



FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair
Freeholder John Kelly, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes April 15, 2019

I. Chairman's Remarks

Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) Chair Freeholder Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. He noted that on April 3, the American Logistics Aid Network conducted an interactive learning simulation at NJTPA that covered the coordination needed to ensure that critical supplies reach communities following a disaster.

Freeholder Kenny noted that the NJTPA would apply for 2.0 AICP Credits and 2.0 Professional Engineering CPC Credits for the FIC meeting.

II. Roll Call of Members

There were eight voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by NJDOT and carried with six affirmative votes. Hudson and Somerset counties abstained.

IV. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, announced a new development in the Freight Concept Development (CD) Program, which creates a path for implementing many potential freight-related projects, starting with two pilot concept development studies, the Dover and Rockaway Rail Realignment Project in Morris County and the Phillipsburg South Main Street Bridge Rail Clearance Project in Warren County. Mr. Rowinski said the Dover and Delaware River Railroad has assumed operations of the Washington Secondary Line from Norfolk Southern railroad and, as part of the lease agreement, will be able to repair and rehabilitate the line as needed. As the Phillipsburg project will now be completed by this new operator, the remaining resources from this contract will be allocated to complete a CD study for a bridge along the Morris/Warren County Rail Corridor in Hackettstown that cannot accommodate 286K railcars. Mr. Rowinski said the two pilot studies are still on track for completion in June 2020 at the original budget.

Mr. Rowinski also reported that the Goods Movement Strategies for Communities application, which will allow searches of various truck issues and strategies to address them, is under internal review and slated for beta testing by subregions and planning partners soon.

Mr. Rowinski said the 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts study is just underway, and the first Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held in May. He said the study team is assembling best practices and looking at various data sources to develop a comprehensive methodology for the study.

Mr. Rowinski reported that the NJTPA FRIO study will be completed this June. Draft final deliverables are currently under review. He noted that the Committee would hear the final study presentation later in the meeting.

V. Presentations:

1. Conrail

Timothy Tierney, President & Chief Operating Officer, Conrail Shared Assets, explained that Conrail is jointly owned by Norfolk Southern and CSX and handles traffic to and from the port and the region for more than 200 customers. It interfaces with 11 of the region's 15 smaller shortline railroads. Mr. Tierney said port and intermodal traffic has grown 16 percent from 2017 to 2018, and as a result, Conrail is investing \$21 million in upgrading rail infrastructure. This includes the Waverly Loop project, which is set to go to construction next year. It will add another route for rail freight in and out of the port. Another major project is reconstruction of the Point No Point Bridge over the Passaic River, which is planned for construction in 2021.

2. Chesapeake & Delaware

Kean Burenga, President and Managing Partner, Chesapeake & Delaware, said the company operates four shortline rail services in the NJTPA region. It recently started operations of a new shortline, the Dover and Delaware River Railroad, with more than 109 route miles, including the lease of the Washington Secondary line from Norfolk Southern and trackage rights over several NJ TRANSIT lines. This railroad currently serves 14 customers. Mr. Burenga said the company is undertaking projects to improve the line to better serve existing customers and attract new ones. Of particular importance are upgrades needed to accommodate the national standard taller and heavier rail cars. He noted one such project is addressing the vertical clearance restriction under the South Main Street Bridge over the Washington Secondary line in Phillipsburg by replacing wooden ties with low profile steel ties, the project formerly undergoing CD as previously discussed. Other projects in the pipeline include upgrading interchanges and grade crossings.

3. Global Container Terminals

Dan Mulligan, Director of Sales and Marketing, Global Container Terminals, said the Bayonne terminal is a 170-acre facility with eight cranes for moving containers to and from vessels. It operates with an innovative appointment system for truckers, which reduces delays and improves

efficiency. The ExpressRail Port Jersey on-dock rail facility became operational at half capacity in January and will be operating at full capacity with a total of 9,600 feet of track later this year. The new facility provides the terminal with significant cost and time savings for service to the Midwest over its competitors and reduces the amount of terminal-related truck traffic.

4. Freight Rail Industrial Opportunity (FRIO) Corridors Program

Richard Semenick, HDR, said the study is nearing completion, and the project deliverables will be issued in June 2019. They include the Restriction Location and the Industrial Opportunities databases, FRIO Corridor Profiles and a final report. He said the study aims to foster collaboration among private and public entities to address barriers to freight access to industrial properties and unlock the economic potential of some segments of the freight rail system. Mr. Semenick noted a variety of engineering solutions and approximate costs for addressing vertical clearance limits and rail car weight limits.

Mr. Semenick said study findings indicate that, if all impediments are addressed and all opportunity parcels are developed for rail freight use, the economic value of existing and new rail freight operations along the corridors studied would total:

- More than 223,000 direct on-site jobs
- 518,000 total jobs in New Jersey
- More than \$165.1 billion in annual business activity
- More than \$37.7 billion in annual personal income
- Close to \$16.8 billion in annual federal, state and local tax revenues

Mr. Semenick thanked NJ TRANSIT, Conrail, Black River & Western, Amtrak and the NJTPA subregions for their involvement in the project.

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

Andrew Ludasi, NJDOT, said the Department continues to work on advancing projects in the 2017 Statewide Freight Plan and will, where it can, assist with projects emerging from the FRIO study.

Stephanie Molden, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) said that as part of the Restore the George (George Washington Bridge) program the West 178th street ramp was reopened after size and weight restrictions were lifted four months early in March. She also reported that in February 2019, the Port handled over 585,000 TEUs, a 12.1 percent increase over February 2018. First quarter 2019 Port rail volume was up 60 percent over first quarter 2018. At the Greenville Yard, the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility portion of the R&D tracks will open in May, providing additional staging there. Ms. Molden introduced Corey Wyatt, Manager Intermodal Rail Development, at the PANYNJ Port Department.

VI. Next meeting: June 17, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

At 2:40 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by PANYNJ and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
April 15, 2019**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Stephanie Molden	PANYNJ
OTHERS	
William Sheppard	Atlantic Rail Services
Lisa Destro	Cambridge Systematics
Kean Burenga	Chesapeake & Delaware
Tim Tierney	Conrail
Rick Semenick	HDR
Matt Van Hattem	HDR
Scott Parker	Jacobs
Ron Klempner	Jersey Marine Rail
F. Van Riewisoyk	Maher
Frank Capo	Maher Terminals
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Ali Rezvani	Moffatt and Nichol
James Bonanno	Monmouth County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Constantina Meis	NJMEP
Mary D. Ameen	NJTPA
Elizabeth Johnson	NJTPA
Mike Fesen	Norfolk Southern
Mike Morrow	Port Elizabeth
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Ralph Spielman	Transportation Magazine
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP