



North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair
Commissioner Deputy Director Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA

April 17, 2023

1:00 PM (East Coast Standard Time)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://njtpa-org.zoom.us/j/93474408184?pwd=REMwOGRmV1oyRnNYdINPc0pyQ2hQQT09>

Meeting ID: 934 7440 8184

Passcode: 611534

Dial in:

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

Or

833-928-4610 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 934 7440 8184

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff
- IV. Annual Port Industry Update
 - Beth Rooney, Port Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
 - John Nardi, President, Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey
- V. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VI. Next Meeting: Monday, June 20, 2023 – NJTPA Freight Studies Update
- VII. Adjournment



FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Jason Sarnoski, Chair

Commissioner Sara Sooy, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

I. Roll Call of Members

Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) Vice Chair Sara Sooy, Somerset County Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. There were 11 voting members present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting was made by the Citizens' Representative, seconded by Middlesex County, and carried unanimously.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said as of the end of 2022, the region has more than 864 million square feet of industrial real estate and slightly more than 12 million square feet of properties under construction. She said 33 new buildings were delivered in 2022, and 152 since the start of 2017. Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that 40 percent of leases and renewals are for retail or wholesale operations, and 39 percent are for third party logistics. She noted that there is continuing evidence of the market peaking and entering overbuild.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said, while container traffic at the Port of New York & New Jersey saw 2 million more TEUs in 2022 than 2019, there has been a recent downturn as commerce normalizes from a "super cycle" and freight container rates decrease.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said work continues updating the NJTPA Goods Movement Strategies for Communities webtool. The Freight Rail Grade Crossing Assessment Update and the Fiscal Year 2021 Freight Concept Development Program studies in Bound Brook and Roxbury will conclude in June on schedule.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said, on March 23, the Metropolitan Area Planning Forum's Multi-State Freight Working Group will host a workshop on Off-Shore Wind Development Needs and Implications for Regional Planning and Transportation.

IV. Trucking Industry Update Presentations

Darrin Roth, Vice President, Highway Policy, for the American Trucking Associations, said the freight market is moving back to historical norms after a spike in demand during the pandemic, but the industry faces serious challenges. He described New Jersey and the larger northeast region as “the epicenter” for truck driver and parking shortages and said the industry also faces rising costs of fuel, insurance premiums, equipment and maintenance.

Jeff Short, American Transportation Research Institute, reported on his organization's survey of thousands of industry executives, commercial drivers, stakeholders and others. He said findings indicate that, while fuel prices and driver shortages are primary concerns, truck parking topped the list for commercial drivers. Mr. Short said his organization also looked at the age of drivers, which continues to rise. He said 25 to 30 years ago, the largest category of drivers was 25- to 34-year-olds, which today make up less than 20 percent of drivers. Currently the largest demographic is 45- to 64-year-olds, which is not sustainable, and the industry must attract younger adults.

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

Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT, said the Statewide Freight Plan Update has been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and that awards from the state’s Rail Freight Assistance Program will be announced shortly.

Liza Betz, Union County, said the county received an award from the Safe Streets and Roads for All federal grant program and will use it to plan for optimizing safety on its roadway system, which she called “a *de facto* truck route.”

Stephan Pezdek, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, said although there has been a slight downturn in container traffic on both coasts, the Port of New York and New Jersey remains number one in the nation.

VI. Next Meeting: April 17, 2023

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
February 21, 2013**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Sara Sooy (Vice Chair)	Somerset County
Hon. Charles Kenny	Middlesex County
Delores Rodriguez Wooden	City of Newark
Mark Jehnke	Ocean County
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Liza Betz	Union County
Thomas Holl	Governor's Authorities Unit
Janice Marino Doyle	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Stephan Pezdek	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Jared Rodriguez	Citizens' Representative
OTHERS	
Darrin Roth	American trucking Associations
Chris Helms	Bergen County
David Antonio	Essex County
Rickie Clark	FHWA
Bob Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Malavasi	Hudson County
Bob Hornby	Hunterdon County
Katherine Fullerton	Hunterdon County
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
Alison Felix	MAPC
Andrew Lappit	Middlesex County
Mike Dannemiller	Middlesex County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Hon. Stephen Shaw	Morris County
John Hayes	Morris County
Trevor Howard	Newark
Adam DiSarro	NJ TRANSIT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Nipa Maniar	NJDOT
Devyn Cordero	NJDOT
Nicole Minutoli	NJDOT
Various members of Central Staff	NJTPA
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Carlos Mandeville	PANYNJ
Zac Werkmeister	PANYNJ

Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
Paul Drake	Somerset County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Ryan Conklin	Warren County
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP
J. Short	
Syd Chan	
John Reichman	
Jim Hess	
Larry Smith	
Rodney Oglesby	
Matthew Roosa	