



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

February 20, 2024

1:00 PM (East Coast Standard Time)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/98551937029?pwd=ZjRZZWVwUHczUkI3SjBsRW9jTEN0QT09>

Meeting ID: 985 5193 7029

Passcode: 841937

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder and Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff
- IV. Annual Regional Industrial Real Estate Update
 - State of and Outlook for the Region’s Industrial Real Estate Market, Bill Waxman, Vice Chair, Cushman and Wakefield
 - Industrial Real Estate Considerations, Eric M. Bernstein, Esquire, Eric M. Bernstein and Associates LLC
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2024
- VII. Adjournment



FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes December 18, 2023

I. Roll Call of Members

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, led the meeting on behalf of Commissioners Sarnoski and Sooy, who could not attend. She called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were 13 voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting was made by the City of Newark, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the high freight demand/supply “super cycle” is over, and the port activity is back to levels slightly higher than 2019. She said the region is seeing less demand for industrial space and more subleasing activity. She noted that there were only two new starts in the region during the third quarter, both less than 200,000 square feet. However, looking to the future, Ms. Strauss-Wieder said that there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the Port Street Corridor Improvements Project, a \$220 million initiative to enhance northern access to the port. Ms. Strauss-Wieder also discussed ongoing NJTPA projects, including the Freight Concept Development Program and the 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Update.

IV. Presentations:

Janice Marino-Doyle, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), provided an update on the federally mandated Statewide Freight Plan, which the Federal Highway Administration approved in 2023. The plan supports the growth of New Jersey’s freight industry and the incorporation of new technologies and infrastructure into the system. The state must update its plan every four years.

Ms. Doyle introduced project consultant, Stephen Chiaramonte, WSP, who outlined the plan's development and discussed next steps, noting that short-term actions include finalizing the designation of critical freight corridors, supporting data needs, and enhancing support for state freight funding sources. Longer-term actions include addressing statewide truck parking needs, increasing marine highway services, and preparing for extreme weather risks.

Next, Lou Millan, NJ TRANSIT, spoke about the federally mandated State Rail Plan, which articulates a vision, inventories the rail network, identifies needs, engages stakeholders, and sets the stage for grant funding applications. Alan Kearns, also of NJ TRANSIT, provided an overview of the plan's development, particularly the passenger side. The Plan is expected to be released this month for public review and submitted to the Federal Rail Administration in March. A brief Q&A session ensued.

V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members

Ms. Marino-Doyle said NJDOT will hold Freight Advisory Committee meetings in March, June, and November. Also, the NJDOT Office of Multimodal Grants has received 18 applications totaling \$65.8 million for the Fiscal Year 2024 Rail Freight Assistance Program.

Stephan Pezdek, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), said that the seven-phase Port Street Corridor Improvement Project that Ms. Strauss-Wieder mentioned is scheduled for completion by mid-2028.

Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, said the 2045 Keep Somerset Moving Transportation Plan study is nearing completion and will yield several recommendations for freight and goods movement in the County.

VI Next meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

VII. Adjournment

At 2:30 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by the City of Newark, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
December 18, 2023**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Dolores Wooden	City of Newark
John Ernst	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Dave Dech	Warren County
Laura Wilton	Governor's Authorities Unit
Janice Marino-Doyle	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Stephan Pezdek	PANYNJ
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE	
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Dan Farina	DVRPC
David Antonio	Essex County
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Rickie Clark	FHWA
Jason Kelly	HDR
Ashley Dominguez	Hudson County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
James Humphries	NJ Highlands Council
Adam DiSarro	NJ TRANSIT
RJ Palladino	NJ TRANSIT
Veronica Murphy	NJDOT
Tavainya Smith	NJDOT
Megan Fackler	NJDOT
Devyn Cordero	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Carlos Mandeville	PANYNJ
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Xi Zoux	STV
Tom Drabic	Sussex County

Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Alan Meyers	WSP
Kyle Skala	NJDOT
Liz Langmaid	PANYNJ
Zac Werkmeister	PANYNJ
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
George Bulow	
MVANHATT	
CPLNJEK	