

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, September 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

Frost, Barry
Garaguso, Anthony
Grbelja, Nancy
Vernick, Jeff
Barrett, Betsy
Nelson, Eric

Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor
David Schmetterer
Daria Jakimowska

Members Excused

Doyle, Peter
Hennessy, Thom
Van Nortwick, Peter

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Council's approval of the July 10, 2018 minutes was sought by Chairman Garaguso. Mr. Frost offered a motion to approve the minutes, which was then seconded by Ms. Barrett, and approved unanimously by the Council. Mr. Nelson abstained due to his absence from the July 10th meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Historical Transportation Research

Staff thanked the Transportation Council for their assistance with researching historical trolley lines within Monmouth County. At previous meetings, members provided staff with literature and maps detailing locations and routes of trolley lines that existed in the early 20th Century. Currently Monmouth County GIS staff created a map showing trolley routes spanning the County's bayshore and coastline. Transportation Council Staff is

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currently working to fill in gaps in the map using the documents provided by the Council. Work is also being done in cooperation with The Monmouth County Archives to explore old subdivision maps for any depictions of trolley lines. Mr. Frost advised staff to reach out to Al Stokley, an Ocean County historian who may have useful information on this topic. Staff will continue to update this Trolley network and keep the Transportation Council informed.

Transportation Council Bookmark Discussion

At the previous Transportation Council meeting in July, staff provided members with template bookmarks they could use to draft potential bookmarks to help staff better understand what the Council is looking to create. Council members didn't have any completed ideas for this meeting however, Mr. Vernick brought the Council to a discussion about the bookmarks' goal. The bookmarks should encourage people to find out more about the Monmouth County Transportation Council and how they can become involved, as well as make people aware of the Transportation Council Newsletter and how they can subscribe to receive them. Ms. Grbelja recommended we use the light blue color found in our Monmouth County Logo because it is eye catching and welcoming. Mr. Nelson suggested that the bookmarks include The Transportation Council's objectives or possibly Master Plan goals that may grab people's attention. Staff offered to draft a few informational bookmarks for the next Council meeting based on the discussion taking place, but requested members continue with their draft bookmarks in order to find an attractive format that will grab the readers' eye.

Letter to NJ TRANSIT Regarding Restroom Conditions

At the Council's July meeting, the decision was made to advise the Monmouth County Planning Board to encourage NJ TRANSIT to update their quarterly Scorecard Survey to include questions regarding train restroom cleanliness as it has become a known issue that train facilities on board are often unkempt and dirty. The Planning Board agreed that this was an issue that required action and sent NJ TRANSIT a letter. Staff informed the Council that NJ TRANSIT responded by letter that they thought this was a good course of action and will be including on board restroom cleanliness in their next quarterly Scorecard Survey. Staff provided Council members with NJ TRANSIT's letter in their meeting packets for their information.

AMTRAK Service Downgrades

At the Council's July Meeting Mr. Vernick introduced everyone to the issue of passenger rail service downgrades taking place throughout AMTRAK's network. To further illustrate his concerns and accentuate the issue Mr. Vernick brought a video he made of his travels on AMTRAK's. He explained that national passenger rail service is a large tourist attraction as well as a reliable transportation service for long distance trips. AMTRAK's plans to shorten or eliminate routes will cause an enormous loss in transportation infrastructure, jobs, and tourism with no explanation as to AMTRAK's long term goals. Mr. Vernick believes this is an issue the Transportation Council should be bringing to the attention of Monmouth County's public officials in the hopes of getting AMTRAK to explain their plans and the future of national passenger rail. Ms. Grbelja agreed with Mr. Venick and expressed that she feels it would be best for the Council to advise the Planning Board to seek out this information. Ms. Barrett further recommended the Council specify the Planning Board to reach out to the County's congressmen. Mr. Garaguso requested Mr. Vernick work on a letter to the Planning Board for the Council's next meeting to which Mr. Vernick accepted. Ms. Barrett offered to help Mr. Vernick in drafting this letter. Mr. Frost also suggested a resolution supporting the preservation and improvement of a national passenger rail system. The Council was interested in the idea but decided to table it until the Council's next meeting after they review Mr. Vernick and Ms. Barrett's draft letter.

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V. QUARTERLY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Review of Draft October Newsletter

Staff introduced the members to the Draft October Transportation Council Newsletter Quarterly. This draft is currently incomplete due to staff still waiting on a link to the Mini Made in Monmouth event happening in December, and continuing work to finalize the press release for the Moving Mindfully: Monmouth/Mercer Study which is to be included in the newsletter upon completion. Members were happy with the Draft Newsletter and are looking forward to its release.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Joint Meeting with Ocean County Advisory Committee – Setting an Agenda Discussion

Staff reminded the Council that earlier in the year they had requested staff arrange a joint meeting with an interested partner from around the County. After having a visitor from the Ocean County Transportation Advisory Board attend the Council's May meeting, staff reached out to Ocean County to set up a joint meeting so the groups could discuss transportation issues spanning the County border. Before setting a meeting, staff thought it would be beneficial to organize the Council's thoughts by defining a purpose for the meeting, and creating a draft agenda of discussion topics. Mr. Frost suggested the two groups need to find what goals they have in common, and the goal of the meeting should be to advise the two County's Planning Boards to cooperate on completing these goals. Staff reminded the Council that in the past they had concerns about the planned development of new hotels along CR 537 in Jackson alongside Six Flags Great Adventure and that this joint meeting may be a good time to discuss traffic and development along CR 537. Members discussed possible improvements to rail service along the North Jersey Coast Line and Mr. Vernick mentioned the development of priority bus infrastructure along Route 9 stretching through Monmouth County to Ocean County. Efforts to connect bicycle infrastructure such as the Union Transportation Trail were also suggested. The Council wanted more time to consider discussion topics and decided to table the topic until the Council's October meeting. Mr. Garaguso requested staff develop a draft agenda with the topics the Council discussed for the next meeting, and agreed to table the issue until the next Transportation Council Meeting.

Street Smart NJ Monmouth Campaigns

Staff updated the Council on current Street Smart activities occurring in Asbury Park and Union Beach. Asbury Park recently had a public kickoff for their Street Smart campaign and the upcoming outreach is to take place on September 19, 2018 around the southern portion of the Asbury Park train station on Memorial Drive and Springwood Avenue. Staff will attend the event to assist NJTPA with handing out tip cards and educating the public to take proper safety precautions to avoid collisions and injury when walking, biking, or driving. Union Beach has not announced an exact date for their outreach campaign but has decided it will take place in spring 2019. Mr. Vernick added that if there is any further interest in the Street Smart campaign or a desire to watch the kickoff ceremony that took place in Asbury Park, the NJTPA website has more information regarding Street Smart and posts videos of kickoff meetings and outreach campaigns.

Moving Mindfully: Monmouth/Mercer Update

Staff reintroduced the Freight Related Transportation Study taking place in Southern Monmouth and Eastern Mercer Counties to the Council under its new title, Moving Mindfully: Monmouth/Mercer and reminded members of the plans purpose to help mitigate conflicts with freight transportation. Staff updated the Council on the August 7, 2018 Advisory Committee meeting, the first of three to take place during the life of the study and announced the tentative date of October 2, 2018 for the first public meeting. Mr. Garaguso stated that he attended the August 7, 2018 Advisory Committee meeting and that it was a very well attended with representatives from a wide range of stakeholders. He implored Council members, if they have any interest in the study to attend the upcoming

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Public Meeting. Staff explained the agenda and structure of the public meeting has not been finalized but all are welcome to attend and provide input. The Advisory Committee meeting has given staff a strong base of ideas and comments to build off of and the public meeting is expected to provide even more helpful information.

Bike Share Metrics Analyses Update

Staff has been working to analyze bike rental data in Asbury Park provided by Zagster between August 2017 and July 2018. The Council was presented a map illustrating the beginnings and endings of each rental taken to help them understand which stations are generating the most rentals. This is helpful because it shows which destinations are more popular and what stations are responsible for higher numbers of rentals, which staff was able to illustrate further through the use of tables. The Council was also shown tables isolating rentals around the Asbury Park train station. This data was organized to show the times of day that most rentals began or ended at these two stations and what times of year more rentals occur. The Council was happy with the work being performed and encouraged staff to continue with their analyses.

VI. REPORTS OF STAFF

Master Plan Update 2018

Staff informed the Council that the Transportation portion of the Master Plan Update has been completed and it is being incorporated into the full update which will go before the Planning Board in October. Staff thanked the Council for their comments and input which was very helpful in assisting staff with the update.

Vice Chairman Vernick's Letter Regarding NJ Route 33 Business

Mr. Vernick presented to the Council a letter he received from his state assembly persons pertaining to road maintenance that occurred on Route 33 business in Freehold Township. He had not heard of any specific issues on this stretch of road and was unfamiliar with the work mentioned in the letter. Staff was familiar with the work and explained that a section of Route 33 Business around the intersection of Halls Mills Road and the bridge over the freight rail line have been milled and paved due to severe road damage.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be— 7:00PM Tuesday, October 9, 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. Barrett and seconded by Mr. Vernick, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.