

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, December 11, 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

Garaguso, Anthony
Vernick, Jeff
Barrett, Betsy
Doyle, Peter
Nelson, Eric

Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor
David Schmetterer

Members Excused

Hennessy, Thom
Van Nortwick, Peter
Frost, Barry
Grbelja, Nancy

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Council's approval of the November 13, 2018 minutes was sought by Chairman Garaguso. Vice Chairman Vernick offered a motion to approve the minutes, which was then seconded by Mr. Doyle, and approved unanimously by the Council with the exception of Mr. Nelson who abstained.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

AMTRAK Service Downgrades

At the Transportation Council's November meeting, a letter regarding The Council's concerns with AMTRAK's service downgrades was sent to the Planning Board. Staff reported that the Planning Board was in support of the Council's letter and agreed with their concerns. The Planning Board intends to write their own letter to AMTRAK and legislative representatives, which is to be reviewed and finalized at the Planning Board's December meeting.

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Letter to NJ TRANSIT Board Office Regarding Transit TAC's

Staff was asked to draft a letter to the NJ TRANSIT Board Office requesting information on the organization's Transportation Advisory Committees and inquiring about participation with the Monmouth County Transportation Council. The Council was satisfied with the letter's content and directed staff to send it once signed by Chairman Garaguso.

V. QUARTERLY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Staff introduced the draft January Newsletter and invited the Council to take the next few days to review it and report back any edits or articles they would like to see included. The Council was informed that the newsletter still needs to go through an internal review which could alter text but the articles displayed are to be included. Mr. Vernick requested the addition of a video describing the Gateway Project which he will be presenting to the Council later in the meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Vernick presented two videos to the Council. The first of which was a video provided to President Trump about the Gateway Project by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. Mr. Vernick recommended that a mention and link to this video be included in the January Newsletter because it accurately and clearly describes the condition of the current Hudson Rail Tunnels and the necessity of the Gateway Project.

Mr. Vernick's second video is an NJTV News article reporting on NJ TRANSIT's Positive Train Control installation progress and their efforts to improve communications as recommended by the official audit completed a few months earlier. The video also outlines new legislation intended to reform NJ TRANSIT's leadership, governance, transparency, and accountability and another which incentivizes employers to provide employees with commuter tax benefits.

VII. REPORTS OF STAFF

Moving Mindfully: Monmouth/Mercer Update

Staff informed the Council that the work is being done to complete two of the three focus groups. The First Responders Focus Group is scheduled to take place on Monday December 17, 2018 in Allentown, and the Freight Operators Focus Group and Interviews will be being carried out in early January.

2019 Transportation Council Meeting Calendar

Staff introduced the Council's 2019 draft meeting calendar for discussion. Members identified and worked with staff to address potential conflicts with other meetings, events and religious holidays. The calendar will be finalized at the council's January 2019 meeting.

Staff also informed the Council that Thom Hennessey's term on the Council is up for renewal this January and he has requested that the Freeholders not reappoint him to the Monmouth County Transportation Council.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barba Bateman

Ms. Bateman commented on the pending loss of Mr. Hennessey's valuable insight and contributions to the MCTC. She added that she has noticed the Monmouth County Library has a volunteer fair, and suggested the Council may want to solicit potential new members at this fair or at other similar events in the County.

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IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be held at 7:00PM on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at the Monmouth County Division of Planning Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion made by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Ms. Barrett, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.