



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair
Freeholder Joshua L. Hertzberg, Vice Chair

AGENDA

June 15, 2020

1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Meeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/349346909>

Call in Number: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: 349-346-909

Please mute your phone except when speaking.

Additional Dial-In Instructions Attached

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff
- IV. Annual Port and Maritime Update
 - Port of New York and New Jersey Update, Bethann Rooney, Deputy Director, Port Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 - Council on Port Performance Activities, John Nardi, President, New York Shipping Association
 - Port Raritan, Genevieve Clifton, Manager, Offices of Maritime Resources, Freight Planning and Grants Management, New Jersey Department of Transportation
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: August 17, 2020
- VII. Adjournment

Freight Initiatives Committee Virtual Meeting Notice:

The agenda package for the June 15 Freight Initiatives Committee meeting is attached. The meeting will be held via GoToMeeting. The log-in details are below. Please login five or ten minutes early to ensure your connection works. Your options for participation, in order of preference, are:

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If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at 973-639-8410.

Instructions for Calling into June FIC Meeting
Mon, Jun 15, 2020 12:45 PM - 3:00 PM (EDT)

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Join from a video-conferencing room or system.

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FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair
Freeholder Joshua Hertzberg, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2020

I. Roll Call

Freight Initiatives Committee Chair Freeholder Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Twelve voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting was made by Ocean County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

III. NJTPA Freight Division Update

Anne Strauss-Weider, Central Staff, said the NJTPA staff has been active with public and private sector partners, including members of the MAP Forum, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the Port Authority, and others to help the region through the COVID-19 crisis. This included sharing information to ensure that truck rest areas remain open in the four-state metro area.

Ms. Strauss-Weider said the Pilot Freight Concept Development Program is expected to conclude later this year, and the NJTPA Board approved two new projects for the 2021 program – the Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project, and the Port Reading Secondary Project in Bound Brook New Jersey.

Ms. Strauss-Weider noted that she is part of a Transportation Research Board national webinar seeking to explore how COVID-19 is affecting supply chains.

IV. Presentations:

1. Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) Express Rail System

Cory Wyatt, PANYNJ, briefed the Committee on the Express Rail System that operates four facilities at Port Newark, Elizabeth, Port Jersey, and Staten Island. He said more than \$600 million has been invested in Express Rail infrastructure to help grow this region's portion of the competitive East Coast cargo market. Mr. Wyatt said this year's February and March rail

volumes have been strong, even with COVID-19, and it is hoped that Express Rail system volume will grow to its full capacity of 1.5 million lifts in the coming years. Each intermodal container lift eliminates about one and a half truck trips, helping to reduce roadway congestion and improve air quality.

2. Cross Harbor Investments Update

Patrick Thrasher, PANYNJ, updated the committee on the Cross-Harbor program, a rail carfloat service that the Port Authority operates between Greenville Yard in Jersey City and the 65th Street Rail Yard in Brooklyn. The Cross-Harbor system loads freight rail cars onto barges so they can be transported across the harbor, providing a critical connection for our region. The next closest cross-Hudson freight rail connection is in Selkirk, New York, which is about 160 miles north of New York City.

3. NJTPA Pilot Freight Concept Development Program Update

Scott Parker, Jacobs Engineering, updated the committee on the progress of the NJTPA Pilot Freight Concept Development Program. The program advances regional and local freight initiatives that do not have a ready path toward implementation through other funding programs. Mr. Parker said the pilot effort consists of two projects. The first is looking at alternatives for eliminating a weight restriction on the Washington Secondary/Morristown Line over the Hackettstown Drain Bridge. The second is investigating the re-alignment of the Dover and Rockaway Railroad to reduce conflicts between the freight line and vehicular and pedestrian traffic, especially in downtown Dover. Mr. Parker said, in March, the Board approved two new freight concept development projects for the 2021 program – the Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project in Roxbury, Morris County, and the Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project in Bound Brook, Somerset County.

4. NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program Update

Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT, announced that the Office of Grants Management has invested \$100 million in the NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program over the past four years. This direct grant program helps New Jersey's rail freight service providers make needed infrastructure improvements. Ms. Clifton said, for \$25 million per year, the program has resulted in miles of new and rehabilitated rail track and nine bridges rehabilitated or replaced. There are currently 26 active projects in the Rail Freight Assistance Program, and 13 more were selected this year. Several of the projects funded are in the NJTPA region.

Ms. Clifton said that the NJDOT Office of Freight Planning is leading a North-South Rail Study on behalf of NJTPA to look at the potential reactivation of part or all of the old Blue Comet line for rail freight service, and the NJDOT Office of Maritime Resources is working closely with the Raritan Center and New York City Economic Development Corporation to seek a Maritime Administration (MARAD) designation for Port Raritan to increase marine highway freight movement between New Jersey and New York City.

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

Stephanie Finch, PANYNJ, said the agency is working hard across all of its facilities to adapt to the COVID-19 slow-down and try to maintain some agility with a focus on the health and safety of its customers and employees. She said, as part of its GMAP Program, PANYNJ has been working with partners to quickly communicate changes and share plans during the crisis. Ms. Finch noted that various states' emergency orders have different implications, particularly for the trucking industry when it comes to waiving certain licensing or weight requirements for emergency supplies.

Ms. Finch updated the committee on some port activity data from January:

- Ten percent year over year increase in passengers through Newark Liberty Airport, and freight tons at all the PANYNJ airports were down 9.7 percent.
- At the port, imports were down 1.4 percent and exports were up 6 percent. Express Rail lifts saw a 12.3 percent increase.
- Truck moves across all facilities are up to 0.6 percent, and although there are no final numbers from the crisis, it is known that truck activity has waxed and waned.
- PANYNJ analysts and economists are still looking at just what exactly COVID-19 means for current operations and the future.

Liza Betz, Union County, said the County kicked off a truck mobility study in March and plans for conducting the study have been impacted by COVID-19. Public outreach will be delayed by social distancing restrictions, and data collection has started sooner instead. The study is expected to conclude by June 2021.

Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County, announced Morris County's freight rail system can now accommodate Plate F rail cars. She said the Chesapeake & Delaware cleared the "Hole in the Wall" bridge in Phillipsburg last year and transported a Plate F shipment to Blue Ridge Lumber in March – a milestone for the County and the region. The Freeholder said the issue of the 286k weight limit remains an obstacle, and she understands that Chesapeake & Delaware has discussed it with NJDOT, and the agency is interested in helping to find a solution.

VI. Next meeting: June 15, 2020.

VII. Adjournment

At 2:32 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Ocean County, seconded by Morris County and carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
April 20, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. John Kelly (Vice Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Rudy Rodas	Governor's Authorities Unit
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Stephanie Finch	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Jim Katzenberger	Accelerx Group
James Beattie	AECOM
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Dave Behrend	Central Staff
Jakub Rowinski	Central Staff
Melissa Hayes	Central Staff
Jeffrey Perlman	Central Staff
Anne Strauss-Wieder	Central Staff
Eve Chamberlain	Central Staff
Elizabeth Johnson	Central Staff
Gabrielle Fausel	Central Staff
Lois Goldman	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
Jeffrey Vernick	Central Staff
Keith Hamas	Central Staff
Mark Jehnke	Central Staff
Alice Cheng	Cheng Solutions
Rena Sherman	Choose NJ
Chris Caslin	Cole Schotz
Kristen Scudder	DVRPC
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Visée	HDR Inc.
Adam Bradford	Hunterdon County
Thanh Le	Jacobs
Branislav Dimitrijevic	Jacobs Engineering

Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
Frank Capo	Maher Terminals
Jeff Flumignan	MARAD
James Bonanno	Monmouth County
RJ Palladino	NJ TRANSIT
Mike Russo	NJDOT
Maryiam Kazmi	NJDOT
Layla Fryc	NJTA
Michael Fesen	NS Corp.
Ryan White	NYC EDC
Leslie Fordjour	NYDOT
John Ernst	Ocean County
John Ernst	Ocean County
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Cory Wyatt	PANYNJ
Patrick Thrasher	PANYNJ
Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Brian Goodson	USDOT
Travis Black	USDOT
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Quincy Hendricks	World Tire Wholesale
Jennifer Grenier	WSP
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP
Alan Meyers	WSP
Amanda	
Cathy	
Gautam Mani	
Matthew Lazo	
Mike McGuiness	
Miki Krakauer	
Nusrat Jahan	
Paul Bingham	
Richard Semenick	
Ronald Kemp	
Ronald S. Weening	
Thomas Heller	
Vijayant Rajvanshi	
William Sheppard	

