



**North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.**

**FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair  
Freeholder John P. Kelly, Vice Chair

**AGENDA**  
**October 21, 2019**  
**1:00 PM**

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- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Salute to Flag
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities – Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff
- V. Presentation and Discussion: Port Master Plan – Vision through 2050, Bethann Rooney and Charlie Bontempo, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- VI. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members
- VII. One-Minute Reports from Meeting Participants
- VIII. Next Meeting: December 9, 2019 – Annual State of and Outlook for New Jersey Industrial Real Estate
- IX. Adjournment



## **FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Freeholder Charles Kenny, Chair  
Freeholder John Kelly, Vice Chair

### **Meeting Minutes August 19, 2019**

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Freight Initiatives Committee (FIC) Chair Freeholder Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Freeholder Kenny noted that the NJTPA would apply for 1.5 AICP Credits and 1.5 Professional Engineering CPC Credits for the FIC meeting.

#### **I. Roll Call of Members**

There were nine voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2019 meeting was made by Morris County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

#### **III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities**

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, provided a demonstration of the updated NJTPA Freight Planning web page, including current statistics on regional goods movement, the Freight Activity Locator tool and the Goods Movement Strategies for Communities tool. She noted that the latter tool is designed to help communities, developers, transportation providers and others to find proven solutions to their truck related issues. The NJTPA website also includes findings of the Freight Rail Industrial Opportunities (FRIO) Corridors Program, which identified physical impediments to national standard freight rail access. Work on advancing solutions to the impediments is underway in collaboration with NJ TRANSIT, NJDOT and the railroads.

#### **IV. Freight Concept Development Program Project Intake Process Update**

Jakub Rowinski, Central Staff, said that the Freight Concept Development Program Project Intake Process will select at least two freight projects for implementation, after preliminary screening, scoring and consultation with the subregions. The program was designed to advance freight projects that do not have a specific path through the established project pipeline.

## V. Presentations:

### 1. 2050 NJTPA Freight Industry Level Forecasts

Chris Lamm, Cambridge Systematics, lead consultant on the NJTPA's 2050 Freight Industry Level Forecasts Study, said the project aims to develop an accurate picture of the region's freight activity out to 2050. He provided an overview of the study methodology, which builds on the 2040 Freight Industry Level Forecasts and enhances other NJTPA freight efforts. Mr. Lamm said this update will include new data sources and an e-commerce element.

### 2. Council on Port Performance Supply Chain Analyses

Amanda Sea Valdés, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), highlighted activities of the Council on Port Performance Supply Chain Analysis Work Group. The group consists of a cross-section of truckers; importers; terminal operators; warehouse operators; ocean carriers; and others. Ms. Sea Valdés said the Council researches and evaluates the port supply chain network and identifies potential improvements for efficiency and productivity. She said the group also educates port users on the complex supply chain. One of the group's initiatives, the Terminal Information Portal System (TIPS) addresses the need for real-time shared information. The system is a single consolidated web portal for the six container terminals at the port.

## VI. Two-Minute Reports on Freight Activities from Committee Members

Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT, said the agency has opened an online Applicant Eligibility Assessment form for grants under the Fiscal Year 2020 Rail Freight Assistance Program, which is now in its second year of providing \$25 million, statewide, for rail freight infrastructure projects. Ms. Clifton reported also that NJDOT is working with the Federal Highway Administration and Liberty State Park to replace the emergency evacuation barge, and a \$6 million Federal Transit Administration grant will support improvements to the ferry infrastructure at the park. The next meeting of the NJDOT Freight Advisory Committee will be held on October 2, and it will feature a truck parking workshop.

Stephanie Finch, PANYNJ, reported on data from their economic team who follow various types of freight movements. She said there was a significant dip in truck traffic across the George Washington Bridge during the summer months, some of which can be attributed to a downturn in regional manufacturing activity due to the trade wars, and some of which was attributed to data collection issues. She said domestic air cargo volume at Newark is up by 0.8 percent for the year, but international is down by 8.8 percent. E-commerce numbers are up.

Freeholder DeFillippo announced that the "hole-in-the-wall" bridge clearance issue in Phillipsburg in Warren County had been addressed by the rail operator using new steel tie technology. As a result, many freight rail users in Warren and Morris counties can now receive national standard Plate F (17 feet high) rail cars. Morris County has received state rail funds, which will support the rehabilitation of the Highbridge Branch.

George Ververides, Middlesex County, said shuttle service is needed to get warehouse/distribution employees to their jobs in the developing sector, particularly in the Exit 8A area. He said the County is trying to work with NJ TRANSIT on solutions. The County is also encouraging warehouse developers to incorporate truck rest stops within their developments. Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that labor availability is the primary consideration in warehouse /distribution site selection.

VII. Next meeting:

Freeholder Kenny announced that the next meeting of the FIC is scheduled October 21, 2019.

VIII. Adjournment

At 2:05 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Morris County, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee**  
**ATTENDANCE**  
**August 19, 2009**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Trevor Howard	City of Newark
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Vivian Baker	NJ TRANSIT
Stephanie Finch	PANYNJ
OTHERS	
Liz Archer	
Matt Van Hatten	HDR
Thanh Le	Jacobs
Ron Klempner	JMR
Paul Truban	Keller Engineers
Frank Capo	Maher
George Ververides	Middlesex County
James Bonanno	Monmouth County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Jonathan Kennedy	NJEDA
Annie Dagostino	NJEDA
Mary D. Ameen	NJTPA
Keith Hamas	NJTPA
Doug Greenfeld	NJTPA
Karen Rosenberger	NJTPA
Adam Lomasney	NYCEDC
Sarah Murphy	NYCEDC
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
Matthew Lazo	PANYNJ
Amanda Sea Valdés	PANYNJ
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP