



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair
Commissioner Deputy Director Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, June 21, 2022
1:00 PM (East Coast Standard Time)

Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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United States: +1 (872) 240-3212

Access Code: 551-638-765

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff
- IV. Trucking Industry Update
 - Nicholas Geale, Vice President for Workforce Policy, American Trucking Associations (ATA)
 - Jeffrey Short, Vice President, American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI)
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, August 15, 2022 – New Jersey State Freight Plan
- VII. Adjournment



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Meeting Minutes April 18, 2022

I. Roll Call of Members

Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) Chair Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Warren County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were nine voting members present. The Commissioner noted that the NJTPA had applied for 1.5 AICP credits and 1.5 Professional Engineering credits for the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by the City of Newark, and carried with 8 affirmative votes. Warren County abstained.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, reported that industrial property lease rates continue to rise, and new construction is underway. She noted that the first new multi-story industrial building development in the NJTPA region was just announced and is located in Hudson County. Ms. Strauss-Wieder also noted that UPS has collaborated with Red Hook Container Terminal, New York City Economic Development, Hughes, and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) to prototype a marine highway operation that moves trailers between Bayonne and the Red Hook Terminal in Brooklyn. This operation received funding from the US Maritime Administration.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said that some consumers are returning to shopping in stores, which may mark a decrease in the rapid growth of direct-to-consumer e-commerce. She said the groceries home delivery market has continued to grow as consumers embrace new services that they tried during the pandemic.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that the NJTPA collaborated with the MAP Forum to hold the March 24 virtual Clean Freight Movement Workshop, which drew 150 participants.

She also said the NJTPA is updating the Goods Movement Strategies for Communities webtool, including updating the existing truck module and adding a rail freight module as part of the 2023 UPWP.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the 2021 Freight Concept Development program continues with two studies in Morris and Somerset counties, and a Freight Rail Grade Crossing Assessment update is in progress. She said the NJTPA is working with partner agencies to try to advance the Freight Rail Industrial Opportunities Corridor (FRIO) program to get national standard rail access throughout region. Also, the NJTPA is working with NJDOT and NJ TRANSIT on the State Freight and Rail plans. She noted that efforts to implement regional emergency truck parking planning continue.

IV. Presentations:

1. Update on Port Activity, Trends and Investments

Sam Ruda, Director of the PANYNJ's Port Department, reported that container traffic at the port is 8 to 10 percent above the record levels seen in 2021 and continues to grow. He said the current growth was driven by "a massive change in personal consumption" favoring goods over services, a trend that accelerated as people ordered online during the pandemic. Also, shippers facing congestion, backlogs and labor negotiations at West Coast ports are shifting an increasing share of commerce to New York-New Jersey and other, smaller East Coast ports. As a result, terminals are operating at full or near full capacity, running ahead of planned-for levels by six or seven years, but the Port faces shortages of truck drivers, chassis and other constraints.

2. Update on Council on Port Performance and Terminal Activities

John Nardi, President of the New York Shipping Association, said the growth at the Port has spurred a strong demand for workers at the maritime terminals. As operations continued under pandemic-related challenges, the port faced a "tidal wave of freight," requiring the hiring of hundreds more workers. Mr. Nardi said the Association is working with the Council on Port Performance's Workforce Development Implementation Team to conduct outreach to potential workers and communities in Newark, Elizabeth and surrounding areas.

Mr. Nardi noted that the Waterfront Commission (which was jointly established by New York and New Jersey to combat port corruption in the 1950s) requires thorough background checks and an extended hiring process. He explained that New Jersey has been seeking to withdraw from the Waterfront Commission and turn its oversight functions over to the New Jersey State Police, which would expedite the hiring process. However, the State of New York brought a case challenging the withdrawal to the Supreme Court, which has not yet decided whether to hear the case.

3. City of Newark Port-Industrial Redevelopment Plan – Forward Bound Doremus

Christopher A. Watson, Planning Official, City of Newark briefed the Committee on a new redevelopment effort, called Forward-Bound Doremus. The effort focuses on five districts

adjacent to Newark's Doremus Avenue, which runs from the port to industrial and warehousing areas along the Passaic River. Mr. Watson said the project seeks to cultivate a "reciprocal relationship" that would link port businesses to local neighborhoods and nearby commercial activities while redevelopment efforts attract new port-related businesses.

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

Janice Doyle, NJDOT, said the Office of Freight Planning continues work on the 2022 State Freight Plan and is working with the Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs to advance many of the action items that emerged from a recent Federal Highway Administration Complete Streets workshop. The next Freight Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 24.

Jay Shuffield, PANYNJ, announced that Mr. Ruda has retired, and Beth Ann Rooney will helm the PANYNJ Port Department beginning on May 2.

Alan Kearns, NJ TRANSIT, said the agency continues to work with NJDOT, NJTPA, and the other MPOs on the State Rail Plan, conducting outreach with railroads and other aspects of the plan.

Jeffry Nielsen, Governor's Authorities Unit (GAU), said the GAU is actively involved in the ongoing Waterfront Commission litigation.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, thanked Mr. Watson for his presentation and said he looks forward to updating the Committee on the plan's progress.

Liza Betz, Union County, said the New Jersey County Planners Association held a meeting in April that focused on freight planning. She said there were presentations by the three New Jersey MPOs on freight conditions and activities, as well as brief presentations by four NJTPA subregions on studies funded through the NJTPA Subregional Studies Program. The studies speak to issues faced by municipalities dealing with the increase in freight passing through the region.

Ms. Betz said the presentation included two completed studies – the Monmouth/Mercer Freight Study and the Union County Truck Mobility Study – and two recently launched studies – the Southern Middlesex County Freight Movement Study and the Hudson County Truck Routes Assessment Study.

VI. Next meeting:

Commissioner Sarnoski announced that the next virtual meeting of the FIC is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. and will feature the Annual Trucking Industry Update.

VII. Adjournment

At 2:33 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Middlesex County, seconded by the Governor's Office, and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
April 18, 2022**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Chair)	Warren County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Janice Doyle	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Jim Katzenberger	Accelerx Group
Josh Curley	Arup
Tom Visee	Arup
Mark Jaworski	Baird
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Lisa Yakomin	Bi-State Motor Carriers
Katharine Kirk	Cambridge Systematics
Christopher Watson	City of Newark
Kurt Miles	CSX
Kristen Scudder	DVRPC
Warren Michelsen	Enovate Engineering
Amanda Rutherford	FHWA
Rickie Clark	FHWA-NJ
Dan Mulligan	Global Terminals
James Humphries	Highlands
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
George Bulow	Interactive International Inc.
Scott Parker	Jacobs
Thomas Morkan	MARAD
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Dede Murray	Morris County
John Nardi	New York Shipping Association
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT

Nipa Maniar	NJDOT
Elizabeth Johnson	NJTPA
Anne Strauss-Wieder	NJTPA
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA
Liz DeRuchie	NJTPA
Keith Hamas	NJTPA
Pamela Lewis	NJTPA
Jeffry Vernick	NJTPA
Eve Chamberlain	NJTPA
Ann Ludwig	NJTPA
Dave Behrend	NJTPA
Lois Goldman	NJTPA
Beverly Morris	NJTPA
Mary Ameen	NJTPA
Melissa Hayes	NJTPA
Mark Solof	NJTPA
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern
Rick Crawford	Norfolk Southern
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
John Ernst	Ocean County
Charles Liou	PANYNJ
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Beth Rooney	PANYNJ
Tanja Grzeskowitz	PANYNJ
Sam Ruda	PANYNJ
Todd Goldman	PANYNJ
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Jessica Clark	Pennsylvania
Michael Sadowski	RCC
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Syd Chan	VHB
Bill Skinner	W. B. Skinner
Dave Dech	Warren County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Alan Meyers	WSP
Stephen Chiamonte	WSP
Jenn Grenier	WSP USA
Nicholas Raspanti	Zeem Solutions
Richie the Port Trucker	
Mike Bozza	
Ethan Ebinger	
Frank Capo	
James H. Cobb, Jr.	

Steve Schulein	
Dr. Jobi Odeneye	
Zac Werkmeister	