



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
June 15, 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 nine voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

Union County moved the minutes of the April 20, 2026, meeting and Hudson County seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Sofia Kyle, Central Staff, said NJTPA is continuing to work on the Southern Middlesex County North Truck Corridor Project, and the East Hanover Avenue Bridge Catenary Rail Clearance Project through the Freight Concept Development Program.

NJTPA plans to kick off the E-commerce Delivery Mitigation study soon, which will look at e-commerce strategies in urban areas. Staff will give a presentation to the FIC once the study begins and again closer to the completion of the work to discuss the outcomes. Another upcoming project is the Passaic County Urban Core Trucking Study, which kicked off this month through the Subregional Studies Program.

Ms. Kyle asked the meeting participants to answer a brief poll question about their affiliations, which included county, public agencies, municipalities, members from the freight industry, and consultants.

IV. Presentation: Statewide Freight Plan Update

The Chair opened the discussion on the New Jersey Statewide Freight Plan Update by introducing the guest presenters. Janice Marino-Doyle, who leads the Office of Freight Planning within the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and Steve Chiaramonte, a Vice President and Transportation Planner with WSP who is working on the freight plan update.

Mr. Chiaramonte said the goal of the presentations was to gather feedback on local priorities and challenges from stakeholders in the areas of the state with the most intense freight activity. Chiaramonte noted that they would be joined by Stephanie Finch from WSP and Nipa Maniar from NJDOT and encouraged attendees to participate in the live poll questions to help shape the plan's development.

Ms. Marino-Doyle provided an overview of the Office of Freight Planning. Historically, her office has supported statewide freight planning, led the Freight Advisory Committee, and managed the National Highway Freight Program funding. Her office also manages a freight management system to prioritize highway projects, utilizes checklists to inform staff about corridor activity, maintains the state truck map, and advances topical studies such as an ongoing truck parking study.

Mr. Chiaramonte said the state completed pioneering freight plans in 2007 and 2011 to establish blueprints for investments and analyze major corridors like Interstates 78, 80, 287, 295, the New Jersey Turnpike, and Route 17. The federal government later mandated freight plan updates every five years under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2016. This was recently shortened to every four years under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. Maintaining an active federally approved plan allows New Jersey to access its National Highway Freight Program allotment, which totals about \$38 million for 2026 and over \$400 million over the next decade.

Mr. Chiaramonte said this update will build off the 2023 Statewide Freight Plan, emphasizing actionable safety, infrastructure, and multimodal strategies. Federal requirements dictate that state plans address 17 elements across six core categories: system performance, infrastructure and corridors, mobility and congestion, technology and operations, investment and governance, and resilience and environmental impacts.

Moving to the long-range goals guiding the plan update, Mr. Chiaramonte summarized eight core focus areas developed by reviewing federal policies and neighboring state plans. These areas include safety and system resilience; infrastructure condition; freight mobility and operational efficiency; multimodal connectivity; technology and data innovation; environmental stewardship and community health; economic competitiveness; and regional collaboration

Mr. Chiaramonte introduced Ms. Finch from WSP's National Freight and Logistics Team to share initial findings on New Jersey's freight economy. She said the freight sector has traditionally employed up to a third of the workforce and serves as a major driver of gross domestic products. Her team analyzed data from sources like the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Commodity Flow Survey to assess GDP, employment, and commodity flows.

Ms. Finch shared that freight-supportive industries account for approximately \$200 billion, or roughly 30 percent of New Jersey's total GDP. While this share has remained relatively stable over the last 10 years, the non-freight economy has grown slightly faster in proportion. In terms

of employment, freight-dependent roles support nearly one in three jobs in the state. Though this employment base remains highly stable, recent data indicates a minor softening from post-pandemic highs due to a tightening credit market and a slight pullback in industrial warehouse development. Finally, Ms. Finch highlighted the regional mapping of these industries, pointing out that manufacturing and retail are heavily clustered around the population centers of northern New Jersey, while wholesale operations maintain a notably broad footprint across the entire state.

Ms. Maniar, NJDOT Office of Freight Planning, presented interim findings of the Highway Analysis, which looked at bottlenecks, truck crashes, and harsh driving data. She also discussed the Multimodal Inventory, which includes projects being advanced in the state, existing conditions, and forecasts. She said NJDOT plans to meet with rail operators to understand their needs and develop a prioritized list of projects for inclusion in the 2027 Freight Plan.

Live polling was used to ask participants about their top concerns regarding freight transportation in New Jersey, the top priority among the state's eight freight plan goals, road locations where there are freight-related transportation concerns, and priorities for rail freight improvements.

Additional 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. Stephan Pezdek of Port Authority New York New Jersey said the agency is continuing to coordinate with New York Department of Transportation and the New Jersey Department of Transportation on all FIFA related activity. He also shared that a drone cargo pilot program has been ongoing for about four weeks and has moved over 1,000 pounds of test cargo back and forth over the East River.

VII. Next meeting: August 17, 2026 (Virtual)

VIII. Adjournment

Union County made a motion to adjourn at 2:13 p.m., the Governors Authorities Unit seconded, and it carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives Committee

Attendance

June 15, 2026

VOTING MEMBERS

- Chair: Hon. Stephen Shaw, Morris County
- Azeem Chaudry, Governor's Authorities Unit
- Mark Kataryniak, Hudson County
- James D. Adams, City of Newark
- RJ Palladino, NJ TRANSIT
- Janice Marino-Doyle, NJDOT
- Stephen Pezdek, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Samantha DeAndrea, Somerset County
- Kamal Saleh, Union County

OTHERS

- Varius members of Central Staff, NJTPA
- Tanner Thul, Hudson County
- Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County
- Halleigh Johnston, Middlesex County
- John Hayes, Morris County
- Trevor Howard, City of Newark
- Gavin White, Passaic County
- Ken Wedeen, Somerset County
- Addie Shiloh, Somerset County
- Tom Drabic, Sussex County
- Ricardo Matias, Union County
- Ryan Conklin, Warren County
- Jonathan Eagle, Warren County
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT
- Nipa Maniar, NJDOT
- Tamer William, NJDOT
- Adam DiSarro, NJ TRANSIT
- Alan Kearns, NJ TRANSIT
- Stephen Chiaramonte, WSP

- Stephanie Finch, WSP
- Charlie Romanow, WSP
- Rickie Clark, Federal Highway Administration-New Jersey
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Chris Lutick, New Jersey Motor Truck Association
- Michael Fesen, Norfolk Southern
- Syd Chan
- Nusrat Jahan
- Bob Werkmeiser
- Andrew
- GRE
- Rob PC