



I. Overview of Feedback/High-level Takeaways

The task force members selected three projects that they would like to implement during the TNJ 2.0 effort, as follows:

1. To create a platform/forum to gather private and public officials to learn about the process of planning and implementation of a Complete Streets program in various types of communities.
2. To develop a guidebook to help implementation of greenway projects in different communities of northern New Jersey. The guidebook will also inform professionals about the positive health impacts of Greenway projects.
3. To educate the counties and municipalities regarding the process of including 'Arts & Culture Districts' in county/municipal master plans. Also gather municipal level data to create an 'Arts & Culture Districts' map.

II. Summary of Discussion by Focus Area

FOCUS AREA 6: CREATE VIBRANT PLACES AND NEIGHBORHOODS THAT WILL ATTRACT AND RETAIN RESIDENTS, WORKERS AND VISITORS

- The Task Force members discussed how different communities in northern New Jersey are already making an effort to create vibrant places and neighborhoods. For instance, the City of Passaic is working towards transforming Market Street into a walkable regional destination for Hispanic shopping and dining. The City has received a 'Streetscape' grant from NJDOT for street furniture.
- Complete Streets projects also help to create vibrant places and neighborhoods. NJTPA is already working or assisting communities to implement Complete Streets projects. Leveraging NJTPA's knowledge and experience, the Task Force members decided to create a forum or platform to gather professionals from various communities to talk about implementation and the benefits of Complete Streets projects.

FOCUS AREA 9: CREATE A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION THAT PREPARES ALL STUDENTS FOR THE 21st CENTURY ECONOMY

- Task Force members discussed the possibility of helping schools in the region identify funding sources for the expansion of Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) and technology advancement programs at the middle and high school levels. Schools are experiencing a funding gap because of changes taking place in the funding formula. The members realized that TNJ has limited resources regarding this issue.
- The Task Force can work connect schools to professional development/career counseling programs that will increase the interest of the students in the field of planning.

FOCUS AREA 12: IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR OUR REGION'S RESIDENTS

- Task Force members discussed the implementation of the Middlesex Greenway project and the positive health impacts that the project has on the communities around it. The Middlesex Greenway project receives funds from the 'Edison-Middlesex Greenway Conservancy' for maintenance. The project is also associated with the 'Walk with a Doc Program'. Leveraging this experience, the Task Force members decided to develop a guidebook to help other communities implement a similar project.

FOCUS AREA 15: REVITALIZE AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES BY EXPANDING ARTS AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

- The Task Force members discussed about the Monmouth County Arts District and how it was a part of Monmouth's Master Plan. There are several similar efforts currently going on in the region and hence the Task Force members proposed carrying out an arts asset mapping project. They also felt that it was important to educate elected officials about the economic impact of arts and cultural. To do so, the Task Force will create an information session or event on arts & cultural districts.

III. Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Recommendations

The task force members did not provide any additional idea about technical assistance/capacity building sessions. The ideas they previously provided were:

- Road-Diet workshop to help better implement Complete Streets program.
- Grant writing assistance program
- Data collection (especially safety) assistance program

IV. New Member Recruitment

- Task Force members decided that a list of new members should be created by the champions leading the three selected projects. These new members should possess the topic area expertise to effectively design the projects.
- For the Road Diet workshop, police officers and fire officers should be invited.

V. Visibility and Awareness-Building Events

No additional events were suggested.