

CHAPTER 5– REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)

Regional Transportation Planning is an essential part of the strategy to be used for the future planning and funding of the transportation network in Hunterdon County. The NJTPA is the federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 13-County northern New Jersey region. Each urbanized region of the country is required to establish an MPO in order to qualify for the receipt of federal transportation funding. The NJTPA Board of Trustees includes one Freeholder representative from Hunterdon County.

The guiding legislation for the NJTPA, enacted in 2005, is the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) which calls for integrating all modes of transportation—cars, trains, trucks, buses, ferries, walking and biking—into a single, efficient and "seamless" transportation system. It supports local control over transportation funding decisions through MPOs such as the NJTPA. The NJTPA prepares and updates a number of documents that detail the investments and planning activities that will help define and forecast regional transportation initiatives. These documents include:

- **Regional Transportation Plan for Northern New Jersey (RTP)** - Updated every four years, the RTP sets out a vision for the development of the region's transportation infrastructure over the next twenty-five years. It includes goals and objectives, analysis of regional trends and planned improvement projects.
- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** - Updated annually, the TIP is a four-year agenda of improvement projects drawn from the Regional Transportation Plan. To be eligible for federal funding, proposed projects must be approved by the NJTPA Board for inclusion in the TIP.
- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** - Updated annually and guided by the Strategic Business Plan, the UPWP summarizes the transportation planning activities of the NJTPA staff, its member agencies and other transportation agencies in the region.
- **Strategic Business Plan** - Updated every five years, the Strategic Business Plan establishes the operational policies, goals and objectives of the Board to support the mission of the NJTPA. The current Business Plan was adopted by the Board in November 2002.

The NJTPA Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Access and Mobility 2030

The Project Index from the RTP contains current projects and future candidate projects for Hunterdon County that have been identified through the metropolitan planning process in Northern New Jersey and whose costs can be accommodated based on the 25 year funding assumptions as set forth in the RTP. This list does not include routine maintenance projects such as resurfacing, milling and repaving; drainage and traffic signal repair or replacement; and other similar projects. Also included in the Index are potential transit expansions that are under study.

NJTPA Regional Transportation Plan for Hunterdon County – Planned Improvements

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION
Highway/Bridges	
Near-Term	
Stanton Station Road Bridge over South Branch of Raritan River	Bridges
Rockafellows Mill Road Bridge over South Branch of Raritan River (RQ-164)	Bridges
Rte. 31 Sec. Raritan Valley Line Bridge Replacement and Operational Improvements (8P) Mile posts: 37.40 - 39.40	Road Preservation
Rte. 22 Sec. Rockaway Creek, Drainage Improvements Mile post: 24.80	Road Preservation
Rte. 22 Sec. Mullen Road, Drainage Improvements Mile posts: 26.8 - 26.9	Road Preservation
Rte. 29 Sec. West Amwell Twp., Drainage (Sheet Flow) Mile posts: 17.15 - 18.20	Road Preservation
Rte. 31 Sec. Spruce Run Stream Erosion Mile posts: 36.90 - 37.50	Road Preservation
Rte. 29 Sec. Main Street, Lambertville Mile posts: 18.60 - 19.50	Road Preservation
Rte. 78 Sec. Interchange 15 Vicinity, Interim Improvements Mile posts: 13.00 - 16.50	Road Enhancement
Rte. CR 519 Sec. Milford-Warren Glen Road Mile posts: 18.29 - 23.43	Road Enhancement
Rte. 78 Sec. Pittstown Road (Exit 15), Interchange Improvements Mile posts: 16.06 - 16.10 Rte. CR 513	Road Enhancement
Rte. 202 Sec. Case Boulevard, Intersection Improvements Mile posts: 12.68 - 13.15	Road Enhancement
Rte. 29 Sec. Guiderail, North of Scudder Falls Bridge to Frenchtown Mile posts: 9.67 34.76	Safety
Rte. 29 Sec. West Amwell/Lambertville Rockfall Mitigation Mile posts: 17.30 - 18.06	Safety
Rte. 29 Sec. Lambertville Gateways Mile posts: 18.20 - 19.90 Rte. 179	Bike/Ped
Mid-Term	
Reformatory Road Bridge (C-88) over Beaver Brook	Bridges
Rte. CR 602 Sec. Wertsville Road Bridge (E-166) over Back Brook Mile post: 1.05	Bridges
Rte. CR 579 Sec. Church Street Bridge Mile post: 36.71	Bridges
Rosemont-Raven Rock Road Bridge over Lockatong Creek	Bridges
Rte. CR 602 Sec. Wertsville Road Bridge (E-174) over Tributary of Back Brook Mile post: 0.96	Bridges
White Bridge Road Bridge	Bridges
Rte. 78 Sec. Oldwick Road Interchange, potential improvements Mile posts: 24.80 - 25.20 Rte. CR 523	Road Enhancement
Rte. 31 Sec. Flemington Circle Elimination Mile posts: Rt. 31: 22.21; Rt. 202: 10.40 11.91 Rte. 202	Road Enhancement
Rte. 78 Sec. Cokesbury Road Interchange Mile posts: 20.78 Rte. CR 639	Road Enhancement
Rte. 78 Sec. Interchange Study at Route 31 Mile posts: Rt. 78: 16.5 - 17.7; Rt. 31: 31.70 - 33.50 Rte. 31	Road Enhancement
Rte. 31 Sec. Flemington Area Congestion Mitigation Mile posts: 22.02 - 25.30	Road Expansion
Multi-modal Transportation Center, Hunterdon County	Transit Expansion
Rte. 12 Sec. Hunterdon County Bicycle Improvements Mile posts: 0 - 11.70	Bike/Ped
Rte. 31 Sec. Corridor, I-78 to Route 46 Mile posts: 31.90 - 48.93	Other
Authority Projects	
Near-Term	
Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC): US 202 @ New Hope-Lambertville	Bridge Rehabilitation
DRJTBC: Bridge Street @ New Hope-Lambertville	Renovations
DRJTBC: Centre Bridge-Stockton	Rehabilitation
DRJTBC: Pedestrian Bridge @ Lumberville-Raven Rock	Bridge Rehabilitation
DRJTBC: Unlerstown-Frenchtown	Bridge Rehabilitation
NJ Transit	
Projects under Study	
Extension of Raritan Valley Line to Phillipsburg Source: NJTPA	Transit Expansion

Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

This NJTPA advisory committee is composed of , County and municipal planners and engineers which mirror the County, state and federal government voting and non-voting composition of the NJTPA Board of Trustees. Part of RTAC's role as an advisory committee is its involvement in the early stages of the formulation of the Project Development Work Program (PDWP). RTAC also plays an important role in the strategy evaluation process to help find solutions that are appropriate for prevailing land uses and activities in specific places, ranging from urban areas to suburban/exurban and rural areas.

Raritan Valley Rail Coalition

The Raritan Valley Rail Coalition (RVRC) was formed in 1998 to maintain and improve the stations and its service on the Raritan Valley Line. This coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating both short and long term service and safety improvements on the Raritan Valley Line. The RVRC is comprised of government officials, community based interest groups and members of the business community that view transportation projects as vitally important to the overall well being of the State and Regional economies. The RVRC supports additional service and supports the development of additional and expanded transit facilities within Hunterdon County.

Six County Freeholder Coalition

This group, formed in 2001, is comprised of elected County officials from the Counties of: Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex and Warren, representing a total combined population in excess of 1,700,000 residents. The Coalition meets quarterly to identify and address issues of regional concern including the identification of transportation priority projects. Some of the projects that have been on recent Coalition meeting agendas for discussion included the extension of Raritan Valley Line service west to Phillipsburg as well as the need for safe parking areas for trucks along interstate highways including I-78.

