



Kathryn A. DeFillippo, Chair
Mary D. Ameen, Executive Director

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Charles Kenny, Chair

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 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 12 voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present. The Commissioner noted that the NJTPA had applied for 1.5 AICP credits and 1.5 Professional Engineering credits for the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by Sussex County, and carried with 11 affirmative votes. Somerset County abstained.

III. Update on NJTPA Freight Division Activities

Anne Strauss-Wieder, Central Staff, said industrial real estate in the NJTPA region continues to grow rapidly, with several million square feet completed during the second quarter of 2021. Ms. Strauss-Wieder noted that the MAP Forum Multi-State Freight Working Group will hold a virtual workshop on September 14 to explore industrial real estate trends and considerations. Also, the group continues to collaborate with TRANSCOM and other agencies in the four-state area to identify publicly owned locations where truck drivers could be directed for emergency parking in disruption situations.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder said work continues on two studies under the Freight Concept Development Program. The Berkshire Valley Road Truck Circulation Project is examining how to improve truck circulation along Berkshire Valley Road in Roxbury, Morris County, and the Port Reading Secondary South Main Street Grade Crossing Elimination Project is examining options for the potential elimination of the Port Reading Secondary grade crossing at South Main Street (Queens Bridge) in Bound Brook, Somerset County. So far, local officials in both counties have been briefed on the projects, and public meetings have been scheduled.

Ms. Strauss-Wieder encouraged all to try the updated and enhanced Freight Locator Tool on the NJTPA website freight page. She said current industry trends and statistics are also provided on that page.

IV. Presentations: Effective Urban Goods Movement Management Strategies

Diniece Mendes, Director of Freight Mobility for the New York City Department of Transportation, briefed the Committee on some of the city's recently deployed goods movement strategies, including a successful off-hours delivery program that is now being expanded. The program encourages businesses and transportation providers to shift deliveries to between 7 p.m. and 6 a.m. to help alleviate daytime traffic and restrictions on curb access. She said this approach has also led to cost and time savings for participating companies. Ms. Mendes said New York City has introduced a cargo bike delivery program that helps to reduce the number of vans and small box trucks, and a Neighborhood Loading Zone program to help handle the pandemic-induced surge in residential deliveries.

Laura MacNeil, Freight & Urban Delivery Planner at Washington D.C.'s Department of Transportation, said the District provides over 600 loading zones and has implemented a new system under which retailers and grocery stores can set up temporary "No Parking" signs to clear curbside access for pickups and deliveries, among other efforts.

Andisheh Ranjbari, Director of the Urban Freight Lab at the University of Washington spoke about three pilot research projects: one involves installing parcel lockers at a residential tower to consolidate deliveries, reducing the delivery time for drivers by 50 percent; the second involved creating a neighborhood delivery hub in uptown Seattle that incorporates lockers and electric cargo bikes; and the third is developing an app to assist delivery drivers with real time parking availability information.

V. Two-Minute Reports by Committee Members

Lou Millan, NJ TRANSIT, said the agency is preparing outreach for the next New Jersey State Rail Plan.

Stephanie Finch, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (PANYNJ), said New York-New Jersey truck activity at the trans-Hudson crossings is slightly down, which may be due to seasonal changes. She said overall air cargo at Newark airport increased by 44 percent since January, with a 122 percent increase in international cargo. Ms. Finch said June maritime cargo movement showed a 45 percent increase in imported TEUs and a 15 percent increase in export TEUs year over year.

Ms. Finch reported also that the PANYNJ received a \$44 million INFRA grant for the Port Street Corridor Improvement Project in Newark. She said the project, which improves the northern connection to Port Newark/Elizabeth, will create 260 direct jobs, \$5 million in direct wages and \$171 million in regional economic activity. She thanked the New Jersey Congressional Delegation and others for their assistance and support.

Ken Wedeen, Somerset County, said a briefing for County officials on the Freight Concept Development Program study of the Port Reading Secondary grade crossing was held recently. He said the project is moving forward, and the County is pleased with its working relationship with

various partners in the effort, including Central Staff and the consulting team. The first virtual public meeting for the project is set for September 13.

Commissioner Bette Jane Kowalski, Union County, commented on the recent visit to Westfield by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. She said the Secretary's comments about the Hudson Tunnel Project and Gateway Program were very encouraging. He also took questions and comments about the Raritan Valley Line, which is shared by freight and commuter rail. Coincidentally, there was a significant delay on the line at the time due to a freight train, an ongoing challenge for commuters. The Commissioner said moving freight on the rail line at night could be a short-term solution that Conrail and shippers can explore as traffic rebounds from the initial pandemic. She also said federal funding to increase the number of tracks on this line to ease congestion would be helpful.

Andrew Ludasi, NJDOT, said the SAGE website for submitting applications to the Rail Freight Assistance Program would open that week.

VI. Next meeting:

Commissioner Kenny announced that the next meeting of the FIC is scheduled October 18, 2021. The meeting will feature a discussion of changes experienced by air cargo industry.

VII. Adjournment

At 2:39 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Somerset County, seconded by Union County and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
August 16, 2021**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Hon. Charles Kenny (Chair)	Middlesex 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
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ TRANSIT
Jeffry Nielsen	Governor's Authorities Unit
Stephanie Finch	PANYNJ
OTHER ATTENDEES	
Jim Katzenberger	Accelerx
Jim Hess	AECOM
Joe Alonzo	Chicago DOT
Rodney Oglesby	CSX
David Kriger	David Kriger Consultants Inc.
Laura MacNeil	District DOT
David Lipscomb	District DOT
Jocelyn Jones	FHWA
Tyler Graham	Georgia DOT
Tom McQueden	Georgia DOT
Marlene Vivian Delgadillo Canizares	Georgia DOT
Robert Werkmeister	GPI
Tom Vissee	HDR
Thomas Malavasi	Hudson County
Carrie Fellows	Hunterdon County
Scott Parker	Jacobs
Dan Seedah	Jacobs
Jeffrey Flumignan	MARAD
Jimmy McDonald	Metro Analytics
Doug Greenfeld	Middlesex County
Denise Nickel	Middlesex County
Dede Murray	Morris County
Genevieve Clifton	NJDOT
Anne Strauss-Wieder	NJTPA
Beverly Morris	NJTPA
Blythe Eaman	NJTPA
Dave Behrend	NJTPA

Gabrielle Fausel	NJTPA
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA
Jeffrey Perlman	NJTPA
Lois Goldman	NJTPA
Mark Solof	NJTPA
Mary Ameen	NJTPA
Pamela Lewis	NJTPA
Peter Bilton	NJTPA
Diniece Mendes	NYCDOT
Leslie Fordjour	NYDOT
Peter Palmer	Palmer Enterprises
Blair Wegescheide	PANYNJ
Andras Holzmann	Passaic County
Sal Presti	Passaic County
Geraldine Poor	Port Seattle
Jade Adediwura	Texas DOT
Liza Betz	Union County
Andisheh Ranjbari	Urban Freight Lab
Ryan White	VHB
Syd Chan	VHB
Bailey DeJonge	
Ben Turin	
Ben Zietlow	
Beth Xie	
Bobin Wang	
Chris Mrocza	
Christina Leach	
Dan Healy	
Dan Se	
Daniel Studdard	
Denise Nickel	
DJ Mason	
George Bulow	
Geri Poor	
Gloria Huangpu	
Janie Nham	
John Kurman	
John McCreavy	
Jon Schermann	
Kaveh Shabani	
Kelvin MacKavanagh	
Lisa Marie Glover	
Luke P	
Majbah Uddin	
Noel Comeaux	

Paul Bingham	
Paul Onish	
Reese Brewer	
Rickie Clark	
Robyn Bancroft	
Ronald Klempner	
Sara Darroux	
Shane Rice	
Shang	
Sharada Strasmore	
Shih-Miao Chin	
Stephen Hanrahan	
Tim Garrett	
Verena Ehrier	
Wykoda Wang	
Yuandong Liu	