the council.

Mr. Frost suggested the council direct the Planning Board to write letters to the Monmouth County legislatures outlining the concerns about this proposed bill's possible effects on Transportation in Monmouth County. Mr.

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Gamallo said he would reach out and find out how the council should go about vocalizing its opinions pertaining to this bill.

## **Vince Domidion Resigned from the Planning Board**

Mr. Gamallo informed the Transportation Council of Vince Domidion's resignation from the Planning Board due to a conflict of interest with a new business venture he is pursuing.

Mr. Garaguso introduced a new transportation issue to the council along County Route 539. Residents of Upper Freehold are experiencing traffic congestion due to a new warehouse that has opened directly outside the town's border in Mercer County. Mr. Gamallo stated he was aware of this issue but there is no direct action Monmouth County can take at this time because the business is located in Mercer County. Monmouth is working in cooperation with Mercer County to fix the congestion problem.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Discuss the Draft Transportation Portion of the Master Plan**

Mr. Gamallo informed the council that he would be presenting the Transportation element of the Mast Plan to the Planning Board at the upcoming meeting on Monday November 16<sup>th</sup> and that the council would be receiving copies of the actual Master Plan text once it is approved. Chairman Nelson suggested each council member prepare recommendations and comments about the transportation portion of the Master Plan and be ready to present them to the council at the January Reorganization meeting.

### **Review Gateway Project Resolution**

Vice Chairman Vernick read the Gateway Project Resolution with agreed upon edits which was recorded by the record. Mr. Bonanno was tasked with transcribing the Resolution to match the agreed upon spoken version so that it could be given to the Planning Board in a timely manner. Mr. Garaguso motioned to adopt the Resolution with the proposed edits which was seconded by Ms. Barrett. The resolution was unanimously agreed upon by the Council.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments were received from the public.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting – 6:30PM Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the Monmouth County Department of Engineering Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728

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## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting by Vice Chairman Vernick and seconded by Mr. Garaguso, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.