

Freight Initiatives Committee Virtual Meeting Notice:

The agenda package for the April 20 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.

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NJTPA Freight Initiatives Committee Meeting
Mon, Apr 20, 2020 12:45 PM - 3:45 PM (EDT)

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Access Code: 829-526-949

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North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

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

AGENDA
April 20, 2020
1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Meeting Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/829526949>

Call in Number: (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 829-526-949

Please mute your phone except when speaking.

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff
- IV. Annual Rail Freight Update
 - PANYNJ ExpressRail System, Cory Wyatt, Manager, Intermodal Rail Development/Port Department, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 - PANYNJ Cross Harbor Float Barge, Patrick Thrasher, Manager, Port Rail Program, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 - NJTPA Pilot Freight Concept Development Program, Scott Parker, Senior Project Manager, Jacobs Engineering
 - NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance Program, 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: June 15, 2020
- VII. Adjournment



Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair
Freeholder Joshua Hertzberg, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes February 18, 2020

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

I. Chairman's Remarks

Freeholder Kenny announced that an application for AICP and Professional Engineering CPC credits for the session was pending approval, and those who planned on reporting their credits would be notified upon approval.

II. Roll Call of Members

Ten voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee were present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Morris County made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 meeting, Hudson County seconded. The motion was carried with eight affirmative votes. Middlesex and Ocean Counties abstained.

IV. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said the Freight Division is conducting freight-related outreach for the NJTPA long-range plan update. This includes the December 9 FIC meeting, which featured presentations and a panel discussion on the New Jersey industrial real estate market, and a January 28 panel discussion with private sector supply chain executives, highlights of which would be discussed later in the meeting. She also noted that the NJTPA Freight Division continues to analyze the region's truck parking.

V. Freight Concept Development Program (FCDP) Project Selection Update.

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, said that the FCDP advances regional and local freight initiatives identified through planning studies conducted by the NJTPA, its subregions, and other planning partners. He noted that the project intake process for selecting projects for the program was developed in coordination with the RTAC and approved by the FIC at the December 2018 meeting. Thirty-seven candidate projects that require a Concept Development study but do not have another path toward implementation were scored according to FCDP criteria and submitted to the subregions for review. Two projects were selected for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 FCDP implementation:

- Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project in Roxbury, Morris County
- Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project in Bound Brook, Somerset County

Mr. Rowinski said the Project Prioritization Committee endorsed the selected projects and, pending Board approval in March, work on the projects will start in early FY 2021.

VI. Plan 2050 Overview

Lois Goldman, Central Staff, explained that Metropolitan Planning Organizations are required to update their long-range transportation plans every four years as a condition for receiving federal transportation funding. The plan outlines the needs and resources related to all modes, including goods movement and non-motorized travel as well as the environment, equity, demographics, land use patterns, and emerging technologies. The plan update is slated for Board adoption in the fall of 2021. Ms. Goldman said plan development includes public outreach to the NJTPA's 15 subregions, a financial element, and the publication of several background papers ahead of plan adoption. She said stakeholder engagement on freight movement started with the January panel discussion with private sector supply chain executives, and key points that emerged from that discussion will be integrated into the long-range plan and other efforts. Freeholder Kenny noted that the January 28 discussion was very informative, and the committee learned that the private and public share some of the same issues.

VII. Presentation and Moderated Discussion

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said she was pleased with how many private sector organizations agreed to participate in the January event. Every mode and aspect of the supply chain was represented, including trucking companies, railroads, industrial space developers, integrated carriers, and end-users. She said participants discussed the positive aspects of doing business in the region, which features a strong economy, a large and dense consumer market, the second-largest port in the nation, and infrastructure improvements such as raising the Bayonne Bridge and widening the New Jersey Turnpike.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the panelists noted challenges as well: Traffic congestion, workforce shortages, and insufficient last-mile commuting options for workers, to name a few. Ms. Strauss Wieder said they pointed out that public sector wanted more input and collaboration on decisions

and policy that affect how they do business. Also, more work is needed to streamline the approvals and permitting processes.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder asked FIC committee members for their opinions about the state of the region's transportation system. Their responses revealed agreement with the private sector opinions in many areas. They expressed the need for more public/private communication and collaboration--before industrial development commences and infrastructure improvements are implemented--to address unintended consequences to peripheral communities and take workforce needs into account. They advocated incorporating logistics career options into education curricula, early on, and augmenting vocational/technical education. Making better use of port adjacent properties already zoned for freight use and educating rural communities about the benefits of warehouse/distribution development were also mentioned.

Concerning workforce education, Ms. Strauss-Wieder highlighted some ongoing workforce development activities. She noted that the Council on Port Performance has a workforce development implementation team involving the private and public sectors, and the NJTPA hosts the team's quarterly meetings. Middlesex County Community College was just certified by the U.S. Department of Labor to offer programs in logistics apprenticeships. Newark is heavily involved in career development initiatives. Several additional education systems (including Union County and Jersey City) have also introduced logistics and supply chains early on as career opportunities.

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

Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT noted that the state will have invested \$100 million in rail infrastructure during the last four years through the Rail Freight Assistance Program.

IX. One-Minute Reports from Meeting Participants

James Sherman, COO, Climate Change Mitigation Technologies, urged the NJTPA to consider approving CMAQ funding for zero-emissions electric trucks as a carbon management strategy.

Quincy Hendricks, CEO, World Tire Wholesale, said that the company has many customers whose trucking businesses are suffering greatly due to congestion and long waits while operating at the port.

Freeholder Kenny announced that Middlesex County has created a new transportation department and noted his interest in marine highway development proposed for Port Raritan.

Stephanie Finch, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), said the agency is working with NJDOT on the continued development of a regional network of truck enforcement sites to protect public infrastructure investment. She pointed out that overweight vehicles are a significant problem.

Liza Betz, Union County, announced a kickoff for a new truck mobility study to better plan for freight movement as downtowns become more crowded.

Lou Millan, NJ TRANSIT, said the agency will be working with MPOs to update the State Rail Plan.

George Ververides, Middlesex County, advocated for combining the state, county, and municipal transportation plans to achieve a more cohesive approach.

X. Next meeting

Freeholder Kenny announced that the next meeting of the FIC is scheduled on April 20, 2020.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
February 18, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. John Kelly (Vice Chair)	Ocean County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Stephanie Finch	PANYNJ
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Kate Kirk	Cambridge Systematics
James Sherman	CCMT
Dan Mulligan	GCT USA LP
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Bruce McCracken	Middlesex County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Mary Ameen	NJTPA
Lois Goldman	NJTPA
Elizabeth Johnson	NJTPA
Keith Hamas	NJTPA
Karen Rosenberger	NJTPA
Michael Fesen	NS
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
John Ernst	Ocean County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Felicia Park-Rogers	Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Liza Betz	Union County
Quincy Hendricks	World Tire Wholesale
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP