



TNJ 2.0 Efficient Task Force Meeting

October 11, 2015

In attendance:

Tom Schulze, NJTPA
Randy Solomon, Sustainable Jersey
Richard Rabinowitz, NJDOT
Tom Drabic, Sussex City Planning Division
Doug Greenfield, NJTPA
Andras Holzmann, Somerset County
Walter Lane, Somerset County
Eliot Benman, Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University
Megan Massey, Hudson County
Stephen Kehayes, SP Kehayes, LLC
Courtenay Mercer, Mercer Planning Associates
Brian Fineman, NJTPA
Jeff Vernick, NJTPA
Zachary Subar, NJ Transit
James Bonnano, Monmouth County
Eugene McGuinness, NJTPA
Joseph Dunsay, Activist
Gevin Williams, Equity Environmental
Neile Weissman, Complete George

Recap of Focus Area Activities

a) *Provide a status report of what has been accomplished and what focus areas can be progressed further.*

- Clean Energy Update
 - Randy Soloman – Sustainable Jersey and NJTPA are collaborating to conduct workshops with municipalities
 - Workshops are focused on developing readiness plans, including zoning modifications and easing permitting
 - Pilot projects have been completed, including model ordinances
 - Final report is not yet finished. Task Force members are welcome to view the draft report and comment.
 - Providing charging facilities in multifamily housing facilities is a big challenge. SJ recommends requirements for prewiring. There was also discussion around urban applications where many residents park on the street.
 - County governments can be involved by assisting coordination with towns, citing facilities, and generally being kept in the loop on SJ/NJTPA's efforts.

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- Somerset County has begun discussing the possibilities of fast charging stations along major roads.
 - Land Use/Transportation
 - Transit Hubs (TH)
 - Subcommittee was formed to tackle this issue
 - Based on past Task Force meetings, NJTPA is proposing a series of workshops on TH
 - Complete Streets (CS)
 - 84 municipalities and 7 counties have CS policies
 - 2045 RTP will incorporate a sidebar on CS. Comments are welcome. A follow-up email will be sent out giving Task Force members an opportunity to review and comment on the sidebar.
 - Though other Task Forces have discussed CS, efforts should primarily fall under the purview of the Efficient Task Force.
 - Sustainable Jersey has a CS action, but is working on expanded criterion for CS plans
 - NJTPA is holding a meeting on Nov 2 to solicit comments on the draft RTP.
 - There is a CS coalition being led by Leigh Ann Von Hagen at VTC. Task Force should coordinate with her.
 - Task Force should address the issue of existing policies without implementation.
 - Healthier Somerset administers NJ Healthy Communities Network grants for CS work. TNJ could help promote the initiative. Membership includes counties and nonprofits. Other collaborations promoting healthy lifestyles exist throughout North Jersey, including the North Jersey Health Collaborative, Pedestrian Injury Partnership (Newark), APA – Public Health Association Partnership.
 - The NJTPA UPWP includes a CS technical assistance program and Hoboken CS Code
 - Will begin in FY 2017-2018 and completed by FY 2019. Solicitation will be issued soon.
 - Steering committee should include members of this TF
 - Focused on outreach and understanding of available resources and best practices.
 - NJTPA intends to work with VTC to figure out how to get municipalities to move forward.
 - Task Force members that have been focused on CS issues can help guide the CS technical assistance program.
 - Include train the trainer on public outreach/buy in
 - When trying to implement CS, efforts encounter pushback from residents and businesses. A possible solution is to provide training on this issue.

b) Discussion of TNJ Training Institute Activities

- Potential topics:

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- Transit Hub (TH) Workshop
 - Three part workshop: Part 1: TH 101; Part 2: Selection criteria for r pilot TH projects – rural, suburban, and urban location; Part 3: Convene stakeholders to advance THs
 - Could be held in late November
 - It was suggested that the Planning Assistance Team/Mayor’s Institute Model be followed. There is some concern that it is often difficult to get mayors to attend.
 - It is critical to include engineers, as well as diverse stakeholders from the community including police departments. Could offer continuing education credits.
 - Efforts should be focused on towns that want to implement TH, and should include cross-municipality cooperation. If the selection process is competitive, towns with CS should be favored. At least one of the pilots should be focused on the trans-Hudson Gateway project.
 - Task Force should consider reaching out to engineering professional associations to obtain pro bono services.
 - Jitney, work shuttles, and bus planning should be covered. Access management should be covered. Workshop should include guidance on appropriate density and push-back over rezoning. The training should emphasize the benefit of TOD in keeping young people in NJ.
 - TOD is an opportunity to meet affordable housing requirements. The training should encourage towns to incorporate issues of long-term workforce/affordable housing planning into TOD plans and consider the effects of gentrification.
 - Members agreed that this workshop/pilot program should advance. NJTPA will continue working with TH subcommittee to design the workshop

 - c) *Plan of Action for Advancing other Focus Areas*
 - Members recommended identifying non-TH, non-CS actions. Brownfields should be incorporated into the TH workshop, but could be a future stand-alone topic as well.
 - Members made additional comments on TOD
 - Need to use TOD to attract employers that seek transit
 - Lack of capacity at municipal level to implement TOD
 - Gap in local and state planning. Have to be prepared at local and state level to take advantage of redevelopment and economic development opportunities as they arise.
 - The TNJ initiative should be introduced to the incoming gubernatorial administration. The TNJ Forum may consider collaborating with NJ Future. The goal is to introduce TNJ, explain that TNJ 2.0 is providing technical assistance and training, and provide ideas how the State can help advance TNJ recommended actions. Couch the discussion under economic development readiness, and making strategic investments to build local capacity. There will not be time to do so before the election; will need to target the transition team. Task Force Chairs and Champions

should get approval from relevant parties before proceeding. Calls between Chairs of all Task Forces should be held to determine how to proceed. This effort will be independent of NJTPA.

- NJTPA has made available resources for VTC to provide staff resources/technical assistance to advance Task Force initiatives using VTC staff, graduate students and other university resources. Task Force members should determine what actions could benefit from this assistance.

d) Next Steps

- NJTPA will coordinate with Transit Hub subcommittee to design TH workshop.
- Task Force Chairs should hold calls to coordinate future advocacy work during the State administration transitional period.
- Task Force members should consider how to make use of available VTC staff resources.