



FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Meeting Agenda

June 15, 2026

1:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/92470191402?pwd=2EwzvdNYOJyegO1NIQnQnd3t34MqWa.1>

Meeting ID: 924 7019 1402

Passcode: 302676

833-548-0276 (Toll Free)

888- 788- 0099 (Toll Free)

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Sofia Kyle, Central Staff
- IV. Presentations: NJDOT Statewide Freight Plan Update
 - Janice Marino-Doyle, Program Lead, Office of Freight Planning, New Jersey Department of Transportation
 - Steve Chiaramonte, Vice President, Transportation Planning, WSP
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2026 (Virtual)
- VII. Adjournment



Charles Kenny, Chair
Jason J. Sarnoski, First Vice Chair
David W. Behrend, Executive Director

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Stephen Shaw, Chair
Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2026

I. Roll Call of Members

Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) Chair Stephen Shaw, Morris County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and 10 voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Union County moved the minutes of the February 17, 2026, meeting and the City of Newark seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Sofia Kyle, Central Staff, shared a freight activity update. She said the NJTPA is moving forward with its Freight Concept Development Program Projects, focusing primarily on the Southern Middlesex County North-South Truck Corridor Project and the East Hanover Avenue Bridge Catenary Rail Clearance Project. The NJTPA is also evaluating alternatives and performing preliminary screening for vertical rail clearance in Perth Amboy, alongside general program support for studies expected to wrap up in 2027. Additionally, an e-commerce delivery mitigation project is scheduled to begin in July, and updates on these initiatives will be provided shortly. Ms. Kyle also noted that a Passaic County Urban Corridor Trucking Study is launching later this year to examine trucking operations within Passaic County.

IV. Presentation: State of the Port Update

The Chair introduced Bethann Rooney, Director, Port Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and John Nardi, President, Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey, who presented the Annual Port Update

Ms. Rooney said, last year, the Port handled 8.9 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEU), up 2.3 percent over 2025 and 4.3 percent over its forecast. She said that New York & New Jersey is predominantly a truck port with 85 percent of its volume remaining within about 250 miles of port facilities, compared with 719,000 rail lifts, or about 8 percent of the TEUs.

Automobiles through the Port dropped by about 12 percent from the previous year, to 365,000, a decline that Rooney attributed to tariff-related impacts. Some 3.1 million metric tons of bulk cargo were handled, which includes materials, such as cement, road salt, edible oils, and orange juice concentrate.

About 846,000 cruise passengers departed from Bayonne but close to 2.5 million passengers in all took cruises out of the Port of New York and New Jersey, including terminals in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

The PANYNJ projects between twelve million and seventeen million TEUs through the Port by 2050. The lower end of that range is based on focusing on the local market, Rooney said, while the higher end includes the discretionary market that could go to ports elsewhere, such as, California and Virginia, to reach the middle of the country.

To accommodate this anticipated growth, the Port has undertaken major infrastructure improvements. Raising the Bayonne Bridge and deepening the channels to 50 feet has allowed the Port to handle ships with more than 9,000 TEUs. Approximately one-third of the ships coming into the Port today were unable to use the channels prior to these projects, according to Ms. Rooney. The Port recently welcomed its largest ship yet at almost 17,000 TEUs.

Ms. Rooney said, with the help of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Port will work to deepen 28 miles of federal channels to 55 feet and selectively widen in certain locations.

In April, the Port entered a 30-year extension with APM terminals, following a similar 33-year extension with Maher Terminals in December. That now leaves the Port's five major terminals with leases that run through between 2047 and 2063.

The latest longshoremen's contract was finalized in March 2025, following a three-day strike in October 2024, which ended with an agreement on wages and allowed for several more months to conclude negotiations. Automation was the most controversial aspect of negotiations, Nardi said, and likely to continue to be going forward for the industry but even more so for the Port. He said labor sees automation as an existential issue for many industries and this will be a point of contention in future contracts. Technology and automation provide for more cargo density, which is a challenge since land is limited. He said the goal is to make better use of the existing space.

As of 2024, the Port accounted for 580,000 total jobs, including 277,000 directly associated with the Port, he said. That is in addition to an estimated \$163 billion in business activity, \$57 billion in personal income, and more than \$18 billion in federal, local, and state tax revenues.

The Port has been responsible for growing jobs for years according to Mr. Nardi, from 296,000 in 2012 to 400,000 in 2016, and 506,000 in 2019, and a peak of 560,000 at the height of COVID when volume was off the charts. He said the Port needs to continue to evolve to maintain its preeminent position on the East Coast. Following the presentation, the presenters took questions. Questions and responses can be found in the meeting [recording](#).

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

The Chair asked for updates from committee members. Commissioner Shaw said that Morris County was recently awarded a \$318,000 grant from NJDOT's Rail Freight Assistance Program to rehabilitate a bridge in Rockaway Borough that carries the county-owned Dover and Rockaway Railroad over a Rockaway River tributary. This is a 76-foot-long single-span bridge that was constructed around 1910. He said the grant includes much-appreciated funding to sandblast and paint the bridge and repair corroded steel. He expressed his gratitude to the NJDOT for their continued support.

Janice Doyle from the NJDOT said they have created a FIFA flyer for the freight stakeholders in the Philadelphia and Meadowlands areas highlighting FIFA event information, how it may impact traffic and advising to adjust schedules accordingly. Ms. Doyle also thanked everyone on the call who provided help. The flyer will be distributed to stakeholders and anyone who has not received it.

Stephan Pezdek from PANYNJ said that Ms. Rooney covered everything in her presentation and re-emphasized that the PANYNJ will continue to coordinate with New York City regarding freight deliveries around FIFA.

Mark Kataryniak, Hudson County, said Hudson is one of the ground zero counties for FIFA impact with respect to traffic congestion in the area. The county is managing roadway infrastructure because secondary roads are going to experience significant impacts. Hudson County is placing similar moratoriums on road openings and anything that would reduce travel lanes. Mr. Kataryniak added that the consolidation and dissemination of information has been a challenge with regard to state plans versus individual municipalities.

VII. Next meeting: June 15, 2026 (Virtual)

VIII. Adjournment

Union County made a motion to adjourn at 2:19 p.m., City of Newark seconded, and it carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives Committee

Attendance

April 20, 2026

VOTING MEMBERS

Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
James D. Adams	City of Newark
Mark Kataryniak	Hudson County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Hon. Michèle Delisfort	Union County
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Blair Gerold	Gov's Authorities Unit
Janice Marino-Doyle	NJDOT
Stephan Pezdek	PANYNJ
Charles Burton	Citizens Representative

OTHERS

Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
John Nardi	Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey
Tanner Thul	Hudson County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
John Hayes	Morris County
Meghna Hari	Middlesex County
Tamer William and Nipa Maniar	NJDOT
Antonia Patti and Adam DiSarro	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield, Bethann Rooney Todd Goldman, Blair Kelly, Kyle McGraw, Liz Langmaid	PANYNJ
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen and Samantha De Andrea	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Rob Schiffer	FuturePlan Consulting
Katie Kirk	Cambridge Systematics
David Murzda	Conrail
Chris Lutick	NJMTA
Stephanie Finch and Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP
Abigail Jackson	RPA
Anne Strauss-Wieder	

Crystal Almanzar	
Dr. Jobi Odeneye	
Frank Capo	
George Bulow	
Jeffrey Messinger	
Kathleen Bertinato-Vadas	
Lisa Yakomin	The Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern
Nusrat Jahan	
Rickie Clark	FHWA-NJ
Ryan Flanagan	
Schulein	
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
Stephanie David	
Stephen Lyman	
Steven J. Kress	
Vin Palmieri	
Vincent Masciandaro	