



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

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

AGENDA August 17, 2020 1:00 PM

GOTOMEETING INFORMATION:

August 17 Freight Initiatives Committee Meeting

Mon, Aug 17, 2020 12:45 PM - 3:00 PM (EDT)

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

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Access Code: 251-502-253

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- I. Roll Call of Members
 - II. Approval of Minutes
 - III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff
 - IV. Analyzing and Visualizing Critical Supply Chains
 - 2050 Freight Forecast Project, Jakub Rowinski, NJTPA and Chris Lamm, Cambridge Systematics
 - Freight Fluidity Project, Chandra Bonzie, Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Transportation
 - FEWSION, Benjamin L. Ruddell, Northern Arizona University
 - V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
 - VI. Next Meeting: October 20, 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
June 15, 2020

I. Roll Call

Freight Initiatives Committee Chair Freeholder Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Twelve voting members were present. The meeting was held virtually via GoToMeeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

III. NJTPA Freight Division Update

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said the NJTPA collaborated with 12 other government agencies and motor truck associations in four states to survey trucking industry stakeholders. She said nearly 300 truck drivers and fleet managers responded. Survey results show that key issues facing truck drivers are roadway congestion and availability of secure parking. The survey findings will be presented as part of the September 10 truck parking facilities workshop currently being planned by the MAP Forum Multi-State Freight Working Group.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the pandemic initially caused significant increases in demand for some products, affecting supply chains and causing some companies to experience shortages of inputs. Other companies pivoted operations to meet the changes in demand. She said planning for such situations will be reflected in the NJTPA long-range transportation plan. The plan will also be informed by the 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study. Findings from this study will be presented at the August 17, 2020 Freight Initiatives Committee meeting.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that the 2021 Freight Concept Development Program is moving forward with two new studies – the Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project and the Port Reading Secondary Project in Bound Brook.

IV. Presentations:

1. Port of New York and New Jersey Update

Bethann Rooney, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ) briefed the Committee on the status of the agency' operations. She said all port facilities are open for business and are following CDC guidelines for health and safety. Crucial to the port's freight movement continuity is collaboration, communication and coordination with ocean carriers, terminal operators, harbor trucking concerns, warehouses and distribution centers, government partners, and others.

Ms. Rooney said that container volumes at the port declined 3 to 4 percent through the end of April. While significant, she said that is much less than the 30 percent decline some expected. However, she noted other Port Authority facilities had more drastic losses: 90 percent drops in airport travelers and PATH ridership, and a 60 to 70 percent decline in bridge and tunnel traffic. Ms. Rooney noted that, despite the COVID-19 downturn, the PANYNJ expects volumes to reach 2019 levels by 2021.

Ms. Rooney said key PANYNJ capital investments continue, including the Port Street Corridor Improvement Project, off-port rail improvements and a wharf replacement program. Also, the Express Rail network, which serves Conrail, CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads is now complete, with the capacity for 1.5 million lifts.

Ms. Rooney said planning work guided by port master plan is underway with an eye toward the expected doubling or tripling of port volume in the next 30 years. Projects include the following:

- Navigation Improvement Study with the Army Corps of Engineers to help determine whether enhancement and additional capacity for container terminals is built on the west or east side of the Bayonne Bridge.
- Marine highway development with partners in New Jersey and New York to utilize underused waterways for the distribution of cargo
- Planning for safety, security and environmental issues and adopting a mid-term goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035, which involves phasing out heavy trucks and equipment.
- Continuing the PANYNJ commitment to engaging National Women's Business Enterprise certified businesses and the nearby workforce in port-related businesses.

2. Council on Port Performance (CPP) Activities

John Nardi, New York Shipping Association, said the CPP had planned to focus in 2020 on workforce development, rail network optimization, and marketing and supply chain analysis. However, the advent of COVID-19 has forced the council, port and logistics stakeholders to address pandemic-related challenges. The CPP has been holding bi-weekly conference calls where each stakeholder discusses their challenges, which include workforce attrition, anticipated supply chain backlogs, warehouse space, chassis supply, regulatory changes, health and safety, and more. Mr. Nardi said there is a heavy emphasis on creating a safe working environment by providing the workforce with personal protection tools, contact tracing, sanitized work areas and

shift work to limit the number of people working in close proximity. The CPP and its partners also developed a compensation plan for employees testing positive for COVID-19.

Mr. Nardi said communication at the port is crucial to operating during the pandemic and preparing for the economic restart and recovery. He said communication channels include: The Area Maritime Security Committee, chaired by the U.S. Coastguard; and weekly conference calls with the PANYNJ, labor management, terminal operators, chassis providers, truckers and railroads. Mr. Nardi noted that the CPP is on the Governor's Economic Restart & Recovery Council.

3. Port Raritan

Genevieve Clifton, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), said the current crisis has underlined the need for improving logistics redundancy, such as through marine highways. She said the Raritan Center business park offers a prime opportunity for this, because Port Raritan is at the confluence of rail, water and highway transportation facilities. This includes access to the New Jersey Turnpike, shortline rail service and a wharf on the Raritan River. Along with public/private partners, NJDOT is working toward further developing Port Raritan as a multimodal hub for moving cargo. Ms. Clifton said the federal Maritime Administration (MARAD) has called for a marine highway ("M-95") along the Atlantic coast, and this project would support that. She said NJDOT will seek MARAD support for the Port Raritan project as well as other grant applications.

Ms. Clifton outlined potential plans for the site and said services there could include barges carrying "roll-on, roll-off" truck trailers delivered to New York City and surrounding areas. She said this kind of operation would bypass crowded highways, offering cost savings to shippers and reducing congestion, crashes and the environmental impacts of truck traffic.

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

Ms. Clifton said the NJDOT is updating its "Freight Moves New Jersey" brochure designed to help the public understand what it takes for the freight transportation system, which includes "much maligned" trucks, to deliver the goods and services people need and want. The presentation is available in hard copy and online. Ms. Clifton also said the next round of the NJDOT Rail Freight Assistance program will open in August.

Stephanie Finch, PANYNJ, said the agency has seen historic declines across all modes during the pandemic, but are seeing upticks recently. She said March saw declines in air cargo traffic at the airports including a decline of 24 percent at Newark Liberty International Airport. Ms. Finch said air cargo rates have decreased with the expansion of cargo carried in passenger planes. She said demand remains a big question, especially business demand.

Ms. Finch said the PANYNJ Economic Unit produces a podcast, "Econ Insight," which is available on the PANYNJ website and Spotify. Recent episodes feature discussion of the region's real estate market and the direction office demand might take.

Trevor Howard, City of Newark, said the city's planning department is working on a port redevelopment plan which they expect to roll out by year end. He said he looks forward to talking with Central Staff members to get insight on how the NJTPA can assist in the effort.

Doug Greenfeld, Middlesex County, said, as part of the planning process for the county's transportation strategic plan, Destination 2040, a series of stakeholder meetings was held recently and included breakout discussions on freight and trucks. He said some of the feedback and ideas discussed at the meetings will be incorporated in the plan.

VI. Next meeting: August 17, 2020.

VII. Adjournment

At 2:41 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
June 15, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Hon. Joshua Hertzberg	Sussex County
Hon. Angel Estrada	Union County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Trevor Howard	Newark
John Ernst	Ocean County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Jim Katzenberger	Accelerx Group
John Nardi	Council on Port Performance
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
Thanh Le	Jacobs Engineering
Frank Capo	Maher Terminals
Jeff Flumignan	MARAD
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Solomon Caviness	Middlesex County
Vijayant Rajvanshi	Middlesex County
James Bonanno	Monmouth County
Jerry Rohsler	Morris County
John Hayes	Morris County
Kimberly Singleton	Newark
Trevor Howard	Newark
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Angellita Young	NJTPA
Mary Ameen	NJTPA
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA
Melissa Hayes	NJTPA
Blythe Eaman	NJTPA
Anne Strauss-Wieder	NJTPA
Brian Fineman	NJTPA
David Behrend	NJTPA
Elizabeth Johnson	NJTPA
Eve Chamberlain	NJTPA
Fredicia Westbrook-Coley	NJTPA

Gabrielle Fausel	NJTPA
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA
Jeffrey Perlman	NJTPA
Karen Rosenberger	NJTPA
Lois Goldman	NJTPA
Mark Solof	NJTPA
Ted Ritter	NJTPA
Beverly Morris	NJTPA
Leslie Fordjour	NYSDOT
John Ernst	Ocean County
Bethann Rooney	PANYNJ
Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Stephanie Finch	PANYNJ
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Liza Betz	Union County
Axel Carrion	UPS
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay	USDOT
Jennifer Grenier	WSP
Stephen Chiamonte	WSP
Alan Meyers	WSP
Amanda Valdes	
Ben Ruddell	
Andrew Langer	
Darren Rizzo	
Dennis and Karen	
Fidelia R. Flores	
Jeremy Farrell	
George Bulow	
George Kinney	
Jenn Grenier	
Jim Hess	
John Donnelly	
Karl Vilacoba	
Lillian Borrone	
Mark Jaworski	
Mark Jaworski	
Matthew Dolly	
Matthew Martyn	
Matthew Waskiewicz	
Michael Angell	
Miki Krakauer	
Nathan Fenno	
Raymond Fusco	

Richard Martino	
Ron Bergamini	
Ronald Klemp	
Huajing Shi	
Stephen Chiaramonte	
Steve Schulein	
Tom Vissee	
David Wagner	
William Barnes	
Zac Werkmeister	