



**NJ BPAC General Meeting**  
**September 10, 2025, 9:30 am to 11:30 am**  
**Zoom Online Meeting**

**Executive Committee:**

Elise Bremer- Nei (NJDOT) | Leigh Ann Von Hagen (Rutgers-VTC) | Andrea Lubin (NJTIP) | Cassidy Boulan (DVRPC) | John Boyle (BCGP) | Michael Dannemiller (NJT) | Keith Hamas (NJTPA) | Anne Heasley (Sustainable Jersey) | Debra Kagan (NJBWC) | Loretta Kelly (NJDOH) | Open Position (NJ DHS) | Byron Nicholas (Hudson County) | Jessica O'Connor (NJMVC) | Mackenzie Piggott (NJDEP) | Linda Rapacki (RideWise TMA) | Mike Viscardi (NJT) | Michael Rizol (DHTS) | Open Position (Environmental Justice/Equity)

**Subcommittee Chairs:**

Keith Hamas, Chair, Safety Subcommittee, [khamas@njtpa.org](mailto:khamas@njtpa.org),  
Michael Dannemiller, Chair, Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee, [mdannemiller@njtransit.com](mailto:mdannemiller@njtransit.com)  
Lyndsey Scofield, Chair, Policy Subcommittee, [lscofield@jcnj.org](mailto:lscofield@jcnj.org)

**General Meeting Notes:**

The meeting began at 9:30 am with **Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC** welcoming everyone and discussing housekeeping items.

**Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT-BSBPP** shared updates about the BPAC Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee chair:

Mike Dannemiller has transitioned into a new role at NJ TRANSIT while continuing to serve as the Design & Infrastructure Subcommittee Chair. Recognition is also given to subcommittee chairs Keith Hamas and Lyndsey Scofield for their ongoing dedication and commitment. Additionally, appreciation is expressed to Mike for agreeing to represent NJ TRANSIT on the Executive Committee.

**Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT-BSBPP** shared updates from the New Jersey Department of Transportation on the following topics:

1. **State Development and Redevelopment Plan:** The State Planning Commission is meeting to review the final draft of the SDRP this morning. The Office of Planning Advocacy anticipates release of the final draft for public comment sometime next week.
2. **NJDOT Long Range Transportation Plan:** NJDOT and New Jersey Transit are finalizing the Long-Range Transportation Plan to identify how New Jersey's transportation system can meet the needs of its users for the next 25 years. This is a policy-based plan and does NOT include specific

projects. More information is available on the project website, Keep It Moving! NJ 2050 LRTP, at <https://www.nj2050lrtp.com/>

3. **NJ Target Zero Commission:** The final working group meeting for development of New Jersey's first Target Zero Action Plan will be on Wednesday, September 24 at 2pm. At this meeting, the working group will review a draft prioritization of actions to be submitted to the Commission for inclusion in the draft Action Plan. Here is the link to register for the meeting: [https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/o8lZ6QUQjui\\_V2JirHPug#/registration](https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/o8lZ6QUQjui_V2JirHPug#/registration)
4. **The New Jersey Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP):** The 2025 Strategic Highway Safety Plan is entering the implementation phase. This plan was structured a bit differently than the last one. The Emphasis Areas were developed around the six key principles and five core elements of the Safe System Approach adopted in recent years by the USDOT. The needs of vulnerable roadway users like bicyclists and pedestrians are addressed throughout. Some members have been asked to assist with the plan's implementation. The first implementation team meeting is scheduled for later this month, with participation from Jelena Lasko. Outcomes from this meeting will be reported back to the full group. For more information: <https://www.saferoadsforallnj.com/>, <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/zero-deaths>
5. **NJDOT Local Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Assistance Program Updates:** In the last 6 months, NJDOT and the on-call consultant teams completed bicycle and pedestrian planning studies in Palmyra, West Orange, and Long Branch. Studies are currently underway in Clayton, Hackensack, and Green Brook and they are also developing a School Travel Plan in Collingswood.
6. **2026 New Jersey Complete Streets Summit:** Look for an announcement soon about the next NJ CS Summit - anticipated for April 2026!
7. **Cross County Connection's Lending Library:** The SJTPO Complete Streets Lending Library will be opening soon. Modeled after the successful NJTPA program, the library will have the materials needed to put together a temporary demonstration project in the SJTPO region. More information on how municipalities can request materials will be available soon.
8. **NJ Complete Streets Training:** Training for department staff on the updated NJDOT Complete Streets policy is underway and still working out the details for a new round of training for local practitioners.
9. **Local Complete Streets Policies:** Three New Jersey municipalities have adopted new or updated Complete Streets policies. Rochelle Park adopted their first Complete Streets resolution, West Windsor updated their 2010 resolution, and Montclair upgraded their 2009 resolution to an ordinance. Montclair's new policy is covered in a recent blog article posted on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Resource Center website. Here is the link to the article : <https://njbikeped.org/new-complete-streets-policy-and-director-signal-real-change-for-montclair/>. And as a reminder, a comprehensive list of all Complete Streets policies in New Jersey is also posted on the njbikeped.org website. Here is the link: <https://njbikeped.org/nj-complete-streets-policy-compilation/>

**Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT-BSBPP** introduced **Peter Bilton, NJTPA** who shared information on the NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance work:

1. The application period for municipalities to participate in the Complete Streets Technical Assistance Program will open at the end of this month or early October. The program involves mini-studies to address Complete Streets issues or opportunities, includes community outreach, workshops, or demonstration projects, and has been conducted for many years with support from Sustainable Jersey and the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers. Several past

projects have advanced into Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside applications or short-term implementation efforts.

2. NJTPA's updated Long-Range Transportation Plan was approved by the Board earlier this week. Appreciation was expressed to planning partners, DOT, counties, Rutgers, and others for their expertise and outreach support in preparing the plan, which is updated every four years.

**Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC** provided a brief background on the Complete Streets and Neurodivergence research conducted for NJDOT.

1. This project was funded by NJDOT in response state legislation that was passed in 2023, directing the department to incorporate the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) into its Complete Streets Policy and projects. Rutgers and Toole Design worked on separate components of the project.
2. VTC's final work product is a [primer](#) that examines the travel needs of individuals with ASD and IDDs. The resource, now finalized and available on [The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center](#), includes: background on civil rights legislation and design guidance; findings from literature review and interviews with planners, professionals, and travel trainers; key takeaways on transportation challenges; and recommendations related to sidewalks, crosswalks, intersections, and active transportation. The primer also features tables linking specific challenges faced by individuals with ASD/IDDs to potential improvements. Future research topics, as well as suggestions for partnerships and training, are also identified.
3. For more information, read the [Complete Streets and Neurodivergence Primer](#).

**Jennifer Toole, Toole Design** and **Jim Elliott, Toole Design** also presented on **Complete Streets and Neurodivergence**.

**Jennifer Toole, Toole Design:**

- Introduced the focus of the session : designing streets that support people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD).
- People with ASD and IDD have diverse and sometimes conflicting needs , for example, a person with an intellectual disability might need longer crossing times, while someone with ADHD might become impatient and cross prematurely; effective design must balance these differences and involve individuals, caregivers, and families in the process.
- Nationally, 18% of children have a developmental disability; in New Jersey, 1 in 7 public school children has a developmental or intellectual disability, and 1 in 10 adults has a cognitive disability. These individuals are present in every community as friends, family, and colleagues.
- Shared background about her son, Gideon, who is 31 years old, has developmental disabilities, and runs his own dog-walking business and emphasized on safe sidewalks in their neighborhood make his independence possible.
- Individuals with ASD or IDD face higher crash risks: 1.5 - 2.5 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured as pedestrians.
- People with ASD or IDD are less likely to drive and more reliant on other modes and a 2015 survey found only 3.1% of adults with autism had driven in the past 3 months that emphasizes need for walkable, transit-accessible communities.
- Pointed out that current design standards often fail to consider sensory sensitivities and cognitive differences.

- Played a video featuring Marcus Wilson, a Rutgers NJTIP graduate who walks to work, cannot drive and depends on walking and transit. The video illustrates both his independence and unrecognized safety challenges along his route.

#### **Jim Elliott, Toole Design:**

- The work builds on a long history of Rutgers VTC research and other studies, including the earlier Rutgers VTC primer on mobility for individuals with developmental disabilities and the 2015 study Detour to the Right Place led by Rutgers' team.
- The project consisted of several core tasks: review of best practices related to ASD and IDD in transportation design, assessment of NJDOT policies and design guidance, development of technical recommendations for inclusive design, and three working group meetings with stakeholder feedback.
- The primary output is ASD/IDD Action Plan for NJDOT implementation, addressing the limited specific guidance for ASD and IDD populations under ADA.
- Main takeaways emphasize strengthening existing good practices through Safe System and Complete Streets principles, simplifying crossings, providing longer crossing times, and reducing sensory overload.
- The Safe System approach and connected networks are essential, focusing on slower vehicle speeds, street design, consistent crosswalk markings, adjusted signal timing, and clear, predictable, and continuous environments to enhance safety and independence for individuals with ASD and IDD.

#### Following the presentation:

1. **New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition** asked about updating the model Complete and Green Streets Policy.
2. **Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC** responded that the policy is referenced in several actions within the Target Zero Commission and that discussions are underway regarding what it would take to update the policy, though this remains a work in progress.
3. **Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT-BSBPP** added that NJDOT is currently in a transition period due to departmental reorganization, with planning and safety staff responsibilities still being realigned. She confirmed that the model policy guide will be updated, with the goal of completing the update by the end of this year or next year.
4. **Tri-State Transportation Campaign** noted that many needs of neurodivergent individuals mirror those of neurotypical individuals, but are more acute which are similar to how curb ramps benefit all users. He emphasized the importance of personal space, greenery, waiting areas, and consistent infrastructure, while also raising concerns that areas where neurodivergent individuals are more likely to live and work often prioritize vehicle mobility over pedestrian needs. He suggested considering these trade-offs in implementing the research.
5. **New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition** added that the recommendations also benefit seniors, children, and individuals with physical disabilities, and suggested emphasizing this overlap more frequently.
6. **Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC** responded that while ADA law has existed for over 30 years, it has largely focused on physical disabilities, with limited attention to individual or cognitive disabilities. Research in this area remains limited, with acknowledgement of the pioneering

contributions of the Dr. Cecilia Feeley, whose work at VTC helped establish a foundation for continued efforts

**Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC** opened the subcommittees at 10:23.

*(See subcommittee notes for additional information).*

Subcommittee participants returned to the general meeting at 11:14. Subcommittee chairs reported back:

**Michael Dannemiller, NJ TRANSIT** reported back on design subcommittee. The subcommittee spent most of the time discussing how bike share could be made more inclusive, including considerations of docking system locations and opportunities for family use. Ideas such as incorporating cargo bikes to accommodate multiple riders were highlighted as a way to make bike share more universal and to replace car trips. Additional updates included reports from EZRide on demonstration projects in Teaneck and Garwood.

**Peter Bilton, NJTPA** reported back on safety subcommittee. The subcommittee received an update from Hannah Younes on New Jersey school zone safety improvements, focusing on research supported by Safe Routes to School grants. The study included focus groups with municipal engineers, who reviewed before and after project photos to assess safety for children. Findings showed that while many projects added basic facilities such as sidewalks and curbs, the majority did not incorporate speed control or traffic calming measures, and therefore had little impact on vehicle speeds. Legislative hurdles to installing measures like speed humps were also noted. Following the presentation, discussion shifted to e-bikes, with concerns raised about youth access to high-speed or modified e-bikes, lack of awareness among parents and teens regarding legal operation, and the challenges of enforcement and education. Updates were shared on outreach efforts by NJ Bike & Walk Coalition and proactive steps by local police and the Division of Highway Traffic Safety to engage schools and address unsafe or illegal e-bike use.

**Lyndsey Scofield, Jersey City** reported back on the Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee focused on updates related to the Target Zero Commission and Action Plan, which seeks to reduce and ultimately eliminate traffic fatalities in New Jersey. Greg Woltman, Rutgers-VTC provided an overview of the framework, outlining five key action areas including safer people, safer roads, safer speeds, safer vehicles, and post-crash care, along with supplementary areas such as safer land use and coordinated implementation. The update included a review of the working group process, feedback mechanisms, and the strategies being developed within each area. Discussion centered on the importance of implementation, accountability, and funding, with questions raised about how recommendations will be prioritized and evaluated over time. We emphasized the need for clear measures of progress and strong enforcement once the plan is adopted. Tri-State Transportation Campaign provided an update on the automated speed enforcement bill, which is currently under review by the Speed Camera Working Group. Edits and comments are being returned to the Office of Legislative Services, though the timeline for bill introduction remains uncertain. Once the draft advances, a webinar will be held to share details about the proposal, its contents, and anticipated benefits.

**NJ Bike and Walk Coalition** announced that the next NJ Bike Walk Coalition Safe Network webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 30, with a focus on teen ebike rider safety. Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/sdcq8PMpQlyqptgrUIhKNQ>

**NJ Bike and Walk Coalition** announced that the next North Jersey Trail Network Initiative (NJTN) stakeholder meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1 from 10 to 11:30 am at Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, Rahway. followed by a post-meeting walk led by Union County Connects. If you're not on the stakeholder list and would like to be added, please email at [tiffany.robinson@njbwc.org](mailto:tiffany.robinson@njbwc.org)

**Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC**, announced that Rutgers University is conducting a survey to understand how e-bike rebate programs could impact current riders and encourage new users by exploring their experiences and barriers. Share your input by taking the survey here: <https://lnkd.in/e9Cy2bB2>

**The 15th Annual STOP for Nikhil** will be held on Sunday, September 21. Registration is available on the [event page](#).

**James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC** adjourned the meeting at 11:42.

**Attendees:**

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Rutgers-VTC
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Hannah Younes, Rutgers-VTC
- Sean Meehan, Rutgers-VTC
- James Sinclair, Rutgers-VTC
- Samuel Rosenthal, Rutgers-VTC
- Gregory Woltman, Rutgers-VTC
- Mrudhula Sai Boppey, Rutgers-VTC
- Gabbie Cain, Rutgers-VTC
- Bobby Johnson, Rutgers-VTC
- Analise Draghi, Rutgers-VTC
- Lyndsey Scofield, Jersey City
- Michael Dannemiller, NJ TRANSIT
- Peter Bilton, NJTPA
- Mike Manzella, Jersey City
- Greg Wright
- Tim Evans, NJ Future
- Ariyan Henry
- Charles Romanow, WSP
- Ayla Schermer, Bike JC
- Felix Ban, NJDOT
- Terrance Payne, Natureway Space
- Jack Molenaar, NJTPA
- Kenneth Wedeen, Somerset County
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- Joseph Milanese, Dewberry
- Tamira Chambliss, NJOAG
- Paul Mickiewicz, NJBWC
- Astha Negi, Middlesex County
- Dan Doyle
- Chris Townley, Middlesex County
- Laura Cerutti, NJOAG
- Martin Balcazar, WSP
- Jen Farris, DVRPC
- Elizabeth Ward, Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
- Jim Hunt
- Jim Elliott, Toole Design
- Christopher Paige, FHWA
- Mike Viscardi, NJ TRANSIT
- Debra Kagan, NJBWC
- Linda Rapacki, Ridewise TMA
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Zeke Weston, NJ Future
- Erlea Maldonado, EZRide
- Laura Torchio, Township of Montclair
- Sarina Praseedom, NV5
- Loretta Kelly, NJDOH
- Hailey Anilonis, NJDOT
- Erlea Maldonado, EZRide
- Bettina Zimny, NV5
- Janice Marino-Doyle, NJDOT
- Jenna Monaghan, SJTPO
- David Verdia, NV5
- John Boyle, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Liza Betz
- Ramond Joseph, NJDCA
- Steve Aronson

- Kathleen Ebert, GMTMA
- William Riviere, NJDOT
- Kamal Saleh, Union County
- Jennifer Toole, Toole Design
- Corey Hannigan, Tri-State  
Transportation Campaign
- Lillian Cho
- Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
- Anne Heasley, Sustainable Jersey