

SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Policy Board Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2007 - 11:00 A.M.
City Council Caucus Room, Vineland City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Chairman Beyel, followed by the flag salute. Timothy Chelius then advised that the requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act were met through Annual Notice on January 24, 2006 to The Press of Atlantic City, The Bridgeton Evening News, The Daily Journal, Today's Sunbeam, and to the Clerks of the four member counties. Also, the Notice was posted on the designated bulletin board in Vineland City Hall. Attendance of members was then taken by roll call:

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Daniel Beyel, Cape May County
Thomas Russo, Atlantic County
Douglas Rinear, Cumberland County
Jeffrey Hogan, Salem County (Representing Charles Sullivan)
Robert Levy, Atlantic City (Not Present)
Jeffrey Ridgway, Pittsgrove Township
Leonard Desiderio, Sea Isle City
Perry Barse, City of Vineland (Not Present)
James Lewis, NJDOT
Dr. Jerome Lutin, NJ Transit
Bart Mueller, SJTA (Not Present)

Also in attendance:

James Pierson, Angelini, Viniar & Freedman
Paul Trivellini, City of Vineland
Robert Brewer, Cumberland County
James Smith, Cape May County
John Petersack, NJDOT
Brian Wahler, NJ Turnpike Authority
Linda Krsnak, CCIA
Robert Smith, CCIA
James Standiford, DVARP & NJARP
Tim Mangene, GZA GeoEnvironmental
Fred Winkler, Winchester & Western Railroad
Timothy Chelius, SJTPO
Monica LoGuidice, SJTPO
Michael Reeves, SJTPO
William Schiavi, SJTPO
Teresa Thomas, SJTPO
Lester Varga, SJTPO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 22, 2007

On Motion by Committeeman Ridgway and seconded by Mayor Desiderio, the minutes of January 22, 2007 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Committeeman Ridgway introduced Salem County Freeholder Jeff Hogan to the Board and reported that Freeholder Sullivan was still rehabilitating from his injury.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Robert Brewer reported that at the March 12, 2007 meeting, TAC recommended Board approval of the scheduled action items.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Beyel commented to James Lewis that Cape May County hosted a Transportation Infrastructure Conference in February and that it was requested that a representative from NJDOT attend to discuss issues that affect the County. Dr. Mark Stout of NJDOT attended the conference and gave updates on issues pertaining to Gloucester and Ocean Counties only. Chairman Beyel emphasized the disappointment of the County, as well as the public and media, stating that updates on Cape May County issues, especially the Beesley's Point Bridge and the Rt. 52 Replacement Causeway, should have been made available. He suggested that Mr. Lewis relay his remarks to the Department.

SOUTH JERSEY TRAFFIC SAFETY ALLIANCE

Teresa Thomas reviewed a handout of activities and programs of the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance to Board members. She reported that the FY 2008 Highway Safety Grant Proposal is included in the packet for renewal, indicating that the total cost is for \$93,550. The FY 2007 THINK SAFETY campaign is coming together with a kickoff scheduled for May 23 in Atlantic City with a caravan from the Hamilton Mall in Mays Landing.

Ms. Thomas also noted that she will be meeting with TV40 to air PSA's and also will be meeting with Subaru to propose decaling 13 beach vehicles. She stated that there is a possibility of a THINK SAFETY NASCAR event, mentioning that Ocean City has a Monte Carlo SS that the Alliance may acquire for free and paint like a Nascar to draw attention to the program and message. She then reviewed upcoming meetings and the FY 2007 Seat Belt Survey questionnaire, which will be circulated with the upcoming newsletter. The Questionnaire is an add on to the consultants Seat Belt Observation Survey.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolution 0703-12: Adopting the FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program

On Motion by Mayor Desiderio and seconded by Freeholder Hogan, Resolution 0703-12 was opened for discussion. Executive Director Chelius reviewed the draft FY 2008 UPWP, explaining that it represents SJTPO's federally funded regional planning activities for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The Central Staff Work Program contains approximately \$914,000, which is about \$50,000 less than last year, due to staffing changes. Mr. Chelius noted that SJTPO is planning to hire two part time positions, one for community safety outreach and one for the capital program. He also noted an increase from \$3,000 to \$22,000 for NJ Transit due to considerable assistance with the SJTPO

Travel Demand Modeling. He then reviewed the County and Technical programs, and with no further comment, Resolution 0703-12 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

2. Resolution 0703-13: Approving an Amendment to the FY 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program by Replacing Two Tilton Road Resurfacing Projects with a New Resurfacing Project for Delilah Road

On Motion by Vice Chairman Russo and seconded by Freeholder Director Rainear, Resolution 0703-13 was opened for discussion. Executive Director Chelius explained that the current TIP includes a project for Atlantic County to resurface Tilton Road, however, in a short while, the Delilah Road Bridge Replacement Project will be under construction and that would take Delilah Road out of operation for quite some time with detours. Atlantic County proposes to move the funding for the Tilton Road projects to a section of Delilah Road adjacent to the Bridge project. This amendment requires no additional funding. With no further comment, Resolution 0703-13 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

3. Resolution 0703-14: Approving a Subcontract Agreement with NJIT to Complete the 2006 Cape May County Hurricane and Elevation Study Extension

On Motion by Mayor Desiderio and seconded by Committeeman Ridgway, Resolution 0703-14 was opened for discussion. Executive Director Chelius explained that the consultant, NJIT, requires a subcontract agreement with SJTPO to accept funding for professional services, which will allow the Study's activities to proceed. Mr. Chelius noted that on January 3, 2007, SJTPO awarded the consultant Notice to Proceed. With no further comment, Resolution 0703-14 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

4. Resolution 0703-15: Endorsing a Highway Traffic Safety Project Grant from the N.J. Division of Highway Traffic Safety for the South Jersey Traffic Safety Alliance

On Motion by Freeholder Director Rainear and seconded by Freeholder Hogan, Resolution 0703-15 was opened for discussion. The grant will allow the Alliance to continue to develop region wide traffic safety programs, share successful practices, provide training, and support capital projects geared toward bicycle and pedestrian safety. With no further comment, Resolution 0703-15 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

5. Resolution 0703-16: Endorsing the Ranking of Applications for the Round 8 Job Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) Competitive Grant Program

On Motion by Dr. Lutin and seconded by Freeholder Director Rainear, Resolution 0703-16 was opened for discussion. Michael Reeves explained that the JARC program helps fund transportation services and supportive activities that facilitate access to jobs for persons of low income and those on welfare, and provide reverse commute trips for the general population.

SJTPO solicited Letters of Intent from potential applicants in February. In response, four LOI's were received from Cumberland County Improvement Authority, Atlantic County Department of Human Services, Pearl Transit (Salem County), and Salem County Interagency Council of Human Services. An SJTPO JARC Committee was formed, consisting of representatives from NJ Transit, NJ Department of Human Services, Cumberland County Planning Department, and SJTPO, and project applications were ranked in the following order: 1. Cumberland County Improvement Authority 2. Atlantic County Department of Human Services 3. Pearl Transit 4. Salem County Interagency Council. With no further comment, Resolution 0703-16 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. SJTPO FY 2007 Human Service Transportation Plan Update – Michael Reeves

Michael Reeves reported that this SJTPO Technical Study (\$80,000) was required by Federal Transit Administration to develop a Human Service Transportation Service Plan (HSTP) for the four county region. The purpose of this “United we Ride” initiative is to begin coordinating human service transportation services to achieve greater efficiency and cost effectiveness. He noted that the project, which is being completed by a consultant, is on schedule and that the SJTPO HSTP document will be finalized and submitted to NJ Transit by June 30, 2007. As required by this process, the counties have formed their HSTP stakeholder committees and each has completed their initial round of meetings. An HSTP project status report has been prepared by SJTPO and was submitted to NJ Transit on March 12. Mr. Reeves thanked Cross County Connection for completing the service provider survey required as apart of this process.

7. 2035 Demographic Projections Report – Les Varga

On question by Mr. Lewis at the January 22, 2007 meeting, Ms. Varga explained the consultant took in consideration the Pinelands area and the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in their demographic forecasting report. Mr. Lewis thanked Mr. Varga for his update and added that Mr. Varga had also sent him a letter addressing his initial concerns in more detail.

8. SJTPO Safety Management System Update – Bill Schiavi

Bill Schiavi reported that Greenman Pederson is the consultant conducting the Safety Management System Update, which is a study that will help improve the understanding of transportation safety performance on the roadways in the SJTPO region. Mr. Schiavi emphasized that this is an important study, in light of SAFETEA-LU and Federal Highway Administration’s emphasis on safety conscious planning. The consultant will create Geographic Information System (GIS) based data, and will also build tools for safety data analysis and reporting.

9. NJDOT Update: James Lewis, Manager, NJDOT – Bureau of Statewide Planning

Shore Connection Projects: James Lewis summarized the attached Shore Connection Report.

Beesley’s Point Bridge: James Lewis stated that the bridge inspection report is still under review.

NJ Route 52 Project: James Lewis stated that the bridge is under construction and proceeding. Chairman Beyel added that there have not been any traffic interruptions and traffic seems to be moving pretty well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Standiford of the DVARP and NJARP summarized the attached newspaper articles, and he emphasized that rail doesn’t necessarily stop congestion, but it gives people an option of transportation so that they are not caught up in traffic.

Fred Winkler of Winchester and Western Railroad commented that a metro north recently stated that there is more traffic regionally on their system than there is going into New York City. He commented that he believes the extension of the river line into Glassboro will happen. He also noted that years ago there was another route into Atlantic City “Blue Comet”, which was quiet successful. Mr. Winkler stated that he spoke with NJDOT, and that Commissioner Kullari was advised to look into reinstating the route, which is owned primarily by the state.

BOARD COMMENT

James Lewis announced that John Petersack (SJTPPO liaison) will be retiring and thanked him for all his years of service and that he has been very instrumental in helping to develop some of the SJTPPO documents.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Approved Minutes Certified Correct:

Charles R. Sullivan

Charles R. Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer