

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, November 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

Frost, Barry
Garaguso, Anthony
Grbelja, Nancy
Vernick, Jeff
Barrett, Betsy
Doyle, Peter

Staff Present

James Bonanno – Staff Advisor
David Schmetterer
Joe Ettore

Members Excused

Hennessy, Thom
Van Nortwick, Peter
Nelson, Eric

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Council's approval of the October 23, 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.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Transportation Council Bookmark Discussion

At the Council's previous meeting in November there was a consensus to use an image of The Blue Comet and a Blue Comet Ticket as art for the Transportation Council Bookmarks. Staff had some concerns about whether the images could be published legally and investigated as to whether the Council was permitted to use them. After discussing it with superiors staff concluded they are permitted to be used and will move forward with printing the

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images on the Transportation Council's first bookmarks. Mr. Doyle stated that he had reached out to Library Director Judy Tolchin to get her input on the bookmark and find out whether or not the library could assist the Council in printing bookmarks. She suggested the Council include the dates the train was in service on the Bookmark, which the Council agreed was an appropriate edit, and informed Mr. Doyle that the Library is unable to print bookmarks for the Council but will gladly display them if the Council prints them on their own. Council directed Staff to contact the Monmouth County Printing Office for further details on how the Council should proceed to print bookmarks.

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

Staff forwarded the joint meeting draft agenda agreed upon by the Council in November to the Ocean County Transportation Advisory Committee for their input and comments but has yet to hear back from them. Staff will reach out to them again in the coming month to continue to try and coordinate a joint meeting between the two groups.

AMTRAK Service Downgrades

Mr. Vernick read aloud the draft letter he had written outlining the Council's concerns regarding AMTRAK's planned service downgrades. Members suggested refinements and recommended that it be directed to the Monmouth County Planning Board for their consideration as to next steps. The council also recommended that further correspondence be copied to Monmouth County's legislative representatives, the Governor's office, and NJ TRANSIT officials as well.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Letter to NJ TRANSIT Board Office Regarding Transit TAC's

After reviewing the Council's November meeting minutes, specifically the discussion with Tom Clark, the Council expressed interest in contacting the NJ TRANSIT Board Office to learn more about the NJ TRANSIT Technical Advisory Committees. Mr. Clark had indicated that these Committees did not have to adhere to the sunshine laws, and may be the reason that agendas and meeting minutes are not readily available. The Council would like to reach out to learn what they have been discussing and how the Monmouth County Transportation Council can best communicate with these groups and tasked staff with drafting a letter requesting information.

Monmouth County Transportation Council Yearly Dinner

Staff presented the Council with restaurant options for their yearly holiday dinner, and collaborated to select a primary and backup restaurant in the event that that the first choice was unable to accommodate them. Staff agreed to begin reserving space, setting a menu, and calculating a price as soon as possible. The Council also agreed to adjust the December 11, 2018 abbreviated meeting begin time to 6:30 PM.

VIII. REPORTS OF STAFF

Moving Mindfully: Monmouth/Mercer Update

Staff announced that three focus groups are currently being organized for the County's comprehensive freight study: one for first responders and law enforcement, another for freight operators, and finally a business owner and resident group. Staff has contacted the Mayors of the three municipalities and requested participants for the law enforcement and first responders focus group which is to be held in December. Discussions are also taking place between staff and the consultant team about changing the structure of the freight operators focus group to interviews to allow for a more private environment for freight operators to hopefully feel at ease discussing potentially sensitive information with the study team. Staff is planning to begin holding the focus groups in December and will keep the Council informed.

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Nancy Bus to Red Bank

Ms. Grbelja brought to the attention of the Council that some Millstone students of Red Bank Regional High School in Red Bank are having trouble getting home from after school programs due to inconvenient schedule timing of the school's programs and NJ TRANSIT buses. Students are being let out of after school programs are ending at 5:30 pm and must make a ten minute walk to the nearest NJ TRANSIT bus stop. The final bus of the evening leaves this specific bus stop along River Road at 5:39 pm. Students are regularly missing the last bus of the night requiring them to find another means of transportation which usually comes in the form of parents driving across the County to pick up their children. Ms. Grbelja asked if there is anything the Council can do to encourage a change in the bus schedule or class end time to allow for reliable transportation for the students. Ms. Grbelja volunteered to put together a list of students and parents who either are using this service or would use this service if they felt it were more reliable. Staff agreed this list would be very helpful to identify a solution to the issue and will reach out to NJ TRANSIT and the school as soon as the list is provided.

Mr. Vernick announced to the Council that a sign just posted on Wemrock Road in Freehold Township states that Wemrock Road is to be closed on or about November 13th for construction and encouraging drivers to plan alternate routes. A check of the internet and with the Freehold Township Police Department revealed no further information as to which section of the road is affected or how long the closure will last. Mr. Vernick is concerned that closure may cause complications to traffic flow in the area due to Wemrock Road being a major corridor which accesses Route 33 Business, Route 33, shopping along Route 537 and provides access to numerous large housing developments in the area. Staff offered to reach out to Freehold Township to find out any information related to the road project.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next public Monmouth County Transportation Council meeting to be held at 7:00PM on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at the Monmouth County Division of Planning Conference Room at 1 East Main Street, 2nd Floor, Freehold, NJ 07728.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion made by Ms. Grbelja and seconded by Mr. Frost, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.