



FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes June 21, 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 12 voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2022 meeting was made by Hudson County, seconded by the City of Newark, and carried with 10 affirmative votes. Middlesex and Ocean counties abstained.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, reported that the supply chain challenges continue. She also noted that both industry and the public sector are working hard to address the challenges while moving to meet new customer demands as well as environmental and social goals. Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the region has over 860 million square feet of industrial properties, and more than 15 million square feet are under construction. She said much industrial construction in the region is on land that is being repurposed from former industrial sites or outdated office buildings. For example, she noted the new FreezPak operation in Union County and the CenterPoint development for Costco in the Ironbound section of Newark.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the direct-to-consumer market is key, with about 70 percent of consumers now preferring ordering online, up from 30 percent in 2019. She noted that consumers who shop at brick-and-mortar stores are choosing local stores. She said container movements at the port continue to grow, and the NJTPA is following these trends and collaborating with partners on freight activities such as the New Jersey Freight Plan and the State Rail Plan.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the NJTPA is updating and enhancing the Goods Movement Strategies for Communities webtool, and she thanked everyone who participated in the user survey. The updated tool is expected to be rolled out by early 2023. She said projects in Somerset and Morris

counties are advancing under the second round of the NJTPA Freight Concept Development Program, which develops solutions to address long-standing freight issues. Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the NJTPA is moving ahead with the Freight Rail Grade Crossing Assessment, and other agency planning initiatives will focus on workforce development and enhanced options for last-mile commutation for workers at freight facilities.

IV. Presentations:

Nicholas Geale, Vice President for Workforce and Labor Policy, American Trucking Associations (ATA), reported that the truck driver shortage is expected to double from an estimated 80,000 last year to 160,000 by 2030. He said that freight volumes have slowed from 2021 but remain high, and the pandemic years have been strong for trucking, with many goods being transported, tight capacity, and higher rates. Mr. Geale noted that costs have been a challenge when it comes to driver wages, retention and recruitment, liability insurance, equipment prices and availability, and spikes in fuel prices. He said short- and long-term solutions being advanced for the driver shortage include the DRIVE Safe Act apprenticeship program and a task force that aims to increase the number of women in trucking.

Jeffrey Short, Vice President, American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), presented findings from the Institute's recently released report, "Understanding the Carbon Dioxide Impacts of Zero-Emission Trucks." He said the research estimated carbon dioxide emissions for diesel trucks, battery electric trucks, and fuel cell hydrogen trucks. The research compares full vehicle life-cycle emissions from vehicle production to driving to vehicle disposal and recycling. Mr. Short said the total life-cycle carbon dioxide emissions for a diesel truck are 30 percent higher than a battery electric truck and nearly 45 percent higher than fuel cell hydrogen truck. However, the research notes that the two lithium-ion batteries that electric trucks require create 20 times more emissions when it comes to disposal and recycling.

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

Janice Doyle, NJDOT, said the agency continues to work on the 2022 Statewide Freight Plan and to support the State Rail Plan. She said the June 24 New Jersey Freight Advisory Committee (NJFAC) meeting will feature a detailed analysis of findings and will include a maritime analysis. That meeting will also feature a presentation by Rickie Clark, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), on the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act. Ms. Doyle said NJDOT is developing its two- and four-year freight performance measure target goals for FHWA.

Jay Shuffield, PANYNJ, said freight movement demand at the port remains strong and is expected to stay that way for a while.

Jeff Nielsen, Governor's Authorities Unit, said the state continues its work to improve transportation and freight movement throughout the state.

Byron Nicholas, Hudson County, said the county has been working on the Hudson County Truck Routes Assessment study under the NJTPA's Subregional Studies Program.

Mike Dannemiller, Middlesex County, said work is progressing on the Southern Middlesex County Freight Movement Study, also under the Subregional Studies Program.

VI. Next meeting:

Commissioner Sarnoski announced that the next meeting of the FIC is scheduled August 15, 2022.

V. Adjournment

At 2:46 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by the Governor's Authorities Unit, seconded by PANYNJ, and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
June 21, 2022**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Jason Sarnoski (Chair)	Warren County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Janice Doyle	NJDOT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Dorian Smith	Governor's Authorities Unit
Charles Burton	Citizens' Representative
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Tom Visee	Arup
Nick Geale	ATA
Jeff Short	ATRI
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Katherine Kirk	CAMSYS
Kristen Scudder	DVRPC
Dr. Jobi Odeneye	Essex County
Rickie Clark	FHWA
Jennifer Costa	Go Elizabeth NJ
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Kris Melchers	Hunterdon County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Alison Felix	MAPC
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
David Schmetterer	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Adam DiSarro	NJ TRANSIT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Janice Doyle	NJDOT
Layla Fryc	NJTA
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC

Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Amanda Valdes	PANYNJ
Charles Liou	PANYNJ
Tanja Grzeskowitz	PANYNJ
Todd Goldman	PANYNJ
Jessica Paolini	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Todd Fontanella	West COG
John McCreavy	
Zac Werkmeister	
Michael Wilson	
Elizabeth Langmaid	
Syd Chan	
Renu Chhonkar	
G. Clifton	
Ronald Klempner	