

**Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County
Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was convened in person.

Name/Organization

Voting Members in Attendance

Tony Tufaro, Johnson & Johnson
Filipe Pedroso, Bridgewater Township
Michael Pappas, Bridgewater Township
Nicolas Carra, Raritan Borough
Joseph Brosnan, Raritan Borough
Brian Gallagher, Somerville Borough
Rich Reitman, Somerville Borough
Lisa Werner, Somerville Borough
Rick St. Pierre, Somerville Borough
Samantha De Andrea, Somerset County Planning Division
Chris Edwards, Somerset County Business Partnership

Non-voting County Support Staff

Victoria Schulz, Somerset County Planning Division

Non-voting Guests

Kevin Bancroft, Project Manager, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
Poula Ishak, Senior Transportation Engineer and Assistant Project Manager, NJDOT
Patience Sengbey, Regional Coordinator, Central Jersey, NJDOT
Elieen Sosa, Assistant Regional Coordinator, Central Jersey, NJDOT

The meeting commenced at 5:04 PM.

Business Items

Call to Order

County Support Staff Victoria Schulz called the meeting to order.

Attendance Roll Call

Ms. Schulz performed the roll call and noted for the record that there were 12 voting members present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Schulz led the partnership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Remarks

As Chair Troy Fischer was not in attendance, Ms. Schulz welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Board to introduce themselves to the representatives from NJDOT.

Action Items

Adoption of May Meeting Minutes

Ms. Schulz presented the May 21, 2025, meeting minutes and asked if there were any corrections, comments, or questions. There being none, Ms. Schulz asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Somerville Mayor Brian Gallagher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Somerville Planning Board Chair Lisa Werner seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 10

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 2

The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Treasurer's Report for May/June 2025

Ms. Schulz presented the May/June 2025 Treasurer's Report and asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Schulz asked for a motion to approve the July/August 2025 Treasurer's Report. Somerville Planning Board Chair Lisa Werner moved the motion and Raritan Planner Joseph Brosnan seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report for July/August 2025

Ms. Schulz presented the July/August 2025 Treasurer's Report and asked if there were any questions or comments concerning the Treasurer's Report. Somerville Business owner Rick St. Pierre remarked that the Regional Center Partnership should look to use the money that is growing for challenge grants. Ms. Schulz asked for a motion to approve the July/August 2025 Treasurer's Report. Somerville Mayor Brian

Gallagher made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Somerville Planning Board Chair Lisa Werner seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was approved.

Information Items

NJDOT Presentation

NJDOT Project Manager Kevin Bancroft presented a slideshow to the Board containing an overview of capital projects across the Regional Center with focuses on pavement preservation, guardrail replacements, pedestrian safety improvements, and bridge replacements.

Mr. Bancroft opened up his presentation to questions from the Board.

Mayor Gallagher asked if the investments NJDOT has made within the Regional Center could be quantified. Mr. Bancroft responded that he does not have the amount off hand, but that he could find the information for Mayor Gallagher. Mayor Gallagher added that Somerville has looked to have discussions about NJ Route 28 and the bypass with NJDOT but has found it difficult to do so. He asked how best to engage with NJDOT for further discussions.

Mr. St. Pierre pointed to some design work that was presented regarding Main Street in Somerville and the installation of a traffic light that has previously had proposed design work from local businesses. He asked if the NJDOT considers designs that have been presented by local organizations or businesses. Mr. Bancroft responded NJDOT does occasionally utilize other designs and work with local communities. Mr. St. Pierre asked who he should engage with to be aware of the ability to participate. NJDOT Central Jersey Regional Coordinator Patience Sengbey responded that she and Eileen Sosa would be the points of contact. Mr. Bancroft noted creating a relationship with the Regional Center Partnership will hopefully allow for better communication and the ability to incorporate local design suggestions into projects.

Mayor Gallagher discussed the safety issues of Somerville's walking school district and Vanderveer School in Somerville, off NJ Route 28. He remarked that he would send an email to the NJDOT representative summarizing his questions.

Mr. Brosnan asked about Hillsborough 206 and how traffic on First Avenue in Raritan is being affected. Ms. Sengbey answered that NJDOT is in constant communication with Hillsborough's Mayor about the project and that there is also a website to see more updates.

Mayor Nicolas Carra asked about traffic light sequencing at First Avenue. Mr. Bancroft answered that he can find out for Mayor Carra.

Rain Garden Maintenance Training Update and Municipal and Other Reports

The information items of Rain Garden Maintenance Training Update and Municipal and Other Reports were tabled for the next Regional Center Partnership meeting.

Public Comment Period

No comments

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.