

**Morris County Board of Transportation Meeting
 Tuesday, November 10, 2009: 7:00 PM
 Morris County Administration & Records Building
 Fifth Floor, Knox Room
 Morristown, NJ**

In Attendance:

Board Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Ilene Dorf Manahan, Chairperson	Michael Hantson, Dover	Frank Pinto
Melverne Cooke	Rob Jennings, Daily Record	Gerald Rohsler
Patricia Maynard	Amy Magnuson, NJTPA	Christine Marion
Frank Reilly	Chris Mazzei, M&E Railway	Deena Cybulski
Judith Schleicher	Russell Stern, Roxbury	Denise Chaplick
Hester Wharton	Robert Vogel, Madison	John Hayes
Dudley Woodbridge, Secretary	Alan Weinberg, NJ Transit	Erik DeLine

I. Call to Order: Chairperson Ilene Dorf Manahan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Open Public Meeting Statement: Chairperson Manahan read the Open Public Meetings Act compliance statement.

III. Roll Call: Chairperson Manahan read the roll call. Seven voting members were present.

IV. Welcome and Introductions: All attendees were welcomed by Chairperson Manahan.

V. Special Presentation: ARC (Access to the Region’s Core) Rail Tunnel

Alan Weinberg from NJ Transit began by explaining that the ARC project will increase rail passenger trips to New York by 22% a day, upwards of 275,000 daily commuter rail trips. In 1984, there were 10 million rail trips into New York City. Today, that number has grown to 46 million annually, and is expected to double in the next 20 years. Mr. Weinberg stated that the project will double capacity; an increase of 23 trains per hour into Penn Station to 46 trains per hour. Morris County will benefit from the project because commuters west of Dover on the Morristown Line and west of Montclair State University Station on the Boonton Line will receive Midtown Direct service and both lines will receive more frequent service in general. In addition, there will be benefits through decreased congestion, increased economic activity, and improved mobility. Mr. Weinberg stated that the project is slated to cost \$8.7 billion total (\$3 billion will come from the federal government, \$3 billion from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and \$2.7 billion from New Jersey) and be completed in 2017.

VI. Approval of Minutes from April 7, 2009: Chairperson Manahan asked if any members had any revisions to the minutes. There were none. Approval of minutes was moved by Dudley Woodbridge, seconded by Melverne Cooke and the minutes were unanimously approved.

VII. Discussion Items:

Staff Reports

Gerald Rohsler:

On October 29, 2009, Morris County became owners of the Chester Branch Railroad in Roxbury, NJ, obtaining it from Holland Industries. In the spring, the 4.2 mile railroad will get rehabilitated using funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

On December 12th, the Morristown & Erie Railway will be participating in Operation Toy Train in conjunction with the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots. The train will be on the High Bridge Branch with stops in Flanders, Roxbury at Sleepy's on Route 10, and Dover.

Morris County signed a contract for final design of the NYS&W Bike and Pedestrian Path with the RBA Group, so the project will continue to move forward.

Deena Cybulski:

In 2010, Morris County will be receiving an increase in funding from the NJTPA. Morris County will be granted \$15,000 to spend on either an intern, technology, or training, or any combinations of the three. Also, Morris County will be getting an additional 1% of its total ARRA money for planning. \$89,200 of the funding goes towards staff salaries in the Divisions of Transportation and Engineering.

Morris County was awarded a \$4.2 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant from the US Department of Energy, as part of the ARRA funding. The division has been involved in the discussions of how to allocate the money for energy efficiency programs and one use will be to promote the awareness of public transportation options. A targeted mailing will provide transit information to residents in close proximity to bus stops or train stations.

Denise Chaplick:

Additionally, as part of the energy grant, the county is exploring the possibility of purchasing new hybrid vehicles to use for its vanpool program. Some of them must be replaced and this could be a way to purchase more fuel efficient vehicles. Also, the Division of Transportation is working with the Morris County Information Services Division to promote the vanpool as it redesigns its county employee intranet site.

Ms. Chaplick recently conducted a Walkable Communities Workshop with Hanover Park Regional High School in cooperation with the town's Safety Committee. The area of study surrounds a school zone. Already the speed limit on Mt. Pleasant Avenue, which

fronts the school, has been reduced from 35 to 25 mph. Ms. Chaplick and the Safety Committee also promoted safety awareness by attending a local football game and distributing reflective wrist bands to game attendees.

Morris County met with NJDOT to discuss a sidewalk plan for Mt. Arlington. Currently with the parking overflow at the station, people that have to park off site are forced to walk down Howard Boulevard to the station where there are no sidewalks. The county's proposed recommendation was that there should be sidewalks on both sides of the street.

John Hayes:

Mr. Hayes talked about the upcoming improvements to Morris County GIS. Currently, the website, www.MorrisGIS.org features land use information. In the future, there will be transportation information on it as well.

Mr. Hayes discussed how the land development standards for the county are moving forward. In the future, issues of bicycle and pedestrian access on county roads will be a more important part of the review process.

An explanation of the Morris County Transportation Model was given. The model is a four step model that takes into account the highway and transit network as well as socioeconomic data to determine trip generation, highway/transit assignment, trip distribution, and mode split. A graphic of the county's model was shown and further explanation of what kind of inputs are used to generate the output data was given. In addition, the county acquired a software program called Cube Avenue, which provides more detailed simulation analysis of traffic patterns. A short video was shown illustrating how Avenue was used to model traffic patterns and flow around the Morristown Green.

Erik DeLine:

The county is conducting a Freight Infrastructure and Land Use Analysis with federal funds granted by the NJTPA. The study is an interdisciplinary study with eight tasks that comprise of data collection, land use analysis, infrastructure improvements identification, an economic impact study, and action items to improve community relations, a marketing plan, a public outreach component, and culminate in a final report with actionable recommendations. There will be three Technical Advisory Committee meetings, three site visits to potential/current freight facilities or development sites, and three public meetings.

Separate but related to the freight study, the Freeholder Board is forming a Freight Railroad Advisory Committee to discuss freight rail matters as they affect Morris County. The meetings will be conducted quarterly with the first one to be held on January 12, 2010. The board will be made up of nine members including Freeholder Schrier as Chairperson, Freeholder Nordstrom, three municipal representatives, the Morristown & Erie Railway, Frank Reilly from the Board of Transportation, and two rail customers.

VIII. Old Business:

The By-Laws for the Morris County Board of Transportation were approved. Judith Schleicher made the motion to approve the By-Laws. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion and the By-Laws were unanimously approved.

IX. New Business:

A. Board appointments

Ms. Cybulski stated that based on the newly approved by-laws, the board member term lengths are staggered. The length of the terms will be recommended to the Board of Chosen Freeholders for their approval. The term lengths could be from one to three years. After both Chairperson Manahan and Mr. Reilly volunteered for the one-year terms, the term lengths were drawn out of a hat, and the results were as follows:

Ilene Dorf Manahan-1
Frank T. Reilly-1
Milverne Cooke-2
Hester B. Wharton-2
Judith Schleicher-3
Art Valand-3
Dudley Woodbridge-3

B. Approval of Resolution Honoring Patricia Maynard for 15 years of membership on the Morris County Board of Transportation

Chairperson Manahan stated that this meeting was Patricia Maynard's last Board of Transportation meeting after 15 years of service. A resolution was read recognizing Ms. Maynard for her dedication. Mr. Reilly made the motion to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Ms. Cooke, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

C. Other New Business

There was a discussion of the Chester Branch Rehabilitation. The money was to be distributed from NJDOT Local Aid Office from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Frank Reilly informed the board that TransAction 2010 will be held from April 28th to the 30th at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City.

X. Public Comments: None

XI. Next Regular Meeting: January 12, 2010

XII. Adjournment: A motion was made by Ms. Schleicher to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Reilly seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Notes prepared by Erik DeLine