

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, May 8, 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

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

Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor
Daria Jakimowska

Members Excused

Barrett, Betsy
Nelson, Eric

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Council's approval of the March 13th, 2018 minutes was sought by Chairman Garaguso. Mr. Bonanno noted that staff updated the minutes as previously requested, and Chairman Garaguso confirmed it. Vice Chairman Vernick offered a motion to approve the minutes, which was then seconded by Peter Doyle, and approved unanimously by the Council.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business scheduled.

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V. NEW BUSINESS

Recent NJ TRANSIT Experience, Betsy Barrett

Ms. Barrett's negative NJ TRANSIT experience was briefly discussed in her absence. Ms. Barrett has communicated with Martin Robbins regarding her experience related to an unclean restroom facility on board an NJ TRANSIT train, and the conductor's unhelpful attitude towards the situation. Staff offered that it may be worthwhile to discuss NJ TRANSIT's survey efforts, and asking NJ TRANSIT for the inclusion of specific restroom related questions. The Chairman tabled the issue until Ms. Barrett is able to attend.

Historical Transportation Research

Staff discussed Assistant Director Barris' inquiry as to the history of trolleys and other transit in the County. Vice Chair Vernick and Mr. Frost agreed to bring in materials related to this topic for staff to review.

Mr. Van Nortwick suggested that staff look up the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Association, as they may have historical photos. The association had previously visited with the Council. Mr. Frost asked what may be done with this information. Mr. Bonanno explained the Division of Planning's effort to define historic by-ways, and that this may be useful information for that effort.

CR522 Historical Roadway Signs, Peter Van Nortwick

Mr. Van Nortwick discussed a member of the public's interest in history, and for improved historic markers on Route 522 denoting the Battle of Monmouth and the British retreat. The current signs are considered by some to be small and plain. The proposed sign has a new design with the County logo at the top. Mr. Vernick informed the Council that the signs would have to meet certain standards. Ms. Jakimowska commented that the measurements proposed were too small.

Staff suggested that the issue of historic preservation is not transportation related, and be passed on to a group empowered to act on historic issues, to which the Council agreed would be appropriate.

A presentation on the County's historic by-ways will be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Master Plan Update 2018

Staff reintroduced the Master Plan Update/Addendum, and asked the Council Membership if they had come to the meeting with any input. Mr. Frost asked if there was anything in the plan that highlights the need for mass transit improvements, specifically rail. Council Members commented that the plan looks very complete, and they were hard pressed to find anything that had been missed.

Mr. Vernick commented that the Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey (CHANJ) effort be included in the Master Plan, that adaptive signal control be updated with information from NJDOT who are now performing assessments of how to improve operations of traffic signals throughout New Jersey, that the MCTC liaison program description be updated, that new Federal Performance Measures be included, and that intelligent transportation systems (ITS) applications for transit be included. Staff confirmed these items will be considered for inclusion.

Staff listed previously identified issues including the Garden State Parkway exit number changes, emerging technologies including bike share, parking mobile apps, electric cars share, and concepts including the Capital to Coast Trail, the MoCo Arts Corridor, and the County's by-way program. Staff again extended the opportunity to send ideas for the Master Plan update to staff outside of this meeting.

VI. REPORTS OF STAFF

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Bike Share Metrics Analysis Update

Based on a letter from the MCTC to the Monmouth County Planning Board (MCPB), staff was given the go-ahead by the MCPB to research bikeshare systems, and that work has begun. Staff has requested information from Zagster, and plans to start a discussion with a dockless bike share company called "ofo".

Future Presentation Topics

Staff inquired as to what topics the Council would like discussed at upcoming meetings. Mr. Vernick replied that presentations from CHANJ, Street Smart New Jersey, and NJ TRANSIT would be welcome. Mr. Garaguso requested a presentation on the Capital to Coast Trail.

Mr. Frost asked about progress on the bookmark project. Mr. Bonanno mentioned that as yet there were no designs submitted. Mr. Doyle recalled that there had been some contact with the library commission. Staff member David Schmetterer had been working on this issue, and would be asked about potential next steps. Mr. Vernick offered that there may be a connection with Street Smart to provide printing and content for bookmarks. The campaign already includes a great variety of materials for municipalities that encourage safe behavior for motorists and pedestrians.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Green, Jackson Township, Ocean County

Mr. Green shared information about an Ocean County resident, Mr. Stokely, who is an accomplished rail historian who has recently donated a great deal of historical information to the Ocean County Library And may be able to help staff with their historic transportation research.

Mr. Green also discussed the details and history of the Middlesex-Ocean-Monmouth Rail proposal, and the barriers that existed in choosing an alignment North of Farmingdale. He commented that the need for passenger rail service is greater than ever before, and is not going to go away.

Mr. Doyle suggested that the MCTC meets with the Ocean County Transportation Council and have a joint meeting in the future. Staff agreed to reach out on the Council's behalf and try to schedule a meeting for the two Councils.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be— 7:00PM Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at the Monmouth County Division of Planning Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ms. Grbelja and seconded by Mr. Doyle, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.