

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, March 13, 2018
Monmouth County Planning Board
One East Main Street
Hall of Records Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Freehold, NJ 07728

I. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM

II. ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

Members Present

Van Nortwick, Peter
Barrett, Betsy
Grbelja, Nancy
Hennessy, Thom
Nelson, Eric
Doyle, Peter
Vernick, Jeff

Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor
David Schmetterer
Daria Jakimowska

Members Excused

Frost, Barry
Garaguso, Anthony

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Due to Chairman Garaguso's absence, Vice Chairman Vernick assumed the duties of Chairman *pro tem* for the March 13th Transportation Council meeting.

The Council's approval of the February 13th, 2018 minutes was sought by Vice Chairman Vernick. Ms. Grbelja motioned to accept the February 13th minutes which was seconded by Ms. Barrett and accepted by the Council with the exception of Mr. Vernick, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Hennessy who abstained.

IV. PRESENTATION

- *Monmouth County Development Review Process*

In view of Council members' recent interest in new development, staff invited Victor Furmanec of the Monmouth County Division of Planning to speak to the Council regarding the County's Development Review Process.

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Mr. Furmanec began by explaining that the County Planning Act defines the County's powers with regards to development review. It states that any site plan that abuts a county road, or if it has an acre or more of impervious surface as it will affect county drainage facilities, or if it abuts a park or other county owned land, it is subject to county approval. All subdivisions, with the exception of minor subdivisions that do not abut a county road (these are exempted), are subject to review and approval. The two key areas that are reviewed for their impact on County facilities are drainage and traffic.

Developers are required to submit applications containing site and utility plans as well as traffic impact studies which are reviewed by County Planners and Engineers. County staff reviews the materials and determines whether the development may increase congestion or create safety concerns along a County roadway, or overburden County drainage facilities due to increased storm water runoff. The County has no jurisdiction over land use. Land use controls are under the jurisdiction of the municipality. The County can only intervene with a development if County staff determines it will substantially impact a county road or county facility. If an issue is foreseen by County staff, the Planning Board has the ability to require improvements to roadways and facilities or request more information if staff feels the information provided is not sufficient to make a decision. The Council thanked Mr. Furmanec for his insight and requested he stay for their Old Business agenda item as it pertains to the Development Review Process of a development along a county road.

V. OLD BUSINESS

-Report Jackson Crossings II Development along CR 537

Jackson Crossing II is located along CR 537 outside Monmouth County in Jackson Township. Staff informed the Council that it was determined that Monmouth County has no jurisdiction over this development as it is outside Monmouth County, but Ocean County staff is cooperating with Monmouth County staff on the issue. Mr. Furmanec obliged the Council's request to stay for this agenda item and supplied the Council with site plans for the proposed development. Mr. Vernick asked Mr. Furmanec if neighboring municipalities and towns were allowed to submit comments on developments along their borders in other jurisdictions. Mr. Furmanec informed Mr. Vernick and the Council that applications must be submitted to the municipality and county the development resides in along with any other than resides within two hundred feet. Ms. Grbelja confirmed Mr. Furmanec's response and added that she is aware that Millstone has received this application seeing as they are a bordering municipality. Millstone did not submit any comments on the development. Mr. Furmanec explained that the biggest concern of Monmouth County about this project is the access to County Route 537. Due to wetlands, there is only one location for the developer to build an entrance to the development. This proposed entrance is within close proximity to a nearby jug handle which creates a conflict point between vehicles trying to use the jug handle and vehicles leaving the development. Council members inquired to traffic build up along CR 537; currently a bridge over I-195 owned and maintained by NJ DOT causes a bottle neck where congestion builds. Staff acknowledged this as a concern and explained Monmouth County has submitted problem statements to NJ DOT and will continue to do so to try and remedy this issue. The Council was then made aware that Monmouth County has no jurisdiction to submit requirements or block the development due to its location within Ocean County however; Ocean County has been in contact and requested Monmouth County input on the issue.

VI. QUARTERLY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

- Review Draft April Newsletter

Mr. Vernick moved the meeting to new business and asked staff to introduce the draft April Quarterly Transportation Council Newsletter. Staff read through article titles and explained their relevancy to current topics or events happening in or to Monmouth County. Staff explained they decided to keep a few items from the previous newsletter, particularly the invitation to get involved with the Council and the Bicycle Infrastructure

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Collector Application in the hopes that more people will be encouraged to get involved. At the previous Council meeting Ms. Barrett requested staff include information on senior discounts offered by EZ Pass, which was included along with all other discounts offered by EZ Pass. Council members approved of the newsletter content and instructed staff to move forward with publication on April 2, 2018.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Updated Bike Share Metrics

Staff provided a short presentation for the Council in order to update members on the progress of the County's first bike share system in Asbury Park. The Council previously had Asbury Park's Transportation Manager present on this topic in September 2017 and expressed interest in the program's future growth. Staff followed up with the City and was given updated data to present to the Council. The presentation outlines the growth of the system from five stations and thirty bikes to seven stations and forty bikes in the five months the program has been active. Additionally bike share members and rides have increased to a total of 646 members taking 1,248 trips since the program's release on August 23, 2017. That is an increase of 721 trips from the last presentation the Council was given. Staff displayed a map of all trips that have been taken on the system and while most are within Asbury Park, 30% of trips have left the boundaries of the city and traveled through neighboring shore towns. The demographics of system users showed that while Asbury Park residents are the primary users, the system is seeing users from all over Monmouth County and the country. The majority of renters have been female which comes as a surprise as most systems experience a higher majority of male renters. This data is currently being utilized by the City of Asbury Park to help develop their Bicycle Master Plan, and appropriately grow their bicycle infrastructure.

The Council was very pleased to hear the system is successful and growing, as well as that the City is applying this data to grow their bike share system, bicycle infrastructure, and inform their planning decisions. Staff informed the Council that the Planning Board would be discussing bike share at their upcoming meeting and that they may benefit from some guidance from the Transportation Council. Mr. Vernick suggested that delving deeper into the analytics of bicycle infrastructure use around the county as well as other bike share examples would help in determining the potential application of this type of service elsewhere in the county.

- Edit to By-Laws to match Council founding Freeholder Resolution

While attending to Council business during the previous week, Staff discovered that the Council By-Laws did not match the founding Resolution passed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Staff explained to the Council that the Freeholders had designated the Council to be comprised of fifteen regular members and two alternate members but the Council had changed their membership structure in the past to ten regular members and two alternate members to help them achieve quorum. Staff discussed this and concluded that it is not in their power to make such a change and it would be best for the Council structure to match their founding resolution. It was also discovered that the confusion which led to the Council and Staff believing lowering the membership structure would help the Council reach a quorum easier was due to misleading wording in the Council By-Laws. This text has been edited to clarify that quorum is determined by the number of regular members appointed, not the total number of potential regular members. The Council agreed with Staff's evaluation and Mr. Nelson moved to accept the By-Law edits to ensure the Council conformed to the founding Freeholder Resolution. Ms. Grbelja seconded the motion and the Council voted to pass the motion unanimously.

VII. REPORTS OF STAFF

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received from the public.

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IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be– 7:00PM Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at the Monmouth County Division of Planning Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ms. Grbelja and seconded by Mr. Van Nortwick, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.