

**Target Zero Commission Public Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Roll Call

Name	Title	Agency
Francis O'Connor	Commissioner/Chair	NJ Department of Transportation
Domingo De Los Santos	Lieutenant Colonel	NJ State Police
Nashon Hornsby	Assistant Commissioner	NJ Dept of Health
Ian Rayfield	Regulatory Program Specialist, Div. Codes & Standards	NJ Dept of Community Affairs
Kim DiGiovanni	Assistant Administrator	Motor Vehicle Commission
Adam Neary	Director, Appointments, Boards and Commissions	NJ Dept. of Human Services
Michael J. Rizol, Jr.	Director	NJ Div. of Traffic Hwy. Safety
Justin Davis	Deputy Chief of Staff	NJ Transit
Kevin Murphy	Senior Manger, Office of Safe Streets	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
James Carone	Executive Director	NJ Turnpike Authority
Jennifer Marandino	Executive Director	South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization
Kandyce Perry	Director, Office of Environmental Justice	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
David W. Behrend	Executive Director	North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

1. OPENING REMARKS

Francis O'Connor - NJDOT Commissioner/Chair of the New Jersey Target Zero Commission ("Commission") called the meeting to order and offered opening remarks.

Chair O'Connor noted that this was the first public meeting of three, and that there would be separate in-person or virtual committee meetings to follow.

He stated that the Commission would develop the action plan by the end of December 2025 and present it to the Legislature and Governor soon thereafter.

Chair O'Connor concluded by stating that the main goal of the Commission is to reduce fatalities and crashes in the State of New Jersey.

2. PRESENTATION

Jeevanjot Singh - Manager, Bureau of Safety, Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs NJDOT – gave a presentation on the Safe System Approach.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Roz Moskovitz– West Orange, NJ (individual)

Roz Moskovitz testified that on October 15, 1997, her father was killed while crossing Pleasant Valley Way in West Orange. For many years, she believed this was an accident, but around 2012-2013, she went into New York City and saw to their efforts for Vision Zero. It was at this time that she realized that there is a way to solve this problem of fatalities and severe crashes and when she reflected on her father's death, she realized that it had a lot to do with speed and lighting.

With respect to Pleasant Valley Way, she noted the following:

- It is a four lane highway, with many people living on this roadway
- Speeding exists
- There is poor lighting
- There is no enforcement

Her hope is that more communication with the county will help reduce and get fatalities to zero.

John Boyle -Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

John Boyle testified to the following issues with respect to Route 130 in Delran and its effect on bicyclist and pedestrians:

- There are no crosswalks, and every time the road gets paved (yearly) the crosswalks are not marked.
- With respect to the intersection of Van Sciver Parkway in Willingboro, NJ- in 2021, new signals were installed but are inactive and man hand signals and a pedestrian refuge island are unusable because the Jersey Barrier is still where the crosswalk should be.
- Route 130 is one of the most dangerous arterial roads in New Jersey and much of Route 130 does not have sidewalks.

John Boyle offered the following suggestions:

- Burlington County road policy should be that the County install sidewalks/side paths whenever a road is reconstructed.
- NJDOT should provide stronger authority to make sure sidewalks and side paths are being built as roads are rehabilitated.
- The trail network should integrate with the arterial roads.

Corey Hannigan – Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Corey Hannigan testified as follows with respect to bicycle and pedestrian projects:

- Identify multi-jurisdictional corridors to be prioritized.
- The action plan should prioritize creating a stronger pipeline for developing shovel-ready bike paths, complete streets, and trail projects.
- Increase planning and design grants.
- More proactive local aid application process with agency staff supporting the grant applications and the management of them.
- Implement getting safety infrastructure on the ground.
- Statewide interconnected shared use pathway and trail network.

- Prioritize and fund infrastructure for first and last mile bike and walking connections to transit.
- Update the residential site improvement standards to reduce parking minimums and expand bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Transit friendly land use planning and zoning.

Sangeeta Badlani- Families for Safe Street New Jersey and Nikhil Badlani Foundation

Sangeeta Badlani requested that the Commission:

- Implement immediate data driven action.
- Utilize a data driven equity focused approach, use crash data, speed studies and injury to identify high risk corridors.
- Prioritize investments in underserved communities.
- Push for policy changes to reduce the speed limits in high-risk areas.
- Call for better enforcement of stop for pedestrian laws and reckless driving.
- Educate the public (Vision Zero).
- Implement raised crosswalks and sidewalks.

Debra Kagan – New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition

Debra Kagan testified that the Commission should:

- Address enforcement because speeding is still a major cause on our roads.
- Get bike/pedestrian infrastructure implemented.
- Address the grant process for local municipalities.
- Include trail network development in all safety implementation plans.
- Develop a process to integrate these plans.

Stephen Dunn – Union County Connects

Stephen Dunn testified regrading:

- Unused railroad from Cranbury to Elizabeth that could be converted into a trail
- The expansion of light rail
- The need for a pedestrian and bike bridge in Rahway Valley
- Pedestrian and bike bridges are a great idea to protect pedestrians on Route 22
- The importance of first responders

Sofia Barandiaran – East Coast Greenway Alliance

Sofia Barandiaran testified that:

- The Commission can identify strategies to support the development of a Garden State trails network with stateside spines such as the East Coast Greenway and spurs that connect to local/active transportation bike land and sidewalk networks.
- The Commission can identify ways to bake into bicycle and pedestrian improvements proven safety counter measures.
- Bridge rehabilitation and improvement projects which, when feasible, should include bike path and pedestrian side paths.
- The Commission should establish processes for continuing interagency collaboration even beyond the scope of this Commission and include advocates and members of the public.
- Consider Garden State Trails Network as part of the goal.

- Use the capacity as an interagency commission to recommend procedure and structural changes to the way state government decisions are made so that we can bring those deaths and injuries to zero.

Sunil Badlani – Badlani Foundation

Sunil Badlani testified:

- The Badlani Foundation was created to advocate for traffic safety in the aftermath of his son being killed when a distracted driver did not stop at the stop sign.
- The Commission should prioritize automotive speed enforcement starting with school zones. Automotive speed enforcement helps protect students, crossing guards, pedestrians, and eliminate subjective policing. Speed cameras also enforce laws fairly, are data driven and cost effective and reduce police reports.

Sunil Badlani proposed:

- Pilot automotive speed camera enforcement programs in high-risk school zones.
- Speed design changes, such as raised sidewalks and curb extension to further slow speeds.
- Strong enforcement.

Norm Sutaria – Bloomfield, NJ (individual)

Norm Sutaria offered three suggestions for the Commission:

1. Educate, Engage and Empower
2. Robust and Equitable Data Access
3. Practice Engineering Excellence and County Level Consistency

4. CONCLUSION

Francis O'Connor, Commissioner/Chair concluded the public comment portion of the meeting by highlighting the importance of driver education, recognizing the impact of sidewalks and trail networks in improving pedestrian safety, and the role that technology plays.

The Chair concluded his remarks by stating that he strongly believes in the Target Zero Commission and that a plan will be in place by the end of December 2025.

The Chair then invited other members of the Commission to speak.

Nashon Hornsby, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) commented that the NJDOH is always concerned about anything that affects the longevity of life in public health. The NJDOH wants to ensure that every New Jersey resident has the full potential to their healthiest life and the longest life; and any type of fatality on our roadways is going to impact that. The NJDOH is grateful to be partners on the Commission to discuss what strategies can be put into place to bring to zero the number of deaths. He noted that on an annual basis the NJDOH tracks the number of fatalities due to injury or accident and so it like NJDOT looks at them on a regular basis; to observe the trends over time and hopefully the action plan can flatten that.

Francis O'Connor, Commissioner/Chair, concluded the meeting by stating that Governor Murphy has always said his vision is to provide safe travel for all our residents whether you be in a car, walk, or bike and that is also the goal of the Commission.