



**North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.**

**FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair  
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

**Meeting Agenda**

**June 17, 2024**

**1:00 PM (East Coast Standard Time)**

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/97014373453?pwd=MGVzb2sxN0ZwNFdwbm1HZ3ltOGQydz09>

Meeting ID: 970 1437 3453

Passcode: 882282

833-928-4608 (US Toll-free)

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- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff
- IV. Presentations: Truck Routing and Curbside Management
  - Alison Conway, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, The City College of New York
  - Kristen Scudder, Freight Program Manager, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
  - Kevin Force, Supervising Planner, Hudson County Division of Planning
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, August 19, 2024
- VII. Adjournment

## **FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair  
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

### **Meeting Minutes**

**April 15, 2024**

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#### I. Roll Call of Members

Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) Chair Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Morris County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Ten voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee were present.

The Chair said that today would be the last meeting for Anne Strauss-Wieder, NJTPA's Freight Director, as she will be retiring. He wished Anne all the best and thanked her for her service.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 20 meeting was made by Somerset County and seconded by the City of Newark and carried with an abstention by Ocean County..

#### III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said the industrial real estate market has held steady so far in 2024. There were 3.5 million square feet of space under development which is low compared to last year. She said Central Staff is working on 2050 forecasts which will be used in updating the Long Range Transportation Plan. This includes commodity and area profiles. She said the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) forum will hold a workshop on April 18 on the use of federal freight data. She also said that the third round of freight concept development studies are commencing, focusing on a truck corridor project in Middlesex County and a rail bridge clearance project in Morris County. She thanked everyone for their participation in the committee during her time at the NJTPA.

#### VIII. Annual Port Industry Update

The Chair introduced the two speakers for the annual port industry update: Beth Rooney, Port Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; and John Nardi, President, Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey

Ms. Rooney said key accomplishments in 2023 included receiving a federal grant for the southbound rail connection which will enhance rail capacity and fluidity. In addition, the Port Street Corridor improvement project is underway which will improve northern road access to the port. A website has been created which tracks progress of that project. In August, she said, a new terminal lease agreement framework was completed for Port Liberty terminals in Bayonne. In September, the agency issued a Net Zero roadmap, including commitments for each port department and it authorized a \$180 million berth and wharf rehabilitation program. The latter will include cost sharing with the Army Corps of Engineers and study further needs for channel widening.

Ms. Rooney said that after a large surge in container volume in 2022, the port is now back on track to meet previously forecast volume increases. The port supports one-third of the nation's GDP in its densely-populated service area. It has enough rail capacity to handle expected increases in volume. Priorities for 2024 center on improved customer experience, infrastructure and safety & security.

Regarding the Baltimore bridge collapse, she said up to 65 percent of the Baltimore port's traffic will be rerouted to the New York-New Jersey port. The port has the capacity but will have to expand hours of operation and add shuttle trains between Baltimore and New York. She said cars and other vehicles unloaded here will be transported back to Baltimore on car carriers for processing. She said it is uncertain how long it will take to restore the Baltimore port.

John Nardi, said the Shipping Association is a non-profit organization of ocean carriers, terminal operators and security operations. Its core responsibility is to negotiate contracts with labor organizations in the port. The contracts are paid for by assessments on containers handled in the port. He said a local contract was agreed upon in New York-New Jersey but other ports must still conclude their local contracts to allow a nationwide master contract to be concluded and implemented. A goal of May 18 is set for local contracts.

Mr. Nardi said that with the drop in container traffic following the surge of 2022, the port now has an excess of workers. He said the Association is seeking to keep the workers employed since they have already completed training. The New Jersey State Police took over processing new hires from the former Waterfront Commission in July after a ruling by the Supreme Court over New York's challenge to the change. The hiring process, he said, is now much improved and faster. The Association continues community outreach to prepare people in surrounding communities for work in the industry

He said together with other organizations in the Council on Port Performance, which is celebrating its tenth year, the priorities for improvements at the port focus on environmental policy, land use, chassis availability, appointment system analysis and workforce development.

In response to a question about what is needed to keep the port operating 24 hours a day, Ms. Rooney said the biggest challenge to expanding operations and meeting future growth is changing the freight ecosystem which includes warehouses and distribution centers. While larger companies can accommodate expanded hours, smaller companies often cannot. There is also a need for additional truck operators and gaining agreement of communities.

Dolores Wooten, City of Newark, asked about incentives for hiring people to gain hands-on experience. Mr. Nardi said ongoing efforts include developing curriculum for high schools,

technical schools and community colleges and creating internship and apprenticeship programs. He noted that longshoreman's jobs are sought after but can be demanding, including the need for training, and working in all types of weather.

In response to question about how rates are set for harbor pilots and how they are coordinated among states, Mr. Nardi said state harbor pilot commissions set rates.

Ms. Strauss-Weider asked whether there was a silver-lining for the freight industry going through the pandemic.

Ms. Rooney said during the surge of freight following the pandemic, the port was straining against its limits, handling volumes not expected until 2030. Its ability to do so gave increased confidence to shipping companies that the port can handle their needs, even in the face of disruptions and the need for new supply chains.

#### IX. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members

The Chair said that Morris County was selected to receive a grant of \$558,000 from NJDOT's Rail Freight Assistance Program for the design of the Chester Branch Rail bridge over Berkshire Valley Rd. in Roxbury. It will provide sufficient clearance to curtail incidents of trucks striking the bridge, causing damage and traffic disruptions. He thanked NJDOT selecting the project.

NJDOT's representative said the agency continues work on the truck parking profile study, including outreach to key stakeholders and interviewing short haul and long haul drivers. There were no other reports by committee members.

#### VII Next meeting: June 17, 2024

The Chair said the next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17th, 2024. He said there is a possibility that the meeting may be held in-person, depending on whether the Planning and Economic Development and Project Prioritization Committees decide to meet in person on that day. He said they are surveying their members this week, and once that's done, we'll have word whether we're going to be meeting in person or not

#### VIII. Adjournment

At 1:16 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by ????, seconded by the Port Authority of NY-NJ and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee**  
**ATTENDANCE**  
**February 20, 2024**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Stephen Shaw (Chair)	Morris County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Dolores Martinez-Wooden	City of Newark
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Sam Korvach-Orr	Governor's Authorities Unit
Janice Marino Doyle	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Stephan Pezdek	PANYNJ
OTHERS	
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Bill Waxman	Cushman and Wakefield
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Eric M. Bernstein, Esq.	Eric M. Bernstein and Associates
Dr. Jobi Odeneye	Essex County
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Ashley Dominguez	Hudson County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Sunil Dhuri	ICF
Alison Felix	MAPC
Linda Weber	Middlesex County
Andrew Lappitt	Middlesex County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
John Hayes	Morris County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Adam DiSarro	NJ TRANSIT
RJ Palladino	NJ TRANSIT
Tavainya Smith	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
Todd Goldman	PANYNJ
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County

Adam Bradford	Passaic County
Paul Bingham	S&P Global
Jonathan Eagle	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Devyn Cordero	
Deborah Hoffman	
Liz Langmaid	
Chris Bauers	
Kevin M. Russell	
Jim Hess	
Kathy Lander	
Dan Farina	
Megan Chang	
Rick Crawford	
Michael Angell	
Travis Pollack	
Andre Ludasi	
M. VanHatt	
Zac Werkmeister	
Ruchi Shrivastava	