

# 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, January 12, 2016  
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  
Nelson, Eric  
Vernick, Jeff  
Barrett, Betsy  
Hennessy, Thom  
Doyle, Peter

Staff Present

Gamallo, Anthony  
James Bonanno – Staff Advisor

Members Excused

VanNortwick, Peter  
Burke, Tom  
Garaguso, Anthony  
Grbelja, Nancy

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Approval of the December 8, 2015 minutes was sought by Chairman Nelson. Mr. Doyle motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barrett and unanimously accepted by the council.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nelson was nominated by Mr. Frost for the position of Chairman. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barrett and unanimously agreed upon by the council.

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Mr. Vernick was nominated by Mr. Frost for the position of Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Eric Nelson and unanimously agreed upon by the council.

Mr. Gamallo informed the council of the Freeholder's reappointment of Barry Frost, Thomas Hennessy, and Peter Doyle to the council as full members and the appointment of two new alternate members Dina Long and Edmund Thompson. Also made aware by Mr. Gamallo was Mr. Del Tufo's resignation from the council. Now with a total of ten regular members and two alternates, the council will have less trouble reaching quorum and will be similar in size to other Monmouth County Planning Board committees. Staff will amend council by-laws to reflect this change in membership size and submit revisions to the council for review.

Discussion of the Transportation Council's 2016 meeting schedule was opened by Chairman Nelson. It was found that the originally planned meeting date of November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 is the Federal holiday Election Day. County Offices are closed on Election Day resulting in the council's decision to instead meet on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Mr. Nelson mentioned in the past the council traditionally selected a theme for each planned future meeting at the January Reorganization meeting pertaining to a different transportation mode or issue. With the focus of the transportation council being on the Master Plan in 2016, Mr. Nelson expressed his belief that it would be wise for the council to select different portions of the master plan to review and discuss at each meeting rather than specific transportation issues. Due to the importance of the Master Plan and uncertainty of discussion length and direction of each topic the Transportation Council's 2016 meeting schedule will not set topics for each meeting date. Instead a portion of the master plan will be designated at the end of each meeting as discussion for the following month's meeting.

The change in council membership from the 2015 reorganization has created a need to restructure the liaison program. Mr. Nelson broached the subject of redistributing liaison towns between council members. Mr. Vernick proposed that each council member whether a regular member or alternate member should be liaison to their own home town as well as four others of their choosing however, Mr. Nelson felt the process of choosing liaison towns would take up a majority of the council's meeting. Instead the distribution of towns could be better organized through an email chain managed by council staff. All council members would be notified by staff and offered the opportunity to retain their liaison towns. All remaining towns would be made available to council members.

Mr. Vernick directed the council's conversation to the reorganization of representatives. Mr. Gamallo suggested amending the by-laws with a new plan for representation that would tailor to the council's current strengths rather than forcing members to fill representative rolls they are uncomfortable with. To better align with the council members professions, Mr. Hennessy recommended modeling the representative positions after the Master Plan's stakeholder strategies as well as the numerous modes of transportation. Similar to the organization of the new liaison program, council members will be able to select their representative positions and are given the opportunity to select more than one. Members should select any and all representative positions they feel they are qualified to account for through their everyday experiences. Mr. Vernick voiced his desire for each council member to give a brief oral report on their findings each month pertaining to their representative positions. These positions will also be organized by staff and selected by council members through email.

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Mr. Vernick notified the council of a raise in commuter benefits to the council. In an incentive to raise public transit use and give aid to commuter subject to fare increases, The House has raised the limit of money commuters may put aside before tax for their trip to and from work each year from \$130 per month to \$250 per month.

Mr. Nelson briefed the council on the second phase of the Street Smart campaign which is intended to teach pedestrian safety. After seeing success in its first phase, it will now be educating pedestrians in a different group of New Jersey municipalities, of which Red Bank is included.

## V. REPORT OF STAFF

Mr. Bonanno reported on the status of legislature that establishes restricted use driver's license endorsement for certain motor vehicle offenders with suspended license in the article "Push to Allow Suspended Drivers to Stay Behind Wheel Clears Hurdle". The proposed bill was cleared for a full vote of the senate after being released by the senate law and public safety committee by a three to two vote. The council will continue to watch the progress and transformation of this proposed bill. Mr. Bonanno also reported on the FAST Act recently passed on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The article "House Passes 5-Year FAST Act to Invest in America's Surface Transportation Infrastructure" describes the new transportation act being put into effect nationwide and how it will effect on New Jersey.

## VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received from the public.

## VII. MASTER PLAN REVIEW

Mr. Nelson instructed council members to review section 8.4 of the Master Plan and bring suggestions and recommendations pertaining to implementing recommendations from the BRT Opportunities Study to the February meeting.

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting – 7:00PM Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at the Monmouth County Department of Engineering Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Frost, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.