

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT MORRIS COUNTY MASTER PLAN
CIRCULATION ELEMENT
MORRIS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**

30 Schuyler Place
June 21, 2018

Morristown
New Jersey

Chairman Rattner called the Public Hearing on the Draft Circulation Plan to order at 6:00 p.m.
Chairman Rattner invited members and the public to join in for the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Those present were:

Steve Rattner, Chairman	Christine Marion, Planning Director
Isobel Olcott, Vice Chair	Anthony Soriano, Supervising Planner
Ted Eppel, Secretary	Greg Perry, Supervising Planner
Roslyn Khurdan, Engineering Alt.	Joe Barilla, Principal Planner
Nita Galate	Barbara Murray, Program Coordinator
Christian Francioli, Alt. 1	W. Randall Bush, Attorney
Gerald Rohsler, Transportation Director	Rene Axelrod, Recording Secretary
John Hayes, Principal Planner, Transportation	

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Chairman Rattner stated that the Secretary of the Board provided public legal notice of this meeting in the Daily Record dated May 18, 2018.

Chairman Rattner read a statement regarding the Draft Circulation Plan Element. He said that the new Circulation Element of the Morris County Master Plan includes an updated inventory of county transportation infrastructure, and describes major transportation activities and changes that have occurred since the last County Circulation Element was adopted in 1992. The draft plan identifies county-wide transportation issues and trends, and current county transportation goals and objectives and that the over-arching goals of the plan are to: improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of Morris County’s transportation network, conduct a coordinated, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process and support economic development through transportation investment.

He stated that the Plan outlines 37 strategies that support the goals and objectives, County transportation policies and activities and that it also describes County Street Design Guidelines that may serve as a basis for discussion between the County and municipalities regarding design elements that may be incorporated into County road projects, depending each community’s needs.

He stated that the Plan is not intended replace local transportation plans or local transportation planning initiatives and does not address site-specific local improvements and that its focus is on county-wide issues and County of Morris transportation policies. In addition to guiding future county transportation planning and investment, the plan provides information that may be useful to local municipalities in mapping their own transportation goals, policies and strategies and that it also provides a basis by which both the County and/or its municipalities may coordinate transportation activities and determine areas or issues in need of further study.

He reported that the purpose of this public hearing is to obtain comments from the public on the plan and that the Planning Board will not respond to comments this evening, except for certain specific questions

related to information in the plan or how the plan was created. He stated that after the hearing, the Board will compile all comments received and develop responses to be published on the County's website.

He noted that the project has been several years in the making and thanked the Long Range Committee and the Transportation, Engineering and Planning staff who worked on this project for their hard work revising, rewriting and reformatting this final draft Plan. He then invited members of the public to submit comments.

Mayor Ronald Francioli - Hanover Twp.

Mayor Francioli identified affordable housing obligations required by COAH as an issue impacting traffic in Hanover and the surrounding area. He stated that a significant number of units are being required and that he would like to see an assessment of the impact of these units on infrastructure. He also stated that there was a need for greater bus and rail mass transit. He acknowledged that affordable housing requirements are not in the purview of the County, but would like consideration of circulation and transportation issues to acknowledge the growth of the County and impact of COAH obligations on that growth and what it might do to the road systems.

Ms. Olcott asked whether municipalities have ever come together to discuss local transit issues with NJ Transit. He stated that the Association of Mayors has taken up the issue, but that it has not been taken up by multiple municipalities locally. He reported that several corporations are attempting to resolve these issues independently, but that his concerns are focused on the impacts of high density housing.

Committeewoman Catherine Wilson, Morris Township.

Ms. Wilson stated that she had not read the draft Circulation Plan Element and asked for background on its creation. Mr. Rattner explained that the last Circulation Element was adopted in 1992 and that the current draft Element is the result of several years' work and involvement of Transportation, Engineering and Planning staff. He noted that the draft Element presents policies and planning issues related to Circulation and repeated the three goals of the draft Element, noting that 37 strategies are included to promote the strategies. He stated that specific infrastructure improvements are not included in the Element, but that the Element is designed to work cooperatively with the municipalities on projects as they are identified by municipalities. Ms. Wilson asked whether the Board is the proper forum to discuss transportation needs that involve multiple municipalities and she mentioned issues related to Route 24. Mr. Rattner stated that the Board does consider these issues. Ms. Olcott noted that the County's jurisdiction is limited to County roads and drainage, but that municipalities need to work with each other on land use issues. Mr. Rattner stated that the Circulation Element is designed to help municipalities consider circulation issues of regional significance and indicated that issues concerning Route 24 are discussed in the draft Element.

Ms. Wilson stated that she is also concerned about the potential transportation impacts of recent affordable housing obligations. Mr. Rattner noted that in the western portion of the County, the Highlands Act prevents the increase of transportation capacity.

With no other members of the public present, at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Rattner moved to adjourn the public hearing, which was moved by Mr. Eppel and seconded by Mr. Olcott all approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Marion, P.P./AICP
Planning Director

Original was signed and is on file at the office of the Morris County Planning Board.