



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

**FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair  
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

**Meeting Agenda**  
**October 20, 2025**  
**1:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)**

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/95150294949?pwd=OePuQkflL8yEXVPDSrK9RDm2MQJkrQf.1>

Meeting ID: 951 5029 4949

Passcode: 703687

929-205-6099 US (New York)

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- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff
- IV. Presentations: Technology in Freight
  - *Autonomous Rail*: Matt Soule, Founder and CEO, Parallel Systems
  - *Delivery Robots in the USA: Avride Experience*: Anton Shingarev, VP for Public Affair, Avride
  - *State of Autonomous Trucking*: Daniel Smith, Principal, The Tioga Group
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, December 15, 2025 (Virtual)
- VII. Adjournment



*John P. Kelly, Chair*  
*Charles Kenny, First Vice Chair*  
*David W. Behrend, Executive Director*

## **FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair  
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes  
August 18, 2025

### **I. Roll Call of Members**

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and 11 voting members were present.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

The City of Newark moved the minutes of the June 16, 2025 meeting and Hudson County seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

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

Mr. Rowinski gave an update on the FY 2025 Freight Concept Development Program, which is a four-part contract running through June 2027. This includes two concept development studies: the Southern Middlesex County North-South Truck Corridor Project in Cranbury and Monroe and the East Hanover Avenue Bridge Cannery Rail Clearance Project in Morris Plains and Morris Township. The contract also includes a preliminary screening for plate F vertical rail clearance in Perth Amboy and general program support.

Mr. Rowinski said data collection is ongoing. The team is preparing base maps for the two concept development studies to assist in developing future alternatives. Draft purpose and need statements have been developed for both studies. He said these statements are critical as they will guide the development of solutions and will be used to screen and score alternatives. Next steps include stakeholder and public outreach over the coming months to finalize the purpose and need statements.

### **IV. Presentations: Regional Rail Freight Update**

Mr. Rowinski introduced Arthur Feygelson, Manager of Industrial Development for Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the Province of Quebec at CSX Transportation;

Kevin Hoffman, Associate Member of the New Jersey Railroad Association (NJRRA) and Bob Bailey, NJRRA President; and Michael Fesen, Executive Director of Government Relations at Norfolk Southern Railway, to give an update on regional rail freight. Mr. Feygelson said CSX serves the eastern half of the United States, from Chicago and New Orleans east to the Atlantic. This area represents a 20,000-mile network and serves all the major ports within their service territory. CSX reinvests about \$2.5 billion back into the company annually for infrastructure, and the company is currently valued at \$14.5 billion. Over 60 percent of the revenue is from freight merchandise trains and has evolved over the last seven to ten years when coal was the railroad's top commodity.

Mr. Feygelson said major regional infrastructure projects at CSX include the Howard Street Tunnel in Baltimore, with completion expected before the end of 2025. Two bridges that need to be raised to allow double-stack container trains to move up and down the I-95 corridor are expected to be completed by early 2026.

The NJRRA speakers provided an overview of the group, its members, and their activities advocating, supporting and promoting freight rail in the state. The membership includes not only the railroads that operate in New Jersey, but also railroad consultants, contractors and suppliers. Their activities focus on education, safety and business development.

Norfolk Southern provided an update on its recently announced merger with Union Pacific. The boards of both companies have agreed that Norfolk Southern would be purchased by Union Pacific. If approved by the federal Surface Transportation Board, the deal would create the first transcontinental railroad in the United States and the third in North America. The other two are Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. The approval process is likely to take about two years and will include a great deal of stakeholder outreach.

The complete meeting recording can be found [here](#). Following the presentations, participants asked questions on topics related to the [presentation](#). Questions and responses can be found in the meeting recording.

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

Mr. Rowinski asked for updates from committee members. Andras Holzmann, who is not on the FIC but represents Passaic County as a Board alternate, shared that the county's subregional study on truck movements and safety in urban areas is getting underway and he looks forward to sharing additional information with the committee.

#### **VII. Next meeting: October 20, 2025 (Virtual)**

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Union County made a motion to adjourn at 2:12 p.m., Somerset County seconded, and it carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee**

**Attendance**

**August 18, 2025**

<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>	
Mark Kataryniak	Hudson County
Chris Townley	Middlesex County
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Dolores Martinez Wooden	City of Newark
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Charles Burton	Citizens Representative
Dorian Smith	Gov's Authorities Unit
Hon. Sara Sooy	Somerset County
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Janice Doyle	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
<b>OTHERS</b>	
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Adam DiSarro Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Arthur Feygelson	CSX
Jack Kanarek	Dewberry
Mark Kataryniak Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Bob Hornby Brendan Lamb Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Scott Parker	Jacobs
Kevin Stephens	Morris County
Bob Bailey Kevin Hoffman	NJRRA

Michael Fesen Rick Crawford	Norfolk Southern Railway
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
Nipa Maniar	NJDOT
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Amanda Valdes Blair W. Kelly Daniel Gastaldi Liz Langmaid Todd Goldman	PANYNJ
Ken Wedeen Samantha DeAndrea	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Sabrina Causley	TETC
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Charlie Romanow	WSP, Advisory Services
Crystal Almanzar	
Evan Hanson	
George Bulow	
Grace Dragna	
Liz Ward	
Michael Angell	
Sara Walfort	
Syd Chan	
Victor F	
Vincent Masciandaro	