

From: [Joseph](#)
To: [comments, EMP](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Draft energy plan comments
Date: Friday, July 26, 2019 9:37:04 AM

Good morning!

I would like to leave comments about the Draft 2019 Energy Master Plan. On the whole, I agree with many points in the document, such as making the transportation sector more environmentally-friendly by reducing the number of vehicle miles driven and working to develop our off-shore wind capacity. I think that we need to aggressively scale back our energy usage by taking advantage of the density of our state to find areas ripe for efficiency. Please find a few specific comments below:

RE: Goal 1.2 "Decrease Vehicle Miles Traveled"

I love that you're looking at reducing VMT, that is a crucial part of any 21st century energy plan. I think a good way to start reducing VMT would be by creating bicycle infrastructure, such as protected bike lanes and other facilities separated from automobile traffic, connecting residential areas to shopping areas, education institutions, employment centers, transportation, and other places that people today use a car to get to. Right now most Americans use their car every single time they leave their house, which is bad for their health and bad for the environment. People need good options, and in a lot of places, there simply aren't bike paths or even sidewalks to get people where they need to go. "Complete Streets", the policy whereby the DOT needs to consider not just drivers but every road user, be they on foot or on bike, needs to be taken even more seriously as road projects are performed throughout the state.

I would also like to see the rise in VMT stopped by disallowing the kind of sprawling developments that were built in the 20th century. There are plenty of opportunities for infill development rather than new sprawl. Putting amenities closer to where people live, for example, and not in large plazas off of highways, would do wonders for reducing VMT and decreasing pollution.

Re: Goal 1.2.3 "Relieve congestion and idling throughout New Jersey"

Congestion may be inconvenient, but it acts as a pain point that acts against the urge of people to drive everywhere. If you were to remove congestion and make driving easier, people would drive more. This is sort of an induction of demand, whereby the ease of a behavior engenders more of that behavior. Given that you rightly want to get people out of their cars and to reduce total vehicle miles driven, congestion is necessary to act as a stick to punish people from driving too much.

Finally, I would like to address the fact that, at the same time as the governor is considering this energy master plan to reduce energy emissions, there are around a dozen new fossil fuel projects under consideration for the state. This is frankly absurd, especially for such a small state as ours. There is no world in which this energy plan means anything if we continue to build fossil fuel burning, carbon-emitting facilities. The state needs to put a moratorium on ALL new fossil fuel projects and figure out how to replace the ones that exist with green energy solutions. Without that, this entire plan amounts to greenwashing.

Thanks for your time and for your consideration!

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