

# **CONGESTION BUSTER TASK FORCE**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 23, 2002 NJDOT Multi-Purpose Room, Ewing, NJ**

---

### **Attendees:**

#### **Task Force Members (or Delegates):**

Chairman Jim Sinclair, NJBIA	Barry Lem, L-3 Communications
Jack Claffey, DVRPC	Jerry Lutin, NJ Transit
Dotty Drinkwater, CSNJ	J.P. Miele, CSNJ
Michael Egenton, NJ Chamber of Commerce	SFC Dan Morocco, NJSP
Erica Ferry, Pharmacia	Mike Reeves, SJTPO
Joanne Jaeger, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics	Martin E. Robins, Rutgers-VTPI
Fred Kaimann, TSTC	Judith Schleicher, I-80 Mobility Task Force
William Layton, Concrete & Aggregate Assoc.	

#### **Invited Guests:**

Enoch C. Egbosimbah, SJTPO  
Joseph T. Sacco, NJDOT Traffic Mitigation Liaison

#### **DOT Staff:**

Noreen Cardinali	Judith Parrish
Debra Firman	Adnew Tessema
Jim Lewis	Susan Weber
Bob Miller	

---

## **WELCOME and OPENING REMARKS**

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Sinclair shortly after 1:00 p.m. Brief introductions were made around the room.
- The Chairman stated that this would be the last meeting of the Congestion Buster Task Force. He plans to brief James Fox, the Department of Transportation Commissioner in the fall and may call upon some Task Force members to attend that meeting.
- The Chairman and CBTF Secretary will develop a work plan to present the CBTF report to legislative leaders.
- Task Force members are generally pleased with the final recommendations presented in the report. They represent a broad range of ideas and some compromise.
- The final report will be posted on the Congestion Buster Task Force web site and the public and Task Force members will be able to add to, and comment on, the report.

- There are important future public policy considerations that go beyond the recommendations presented in the report:
  - Increased funding for mass transit and support of infrastructure improvements for new lines and nodes that go beyond the existing transit system.
  - Development of transportation-friendly policies that support new population densities.
  - Whether government should restrict people's right to drive. While the public supports better flowing roadways, they may not accept the implementation of driving restrictions.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The CBTF secretary distributed the final report. The Task Force spent considerable time reviewing the report, particularly the Executive Summary section.
  - The Task Force decided that final recommendations should be included in the Executive Summary portion of the report, rather than separately further in the report.
  - Explanatory sentences will be added to each recommendation along with a statement indicating if vehicle trips, travel delay or safety are affected by the recommendation.
  - Several Task Force members felt that more emphasis should be placed on commuter incentives and that these recommendations should be moved to the beginning of the final recommendation list.
  - Some Task Force members were concerned that student driver restrictions would become the focus of the report. The recommendation to restrict students from driving to high school campuses will remain in the report, as it is a good example of what it would take to reduce trips. It will be placed further down in the list of final recommendations.
- A short discussion of "missing recommendations" ensued. The following recommendations will be added to the Executive Summary section of the report:
  - Implementation of High Speed E-ZPass.
  - Support and expand commuter tax fringe benefits program.
  - Transportation Enhancement District (TED) legislation.
  - Incident Management – increased Emergency Service Patrols.
  - Expanded Park-and-Ride Program.
  - Expanded hours for freight operation.
  - Support for statewide Comprehensive Freight Plan.
  - Expanded use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).
  - Support Smart Growth Policy.
  - Use advanced signal control, ramp metering and Intelligent Transportation Systems to manage traffic flow.
  - List of topics the CBTF did not explore, but may hold promise in reducing congestion.
- The CBTF secretary will make the changes to the report agreed to at the meeting. She will then circulate the Executive Summary section to all Task Force members for comment and review.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS**

- The Congestion Buster Task Force posed for a group photo.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.