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1	HUDSON COUNTY
_	PLANNING BOARD
2	RE:
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3	REGULAR MEETING : TRANSCRIPT OF
	OF THE :
4	HUDSON COUNTY PLANNING: PROCEEDINGS
	BOARD :
5	:
6	OPEN SESSION
7	Bergen Square Center
0	Floor 9A
8	830 Bergen Avenue
0	Jersey City, New Jersey
9	Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:30 p.m.
10	0.30 p.m.
11	BEFORE:
12	SAMANTHA LUGO, Chairman
	RENEE BETTINGER, Commissioner
13	FLOYD JETER, Commissioner
	JOSEPH GLEMBOCKI, PE, Commissioner
14	JOEL TORRES, Freeholder
	RUSHABH MEHTA, Commissioner
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17	ALSO PRESENT:
18	JOHN J. CURLEY, ESQ., Board Counsel
19	STEPHANIE LEE, Assistant Planner
20	FRANCESCA GIARRANTANA, PP, AICP, Secretary
21	MARIO TRIDENTE, Inspector
22	KEVIN FORCE, PP, AICP, Principal Planner
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1	introduction. It will be adopted at the next			
2	meeting.			
3	MS. GIARRATANA: We did adopt it in			
4	April. So we'll carry that until we have the			
5	two-thirds majority.			
6	CHAIRWOMAN LUGO: Do we need a motion			
7	to carry?			
8	MR. CURLEY: Sure, yeah, that would			
9	be fine.			
10	MS. GIARRATANA: On a motion made by			
11	Commissioner Torres, and seconded by Commissioner			
12	Bettinger.			
13	Commissioner Bettinger.			
14	COMMISSIONER BETTINGER: Aye.			
15	MS. GIARRATANA: Commissioner Jeter.			
16	COMMISSIONER JETER: Yes.			
17	MS. GIARRATANA: Commissioner			
18	Glembocki.			
19	COMMISSIONER GLEMBOCKI: Yes.			
20	MS. GIARRATANA: Commissioner Torres.			
21	FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes.			
22	MS. GIARRATANA: And Commissioner			
23	Lugo.			
24	CHAIRWOMAN LUGO: Aye.			
25	MS. GIARRATANA: The motion to has			

Commissioner Bettinger.

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1	COMMISSIONER BETTINGER: Aye.
2	MS. GIARRATANA: Commissioner Torres.
3	FREEHOLDER TORRES: Yes.
4	MS. GIARRATANA: And Commissioner
5	Lugo.
6	CHAIRWOMAN LUGO: Aye.
7	MS. GIARRATANA: The motion has
8	passed. The memorialization resolutions can only be
9	voted on by Commissioners who were present for the
10	public hearing for that application.
11	The next item on the agenda are
12	applications to be exempt. There a quite a few.
13	I'll be running through all of them. The first is
14	2019-21-SP; the applicant is T-Mobile Northeast,
15	LLC; at 8114 5th Avenue; Block 378, Lot 15; in North
16	Bergen. It's a telecommunications application not
17	on a County road.
18	The next application is 2019-39-SP; the
19	Applicant, 351 Marin Boulevard; at 351 Luis Munoz
20	Marin Boulevard; Block 11508, Lot 3.01; Jersey
21	City. It's a site plan application not on a County
22	road.
23	The next application is 2019-40-SP;
24	T-Mobile Northeast, LLC; at 434-436 Avenue C; Block
25	225, Lot 48; in Bayonne, which is a

- telecommunications application, not on a County road.
- The next is 2019-41-SD; the applicant is

 Jersey City Redevelopment Agency; 52 Aetna Street;

 Block 15801, Lots 3.01, 66, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78,

 79, 80; in Jersey City. It's a subdivision

 application not on a County road.

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Application 2019-42-SD; M-C Plaza II and III, LLC, C/o Mack-Cali Realty; at 200-210 Hudson Street, 1 Harborside Place, 3 Second Street; Block 11603, Lots 18, 19, 22; in Jersey City. It's a subdivision application not on a County road.

Application 2019-43-SP; Stonefield Engineering & Design; at 197 Avenue E Bayonne; Block 221, Lots 10, 11, 12; in Bayonne. It's a site plan application not a County road.

Application 2019-44-SP Overlook, LLC; 32
Oakland Avenue; Block 8203, Lot 1.01 in Jersey City.
A site plan application not on a County road.

Application 2019-47-SP; The Trustees of the Stevens Institute, at One Castle Point Terrace Hoboken; Block 235, Lot 1; in Hoboken. A site plan application not on County road.

Application 2019-50-SD; 177 Franklin
Street Associates, LLC; at 222-228 Tappan Street;

Force, Principal Planner in our office, has just distributed information on our JFK Boulevard Safety Corridor Study, which has been a yearlong effort for the Division of Planning, in coordination with the office of the engineer, and he's going to come up and say a few words about it, and put a memo together of things that would be most relevant to the Planning Board.

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MR. FORCE: Good evening,

Commissioners. And I would like to present to you a
little bit of a review of the John F. Kennedy

Boulevard Safe Corridor Study which Francesca and I
have been managing for the past year. JFK Boulevard
is one of our main County roads, and the study is
regarding traffic safety, and traffic is one of the,
you know, issues that is ours to review, and I
wanted to present the study and make you aware of
the work that was done and what we intend to do.

So over the past year, we have been working on the study in response to traffic accidents on JFK Boulevard. We wanted to take a comprehensive look at some of the issues that are affecting the old plan and develop recommendations for improvements. So through a subregional studies grant from the North Jersey Transportation and

Planning Authority, we hire a consultant team to conduct the study with us, and through the process of data collection and analysis and observation and input from the stakeholders and the general public, we have identified traffic safety issues on JFK Boulevard and found short and long-term recommendations for the changes involved.

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So as far as the study process, we've collected over ten years of traffic accident data and three years of police reports and analyzed them to determine high accident locations along the Boulevard and what are the causes of some of those accidents. And for the purpose of this study, because JFK Boulevard is a large road, we wanted to give a little bit more focus as to select areas which had the highest volume of accidents, both for motor vehicle and pedestrians, and we selected four areas of focus for the detailed study. Those are outlined here in the memo. They are 25th Street through 32nd Street in Bayonne, Gates Avenue to Danforth Avenue in Union City, Hauge Street to 10th Street, which passes through Jersey City, Union City and North Bergen; and 37th to 43rd Street which is shared between Union City and North Bergen.

We went with the project team as well as

municipal officials, law enforcement and other stakeholders and community members that can conduct walks of these areas that we focused on and do in-person observations, and that helped us in addition with the crash data that we collected to inform some of our findings and determine what the issues were for the corridors, and we also did an extensive public outreach campaign, where we went to different events throughout the County and spoke to members of the public about their ideas and opinions of John F. Kennedy Boulevard, and we also did an online survey that generated over 775 responses.

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So the general findings that we found out existed throughout the corridor, included illegal parking, intersections with obstructed pedestrian visibility, pedestrians crossing at unmarked locations, an excessive number of sideswipes and crashes with parked vehicles, left turning crashes and speeding and distracted driving. So we used all of this, you know, data and our findings to create some recommendations which could improve the safety. We incorporated the data from the report to create a report which outlines all of our findings and recommendations.

So for each of the four areas of focus, we

interventions and part of our recommendations, and I've distributed copies of each of our four concept designs to you. I do apologize for the small size in the handout. It is difficult to read, however we are going to be sharing a link to do the report online, and you'll be able to zoom in and out with it. But just to give you an idea of the design interventions which were suggested, and this can also be -- we tried to select areas for focus that we thought were comparable to other similar areas of the Boulevard, and we're hoping that the same ideas can be implemented elsewhere depending on further studies and coordination with the municipalities.

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So some of the design interventions you'll see are high visibilty crosswalks, curb extensions, lead pedestrian intervals, central medians and dedicated turning lanes.

CHAIRWOMAN LUGO: Can I let the record show that Commissioner Mehta has come in? Thank you.

MR. FORCE: In addition to the specific recommendations for these focus areas, we've also outlined some overall recommendations, which cover the entire corridor, and they fall into

three general categories, education, engineering and enforcement. So part of the study, we realized the connection to lands use and development and traffic. As you know, more new developments are created, and that does generate new roadway users, motor vehicles, but also pedestrians, cyclists and transit users, and depending on the conditions of the roadway available to them, that determines how the roadway users are split, and that affect the routes taken.

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So in order to take a look at the JFK

Boulevard comprehensively, I did some research on
the municipalities and different Planning Board
projects which we have heard located along the
Boulevard and compared with the existing zoning of
the municipalities. I also looked at redevelopment
areas, and looked at some of the trends that we see
in development and trying to reflect on how that may
affect traffic now and in the future and how it
relates to future safety along the Boulevard. So
it's going to be provided with the report and
appendix, and I provided a copy to have a look.

And what about the time line of the

project? We're nearing completion at this point.
I'm doing the final edits to the project, and I'm

hoping to submit the complete version to the NJTPA at the end of this week, and upon approval of the final report in July of 2019, it's going to be available on the web site, and we'll also share a link with you as well and, we're hoping to also use the report to seek funding for future implementation of things for projects along the Boulevard. So we wanted to make you guys aware of some of the work that we've done.

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We do intend to once we have a final version, we would like to present to it Board and also ultimately adopted it as part of the circulation element of the County's master plan.

And if you have any further questions or you would like any information about the report, feel free to contact me at any time.

COMMISSIONER BETTINGER: Madam

Chairwoman, I have a question. I'm just curious how did you conduct a survey? How did the public know to respond to it?

MR. FORCE: So we went to work at events in person that we already had. We set up tables where there was going to be a lot of foot traffic, and we went to Movies in the Parks. We went to other events, and people would come up to

us, and we already had the survey available at that 1 time so we would just run through it with iPads. had a handout that included links to the survey 3 online. We also published it on social media and on 4 the County's web site. So we tried to use different 6 approached to make sure that as many people were 7 aware of it as possible. We also had officials from the municipalities engaged in it through the entire 8 process, so we were able to share it with them as 10 well. It was sent out to community groups, and we 11 posted it on their web sites as well.

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COMMISSIONER BETTINGER: You only had

MR. FORCE: Well, we tried. be, you know, difficult to sometimes get people engaged. Comparatively from some studies, this one was something that people were definitely interested in, and at times, you know, it's hard to reach people. But as soon as we started talking to anybody about JFK Boulevard, they were so interested. They have so many things that they wanted to say about it, so at least to get it out there and get them interested. We explained to them, of course, the final report, we'll make it publicly available, so they can look at it.

going to be an ongoing process to do further work on the Boulevard.

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able do the survey I would have said driving along the Boulevard, the lights are awful, like the timing. That would have been a comment I would have definitely made. You are driving in the Greenwood section. It's one, and you stop one block, and then you go to the next one. So it needs the timing. It's definitely off.

COMMISSIONER GLEMBOCKI: That's a part of that study, right? That was something that the engineering department had looked at so we can make changes.

MS. GIARRATANA: I don't want to speak too much out of turn on that, but I think the overall perspective on that is that that's on purpose the timing of the lights to slow traffic done, and it's only done in certain areas per the request of officials representing the area. This is just one topic that Tom does not supervise selections of the patterns. I can defer to him more for an explanation on that.

MR. FORCE: If you look at the full report, there is a section in there about traffic

signalization, and it's a little more detailed, but one of the recommendations is to at some point in the future carry out a comprehensive traffic signal timing study try to optimize it.

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COMMISSIONER BETTINGER: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: You looked at Union City and the North Bergen area, those, after I think ten o'clock at night and twelve o'clock at night, that timing, you cannot go more than two blocks, and then you allow for traffic at night. I understand, and I know even that you can take the Journal Square area, and the Journal Square area, how you can driving through the who City in 2020 or 2030, whatever. It is okay.

My point is that the area coming up, all projects coming up in Hoboken and Jersey City, and they're trying to do more and more bicycle lanes, and bike share area where pedestrians go. Whether that affects if you modify, you know, the traffic pattern and the traffic light pattern, you can allow for timing for the pedestrian to walk across the street, so are you considering that factor?

MR. FORCE: Yes. I mean part of the study is to increase safety for all users of the roadway, not just motor vehicles, also pedestrians

and cyclists, so we looked at some specific issues to pedestrians, and in some cases, we are recommending signal timing for pedestrians, either lead pedestrian intervals which allow pedestrians a little bit more time to get into the intersection before the signal will change for left-turning traffic or dedicated pedestrian walk phases, which allows just for pedestrians to walk without any traffic. So it is something that we had looked at, and you know, it's part of the efforts. It will be part of the conversation.

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MS. GIARRATANA: The lead pedestrian intervals and actual phase will be on the Boulevard. So it will be red light at all intersections for cars, but that pedestrian light would turn on, and you'll get ten extra seconds or eight extra seconds for pedestrians to start going so that if any cars are turning, and if you've ever been a pedestrian, to walk at that time, it does make you feel a lot safer, and it's something that the engineer is looking at a other parts of the corridor as well.

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: I have another question. I have tried to work with the local police department in North Bergen and on 51st Street and Kennedy Boulevard. Becomes like a between West

New York and North Bergen, you know, coming west, it 1 would be one-way traffic. That's why it's clearly a 2. 3 problem, and I understand the police department is trying to modify the traffic or something like they 4 5 did on 43rd to give you an extra ten seconds for eastbound traffic, but then they're trying 6 7 modifications improvements from the State Department, and I don't know what that is. 8 9 MR. FORCE: That's on Kennedy? 10 COMMISSIONER MEHTA: Yes, Kennedy 11 Boulevard. 12 MR. FORCE: I can check with the --13 COMMISSIONER MEHTA: He was saying 14 that he spoke to the County, and he's tried to 15 contact the DOT. 16 MR. FORCE: Okay. We'll bring it up to the engineering staff. 17

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: If you remember or if you know the traffic pattern on 43rd Street 43rd Street and Kennedy Boulevard across the town hall, that one, and they are looking at a one-way like Kennedy Boulevard stops and then Union City traffic comes west toward, and the sidewalk does like a thing. So here, if you can look into it and if you can have eastbound traffic to make a left

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turn because you have a light and other projects are going on, and you can turn onto 495 and going to the Lincoln Tunnel, and you have to go on Paterson Plank to make a U-turn so, and they have that and it's clear for more traffic. So just those are my comments.

MR. FORCE: Thank you for sharing that. I will mention that you had mentioned the 43rd Street intersection.

impact. A similar type of pattern can be done on 51st Street. It's something like a little extra like ten seconds or fifteen seconds extra for traffic going towards eastbound so they can make a left turn and make the flow on 51st Street that you can make a left lane, and on 51st Street, that's coming across from the Quick Chek, so they have a little traffic area, so. Just look into it.

MR. FORCE: Take a look at some of the comments. I'll share the link for the report. We did take a look at some further interventions on the 43rd Street intersection so perhaps with 51st Street going through that intersection.

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: Thank you.

MS. GIARRATANA: I'll just add we'll

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definitely take a look, and the panic phase going down the corridor gives you some context of what we're looking at when we're looking at applications on JFK and the different designs for North Bergen and the kind of construct they need to work in within applications so.

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COMMISSIONER TORRES: Through the chair, I have a question. So do we have within that study any jurisdiction that was discussed with the develop of the corridor? "Jurisdiction" might not be the right word. Any recommendations that we can put on the land use on Kennedy Boulevard related to developments for parking? That's one of the leading issues when it comes before us. I mean I feel this when they come from Jersey City. I guess they're different from rest of the City because they have parking compared to the other towns with no parking. Is there something that we can enforce from our level as far as what we are charged to look at, which includes parking as well the safety parameters?

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: I think we take the amount of motor vehicles is done by the City.

The County, we are looking at traffic safety and water and drainage. I've been looking for that for

1 a long time.

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MS. GIARRATANA: We definitely revised the language of how we review traffic from the LDR a year ago, and we spoke directly with parking and we'll take a look at how excessive parking would cause traffic, and you know, a deficient amount of parking, and how that could potentially cause traffic safety issues. So we we're looking at the LDR now, and you know, our people in engineering will look at that when it comes to traffic circulation and safety for applications, but our hands are tied.

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: The County is very next to each other and across from Union City, and they have proposed a new project with many units in Union City, and West New York and at the same time it affects the people living in North Bergen.

MS. GIARRATANA: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MEHTA: And they're affected by West New York and you know and rest of the County.

MS. GIARRATANA: Yes, of course. The Board does an excellent job on traffic reducing.

Some applications that we've seen required applications to put in some measures that will

enhanced traffic safety on the Boulevard. The report and the studies that we've done tends to further some of those efforts and through our engineering and design means go further with some safety improvements and understanding the context of the development. That is in it.

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COMMISSIONER MEHTA: And when it comes to what they are planning, if you're that familiar with the County department and familiar with the zoning department and the planning departments, as I have been for the last 20 years, I think that we have been on the same page most of the time.

MR. TRIDENTE: Madam Chair. I have a question for counsel. Because we have jurisdiction over traffic concerns on County roads, could the fact that one of the application does not have adequate parking which could increase traffic on Kennedy Boulevard because people are looking for parking spaces, would that be a basis of denial.

MR. CURLEY: I think the LDR has a code that refers to a Municipal recommendations. So can't get there.

MR. TRIDENTE: That would not be a basis for denial if it does not have adequate

parking which would increase traffic?

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MR. CURLEY: A Municipal board obviously made a finding of parking. We're not making a finding, although it's tantamount to a finding, and I believe that the LDR defers powers to the municipalities, if you're compliant with the municipalities generally speaking. You're talking I presume in extreme cases?

MR. TRIDENTE: It's more than that. It's an application that's brought before the Board where they should have 25 parking space, and they only supplied ten, and now you have an extra 15 cars driving around at the end of the day looking for parking spaces which would increase the volume of traffic on Kennedy Boulevard. Would that be a basis that a Board Member could consider and say, I'm sorry I can't approve this application because it increases traffic on Kennedy Boulevard. Would that be a basis?

MR. CURLEY: I doubt there is any case laws where the County supersedes a municipal vote on traffic.

MR. TRIDENTE: Are there cases where a County superseded a municipal vote based on traffic?

1 MR. CURLEY: I'm not aware of any.

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COMMISSIONER MEHTA: Most of the time there is an issue with like where we have approval, if you guys with communicating with the municipalities, you can't say that, but we can say that you have a minimum X number of parking. If you have another 20 apartments, you have at least 15 for cars for the building, and so they come to the County, and everybody agreed before making the it to the County.

MS. GIARRATANA: Right. We speak during the Site Plan Review Committee when they present their backgrounds to the Board, okay?

COMMISSIONER TORRES: Just real quick. If the Site Plan Committee sends a notice to the planning boards saying, Hey, we have as the LDR, it's a standard, these are the regulations for any property on Kennedy Boulevard, make sure you review all of those standards before putting it out for a vote, make sure that it's being reviewed in your site plan, and then it's reviewed by the municipality. They either approve it or deny it based on the LDR recommendations so that we understand what the process is, and that developers don't come up here and say, Why are you approving so

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CERTIFICATION

I, SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR, License No. 30XI00234700, and Notary Public of the State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the proceedings herein are from the notes taken by me of a Regular Meeting of the Hudson County Planning Board, held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019; and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Eraci Carner

SHARI CATHEY, CCR, RPR
A NOTARY PUBLIC of the
State of New Jersey
I.D. No. 2283786
Commission Expires 2/4/22

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