



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

**FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair

**VIRTUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**April 19, 2021**

**1:00 PM**

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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. Annual Rail Freight Update
  - Conrail, Ryan Hill, Chief Engineer, Design and Construction, Conrail
  - PANYNJ Cross Harbor Railcar Float and Cross Harbor Freight Program EIS, Kyle McGraw, Senior Program Manager, Infrastructure Planning, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
  - 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 14, 2021 – Annual Trucking Industry Update
- VII. Adjournment



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

### **FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair

#### **Meeting Minutes February 16, 2021**

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#### **I. Roll Call**

Freight Initiatives Committee Chair Commissioner Charles Kenny, Middlesex County, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Eleven voting members were present for the virtual meeting.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting was made by Sussex County seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

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

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said the region's industrial real estate market had over 850 million square feet by the end of 2020 with eleven million additional square feet under construction. She noted that, in the fourth quarter, consumer products companies led the market in industrial space leases rather than e-commerce firms.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder additionally indicated that the NJTPA Freight Concept Development Program reached a milestone with the completion of the pilot program and the start of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 program with two projects in Somerset and Morris counties. She noted that NJDOT recently awarded Morris County with a Rail Freight Assistance Program grant for the Dover and Rockaway Rail Realignment project that was part of the pilot program.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said the NJTPA continues to work on truck parking with the MAP Forum and several agencies. They have completed a four-state inventory of available public and private truck parking facilities and will be deploying a survey of drivers to help determine the best way to communicate information to truck drivers. She noted that the shortage of truck drivers continues to grow.

#### IV. Presentations

Bethann Rooney, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), provided an annual update on the Port. She said that, despite the pandemic, the volume of containers handled at the port continued to rise in 2020, surpassing 2019, but the growth was not uniform for all sectors. She said volume from the Port's three auto processors was initially down 40 percent but recovered during the last six weeks of the year with the arrival of 2021 models. Rail volume grew by seven percent, but business at the Port's two cruise terminals was down 91 percent, and bulk commodities were down 17 percent. Ms. Rooney noted that, after several canceled sailings during the early months of the pandemic, the Port handled the equivalent of eight months of containerized cargo in the last five months of 2020.

Ms. Rooney noted that Port stakeholders—including the New York Shipping Association, the International Longshoremen's Association, and the Council on Port Performance—are working to manage cargo volumes while keeping port workers healthy and safe.

Ms. Rooney said ongoing investments by the PANYNJ and its partners continue to focus on improving terminal capacity and access. The PANYNJ and Army Corps of Engineers are studying the feasibility of further deepening and widening Port channels to accommodate increasingly larger ships. The PANYNJ is also partnering with Conrail on rail improvements, including constructing the Waverly Loop north of Port Newark and design work for the Southbound Connector Project. On environmental sustainability, Ms. Rooney said PANYNJ programs have significantly reduced air pollutants in the last 10 years, despite a 47 percent growth in cargo volume.

Markus Schwenke, Daimler Trucks North America and Chris Grato, International Motor Freight (IMF), briefed the Committee on plans to electrify IMF vehicles that move containers at the port. Funding for this project was awarded through the NJTPA Transportation Clean Air Measures program, and it recently received additional funding through New Jersey's Volkswagen settlement. Mr. Schwenke said, following successful tests on the West Coast, battery electric tractors will be deployed at the port as part of the IMF pilot program beginning in 2022. He said electric vehicles are proven to lower operating expenses while benefitting the environment. The pilot includes a charging park, stationery battery storage, and solar power support.

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

Genevieve Clifton, NJDOT, said the agency's FY 2021 Rail Freight Assistance Program grants included an award to Morris County to advance work on the Dover and Rockaway Rail Realignment project, which was part of NJTPA's Pilot Freight

Concept Development Program. Also, NJDOT will open its FY 2022 Rail Freight Assistance Program for applications in July.

VI. Next Meeting: April 19, 2021

VII. Adjournment

At 2:22 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by NJDOT, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

Freight Initiatives Committee  
ATTENDANCE  
February 16, 2021

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex County
Hon. John Kelly	Ocean County
Hon. Bette Jane Kowalski	Union County
Hon. Kathy DeFillippo	Morris County
Byron Nicholas	Hudson County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT
Jay Shuffield	PANYNJ
Citizens' Representative	Jared Rodriguez
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Chris Helms	Bergen County
Alice Cheng	Cheng Solutions
Timothy Tierney	Conrail
Markus Schwenke	Daimler Trucks North America
Rickie Clark	FHWA-NJ
Robert Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Visée	HDR
Matt Van Hattem	HDR
Christopher Grato	IMF
Thanh Le	Jacobs
Frank Capo	Maher Terminal
Jeffrey Flumignan	MARAD
Travis Black	MARAD
Mike Nei	Monmouth County
John Hayes	Morris County
Layla Fryc	NJ Turnpike Authority
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Yevgeniy Galinski	NJDOT
Anne Strauss-Wieder	NJTPA
Richard Cippolletti	NJTPA
Blythe Eaman	NJTPA
Brian Fineman	NJTPA
David Behrend	NJTPA
Elizabeth Johnson	NJTPA
Gabrielle Fausel	NJTPA
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA
Jeffrey Perlman	NJTPA
Jennifer Fogliano	NJTPA
Karen Rosenberger	NJTPA
Keith Hamas	NJTPA
Keith Miller	NJTPA
Liz DeRuchie	NJTPA
Lois Goldman	NJTPA

Maria Slump	NJTPA
Mark Solof	NJTPA
Mary Ameen	NJTPA
Melissa Hayes	NJTPA
Ted Ritter	NJTPA
Beverly Morris	NJTPA
Michael Fesen	NS
Rick Crawford	NS
Adam Lomasney	NYCEDC
Andrew Glenn	NYCEDC
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
John Ernst	Ocean County
Bethann Rooney	PANYNJ
Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
Luke Peterson	PANYNJ
Amanda Valdes	PANYNJ
Hilary McCarron	PANYNJ
Huajing Shi	PANYNJ
Nicholas Raspanti	PANYNJ
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Liza Betz	Union County
Ryan White	VHB
Brian Appezzato	Warren County
Jennifer Grenier	WSP
Stephen Chiaramonte	WSP
Debbie Hartman	WSP
Alex	
Andrew Lo	
Ben Reichberg	
Cara Radzins	
Carlos Espindola	
Charles Liou	
Dan Mulligan	
James Pelfini	
Jill	
Jim Coyle	
Jim Hess	
Jobi Odeneye	
John Jahr	
Jon Donnelly	
Jonathan Yan	
Joseph B Palantino	
Julie Richmond	
Kristen Figaro	
Marygrace Parker	
Meghan Sloan	

Raymond Bragg	
Sharon Mcstine	
Syd Chan	
Tim Shea	
Tom Adamski	
Wade Morefield	