



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

August 16, 2021

1:00 PM (East Coast Standard Time)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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Access Code: 122-027-765

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff
- IV. Effective Urban Goods Movement Management Strategies
 - New York City, Diniece Mendes, Director, Freight Mobility, New York City Department of Transportation
 - Washington, DC, Laura MacNeil, Freight & Urban Delivery Planner, District Department of Transportation
 - Seattle, Andisheh Ranjbari, PhD, Director, Urban Freight Lab, University of Washington
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: October 18, 2021
- VII. Adjournment



FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2021

I. Roll Call of Members

Freight Initiatives Committee Chair Commissioner Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were 11 voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present. The Commissioner noted that NJTPA applied for 1.5 AICP credits and 1.5 Professional Engineering CPC credits for the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting was made by Hudson County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Freight Concept Development Program continues with two projects, the Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project in Morris County and the Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project in Somerset County. Details on these projects can be found on the NJTPA website at <https://njtpa.org/2021FCDP.aspx>.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that NJTPA and the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum are working collaboratively with TRANSCOM to address emergency truck parking needs in the four-state region of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. She indicated that truck parking issues are associated with federal hours of service regulations; staging at the Port, production facilities and warehousing; and emergency parking. TRANSCOM, in collaboration with NJTPA, held a meeting in April with roadway operators, state police and other public entities that direct truck drivers as to where to go in an emergency. The discussion considered the effect of current practices and explored ideas for potential locations under public control that should be considered if drivers must get off the road and cannot be accommodated at existing truck parking locations. Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the Federal Highway Administration provided a grant to TRANSCOM to hire a graduate student to compile a list of these public properties, based on specific criteria as identified during the April meeting. Such areas include state parks adjacent to roadways, park-and-ride locations and weigh stations.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said workforce and capacity shortages were challenging supply chains as demand rebounds as the pandemic ebbs. She said the pandemic accelerated e-commerce demand

by three years, and consumers increasingly embrace the convenience of buying online for in-store pickup (BOPIS).

Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that largest new vessel to call on the East Coast, the Marco Polo, which is capable of handling 16,200 TEUs, recently entered the Port and will not be the largest for long as even larger vessels are expected to call on the Port in the near future.

III. Presentations:

Bob Costello, Chief Economist for the American Trucking Associations, said the surge in demand for goods movement covers all aspects of freight, including consumer goods being boosted by a tremendous growth in e-commerce; demand for construction materials driven by home building activity at a level greater than before the Great Recession; and expanding manufacturing despite the pandemic and international competition. Mr. Costello said the industry response to this growth is being hampered by a shortage of over 100,000 truck drivers nationally. He said the driver shortage is caused by a number of structural factors including: an older workforce and restrictions preventing people under 21 from becoming drivers; very few women drivers (only 7 percent compared to 42 percent for other jobs); and drug and alcohol screening banning drivers, including for marijuana use.

Mr. Costello said increased pay for drivers is not necessarily the only solution. Often, given the grueling nature of the work – especially for long haul drivers – other factors can matter more, including avoiding spending long stretches away from home. Many choose to make less money and be home every day, so they are switching to companies serving local markets or taking advantage of increased pay to work fewer hours.

Daniel Murray, Senior Vice President of the American Transportation Research Institute, said a recent report by his organization found that truck parking was drivers' top concern, beating out wages/compensation for the first time. He said the daily difficulties of finding safe parking contributed to drivers leaving the industry, and the issue could impair the nation's ability to meet freight demands. He noted that providing secure and safe parking is particularly important for attracting more women drivers. Mr. Murray said, also of great concern is a growing shortage of diesel mechanics to service more sophisticated – and eventually automated – trucks and rising costs for insurance, which often places the largest burdens on small operators.

Thomas Weakley, Director of Operations at the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, said the organization's members faced an "extremely difficult" 2020 due to the loss of business and the tight profit margins on which they operate. But with the recovery, he said, most are now benefiting from a growing demand for freight hauling and increasing prices. He said, in contrast to staff shortages facing large trucking companies, there is a growing demand by truckers to become owner-operators, and applications for authorization to become independent are up 60 percent from last year, reflecting in part the greater flexibility and ability to choose shorter trips afforded by independence.

Mr. Weakley also commented on the importance of expanding truck parking, noting that drivers can face "ripple effects" from the failure to find parking – committing violations of service hours, continuing to drive when fatigued, longer idling and being forced to park illegally and unsafely. He said other pressing issues facing owner-operators include the growing burden of

tolls and congestion pricing; delays at ports due to backups in processing ship cargoes; growing pressures to meet tight delivery timeframes as a result of consumer demands; and unfair insurance rates with threats of further increases and new regulations.

A recording of the meeting and the presentation slides are available at <https://www.njtpa.org/June2021FIC.aspx>.

IV. Two-Minute Reports by Committee Members

Stephanie Finch, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), said that, in May, the PANYNJ released Requests for Proposals for aviation consulting services to address the growing air cargo demand at Newark Airport. She reported also that TEU volume rose about 20 percent in April (year-over-year), and there was a 5.8 percent increase in rail lifts. Air cargo is still down over last year but increasing. She said truck traffic volume is normalizing in fits and starts.

Andrew Ludasi, New Jersey Department of Transportation, said work on the 2022 update of the New Jersey State Freight Plan is underway. Alan Kearns, NJ TRANSIT, said the agency is working on an update of the State Rail Plan.

Tom Drabic, Sussex County, said the county Planning and Economic Development Division was glad to see the recent groundbreaking in Sparta Township for a commercial industrial development that will have direct national standard rail access to the NYS&W railroad.

Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, said freight concept development work on the Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project is progressing nicely as the County works with a consultant team and NJTPA freight staff. He said the County is looking forward to the concepts that will be developed by the study.

Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County, said findings from the Union County Truck Mobility Study will be available soon. She said the County is concerned about meeting increased freight hauling demand, but safety issues for both truckers and the public are very important as well.

V. Next meeting:

Commissioner Kenny announced that the next meeting of the FIC is scheduled August 16, 2021. The meeting will feature presentations from three leaders in urban freight movement practices in New York City, Washington DC, and Washington State.

VI. Adjournment

At 2:38 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Union County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
June 14, 2021

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Chris Carney	Sussex County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
John Ernst	Ocean County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Stephanie Finch	PANYNJ
OTHERS	
Dan Murray	American Transportation Research Institute
Bob Costello	American Trucking Associations
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Katie Kirk	Cambridge Systematics
Richard Dunne	GPI
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Viseé	HDR
Paul Bingham	HIS Markit
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Marygrace Parker	I95 Coalition
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Beverly Morris	NJTPA
Dave Behrend	NJTPA
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA
Jeffrey Perlman	NJTPA
Elizabeth Johnson	NJTPA
Gabrielle Fausel	NJTPA
Karen Rosenberger	NJTPA
Pamela Lewis	NJTPA
Mary Ameen	NJTPA
Lois Goldman	NJTPA
Mark Solof	NJTPA
Melissa Hayes	NJTPA
Peter Bilton	NJTPA
Sascha Frimpong	NJTPA
Ted Ritter	NJTPA

Adam Lomasney	NYCEDC
Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
Charles Lious	PANYNJ
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Luke Peterson	PANYNJ
Sal Presti	Passaic County
George Thiel	SICK Inc.
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP
Denise Nickel	
George Bulow	
Gloria Huangpu	
Jim Katzenberger	
Andrew Wainwright	
Cara Radzins	
Chris Neubecker	
Dan Waters	
Grant King	
Greg Genette	
Hugh Morley	
Ivo Oliveira	
Kelvin MacKavanagh	
Mauricio Garcia	
Michael Popovech	
Miki Krakauer	
Noel Comeaux	
Rich Werkmeister	
Ronald Klempner	
Rutaja Patil	
Thomas Malavasi	
Thomas W.	
Todd Fontanella	
William Brauner	
Zac Werkmeister	