

TASK FORCE OVERVIEW.

PURPOSE: During the planning phase, Together North Jersey had three standing committees designed to help inform and steer key aspects of the plan development and implementation process. These standing committees played a central role in the development of the vision, themes, focus areas and strategy identification processes. For the implementation phase, Together North Jersey will be establishing a **Together North Jersey Forum**, which will include four **Task Forces** to shepherd and guide the implementation of the actions and strategies identified in the plan. There will be one Task Force for each key vision themes: Competitive, Efficient, Livable, and Resilient

MEMBERSHIP: Task Force membership is open to stakeholders working in the Together North Jersey region. Together North Jersey will make every effort to ensure that there is broad participation and adequate subject-matter expertise to meet the needs of all the Focus Areas that fall under the purview of each Task Force. The specific Focus Areas for each Task Force are listed below. Interested stakeholder can register to participate at www.togethernorthjersey.com/taskforce.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The Task Forces will meet up to four times per year, with the hope of meeting on a regular quarterly basis. Two of those meetings will be convened as a full Together North Jersey Forum, in which all four Task Forces meet simultaneously for a plenary discussion. Two of the four meetings will be specific to each Task Force and planned in coordination with Task Force leadership and staff.

LEADERSHIP: Each Task Force will have two **Task Force Co-chairs**. These co-chairs will be nominated from the Task Force membership by the Together North Jersey project team, and will likely be individuals who played a key role in the plan development process. The co-chairs will serve as the primary liaison between the Task Force and the Together North Jersey project team to strategize, plan and evaluate progress on the implementation of the strategies under that Task Force.

Each Task Force will also have several **Focus Area “Champions”**, one for every Focus Area that falls under the Task Force’s purview. These “champions” will primarily provide subject-matter expertise and guidance over the implementation of the action plans identified in a particular Focus Area.

STAFFING: Each Task Force will have assigned **staff members** from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University. These staff members will be responsible for preparing meeting materials and briefing packets for participants, organizing meeting logistics, and preparing meeting reports and summaries. Assigned staff members are listed in the Task Force specific descriptions below.

Jon Carnegie, Project Director for Together North Jersey, will serve as the Chair of the Together North Jersey Forum. Miriam Salerno from Together North Jersey will serve as the primary point of contact for all the Together North Jersey Forum, Task Force logistics and general organizational matters. She will also assist in staffing all Task Forces as needed. She can be contacted at Miriam.salerno@ejb.rutgers.edu.



COMPETITIVE TASK FORCE.

Vision Theme: All residents are well educated and trained for an economy of cutting edge industries that offer a range of job opportunities and long-term prosperity. Entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships are valued by our residents, our leadership and the business sector. Our region has a variety of growing industries that build on the region's assets and our public and private sectors support innovation, collaboration, partnership and entrepreneurship.

Focus Areas: Focus Areas included under the Competitive Task Force are:

- Focus Area 1: Create and retain well-paying jobs by supporting growth in our region's key industries
- Focus Area 2: Enhance North Jersey's innovations and entrepreneurship ecosystem
- Focus Area 3: Strengthen the region's economy by building on existing assets and infrastructure
- Focus Area 4: Align workforce training with industry needs

Leadership: The following individuals have been identified as the leadership team for the Competitive Task Force:

- Co-Chair: Michael Kerwin, President & CEO, Somerset County Business Partnership
- Co-Chair: Michael McGuinness, Chief Executive Officer, NAIOP New Jersey
- Focus Area 1 Champion: Tammy Molinelli, Bergen County Workforce Development
- Focus Area 2 Champion: Barbara George Johnson, Watson Institute @ Thomas Edison University
- Focus Area 3 Champion: Michael Lysicatos, Passaic County
- Focus Area 4 Champion: TBD

Staff: The following staff members will provide support to the Task Force as needed:

- Lois Goldman, Director of Regional Planning, NJTPA (lgoldman@njtpa.org)
- Richard Cippoletti, Manager, Analytical Tools and Forecasting, NJTPA (rcippoletti@njtpa.org)
- Gabrielle Fausel, Principal Planner, NJTPA (gfausel@njtpa.org)



Vision Theme: Communities make wise use of existing infrastructure and natural resources. Growth does not encroach on sensitive natural areas or excessively burden public services. Residents and businesses use energy, water and natural resources wisely and without waste, and our transportation system connects people with the places they need to go with convenient, safe, reliable and energy-efficient travel options.

Focus Areas: Focus Areas included under the Efficient Task Force are:

- Focus Area 5: Locate most new housing and commercial development in places with existing and planned infrastructure.
- Focus Area 7: Connect people and places with safe, convenient and reliable transportation.
- Focus Area 11: Transition to a clean energy economy

Leadership: The following individuals have been identified as the leadership team for the Task Force:

- Co-Chair: Ann Brady, PlanSmart NJ
- Co-Chair: Courtenay Mercer, Mercer Consulting.
- Focus Area 5 Champion: Stephen Keyes, JM Sorge Environmental Consultant
- Focus Area 7 Champion: Brian Fineman, NJTPA
- Focus Area 11 Champion: Gary Fournier, Energy Director Sustainable Jersey

Staff: The following staff members will provide support to the Task Force as needed:

- Brian Fineman Director, Systems Planning, Data and Forecasting, NJTPA (fineman@njtpa.org)
- Jeffrey Vernick, Manager, Performance Analysis and Planning, NJTPA (jvernick@njtpa.org)



Vision Theme: Everyone is able to find the type of community and the housing that fit their needs and the region boasts vibrant neighborhoods that offer a high quality of life in cities, suburbs and more rural places. People of different lifestyles and life stages can find and afford a place to live in a community that suits them.

Focus Areas: Focus Areas included under the Livable Task Force are:

- Focus Area 6: Create vibrant places and neighborhoods that will attract and retain residents, workers and visitors
- Focus Area 8A: Expand and diversify the region’s housing supply to meet current and future demand
- Focus Area 8B; Address barriers to housing mobility, increase access to areas of high opportunity and affirmatively further fair housing policies region-wide.
- Focus Area 9: Create a system of public education that prepares all students for the 21st century economy.
- Focus Area 12: Improve health outcomes for our region’s residents.
- Focus Area 15: Revitalize and strengthen communities by expanding arts and cultural opportunities.

Leadership: The following individuals have been identified as the leadership team for the Task Force:

- Co-Chair: Kevin Moore, CityFood Resources LLC
- Co-Chair: Susanne Ishee, Center for Creative Placemaking
- Focus Area 6 Champion: Laura Torchio, Project for Public Spaces
- Focus Area 8A Champion: Arnold Cohen, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
- Focus Area 8B Champion: Harold Simon, National Housing Institute/Shelterforce
- Focus Area 9 Champion: Sharon Kregel, Education Law Center
- Focus Area 12 Champion: Jeanne Herb, Rutgers-Bloustein
- Focus Area 15 Champion: Stuart Koperweis, Center for Creative Placemaking

Staff: The following staff members will provide support to the Task Force as needed:

- Jeff Perlman, Manager, Environmental Planning and Mobility Programs, NJTPA (jperlman@njtpa.org)
- Liz DeRuchie, Principal Planner, Air Quality, NJTPA (liz@njtpa.org)
- David Aimen, Assistant Director, Planning & Technical Assistance Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (daimen@ejb.rutgers.edu)



Vision Theme: Residents and communities in the region are well prepared for extreme weather events and are adapting to a changing climate. Wetlands and other crucial ecosystems are protected and infrastructure is able to withstand extreme weather and the longer-term effects of climate change.

Focus Areas: Focus Areas included under the Resilient Task Force are:

- Focus Area 10: Enhance the resiliency of the region’s communities and infrastructure
- Focus Area 13: Improve the stewardship of natural lands, agricultural lands, open space, parks and historic resources
- Focus Area 14: Manage water systems to improve water quality and supply

Leadership: The following individuals have been identified as the leadership team for the Task Force:

- Co-Chair: Rob Freudenberg, RPA
- Co-Chair: Tim Van Epp, Greener by Design
- Focus Area 10 Champion: Kelly Pflicke, NJDEP Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning
- Focus Area 13 Champion: TBD
- Focus Area 14 Champion: Debbie Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper

Staff: The following staff members will provide support to the Task Force as needed:

- Jeff Perlman, Manager, Environmental Planning and Mobility Programs, NJTPA
(jperlman@njtpa.org)
- Jennifer Fogliano, Principal Planner, Environmental and Transportation Planning, NJTPA
(jfogliano@njtpa.org)