

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

*FREEHOLDER PETER PALMER, CHAIRMAN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE THOMAS DeGISE, VICE CHAIRMAN*

Minutes

March 31, 2008

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

I. Roll Call of Members

There were eight voting members present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 20th meeting was made by Union County, seconded by the City of Newark, and carried unanimously.

III. Staff Update: Freight Rail Crossing and Safety Assessment Study

Ted Matthews, Central Staff, reported that the study's inventory of 64 grade crossings on five rail lines is now complete. He said that data and photo logging continues and will be loaded into a GIS database. Mr. Matthews said that criteria to be used to evaluate the crossings were researched and developed by the consultant team. The criteria were based on three considerations: Safety, impact on community, and quality of life. Mr. Matthews said that the Technical Advisory Committee assigned weights to the criteria. The consultant team then applied them to the 64 crossings and developed a list of the 15 highest scoring crossings in the region. The study team conducted outreach to officials in the municipalities with the five highest scoring crossings to determine if any aspects of the crossings had been missed.

The crossings include: Inman Avenue, Edison; Cedar Avenue, Middlesex; Old Hook Road, Closter; Route 601, Montgomery, and St. George Avenue, Woodbridge. Mr. Matthews reported that the next step will be to develop a matrix of possible solutions for the problems identified at the crossings. He announced an April 1 stakeholders' meeting and an April 17th public meeting at which the final draft recommendations would be presented.

Stuart Weiss, Chairman of the Inman Railroad Committee, noted that, while he is glad that the Inman Avenue site was ranked highly, he is displeased with a new development near the

crossing. He said a traffic light was placed within 100 feet of the crossing, and it could cause eastbound traffic accidents.

IV. Presentations

1. New Jersey Rail Carriers

Anthony Rizzo, co-founder of New Jersey Rail Carriers (NJRC), provided a broad overview of the company—a short line railroad and intermodal municipal solid waste transport business. He explained that landfill capacity for waste from the New York metropolitan area is moving further away, and rising fuel costs, tighter restrictions on truck drivers' hours, insurance costs and many other factors make rail the desirable alternative to long-haul trucking. He said his operational plan works in conjunction with the trucking industry, substituting short dray truckers for the long haul, thereby reducing the region's truck traffic.

Mr. Rizzo explained how his Kearny-based company combines rail transport and landfill services. NJRC collects sealed containers of municipal solid waste and moves them to various transfer stations for further transport to points west and south. He said that NJRC now moves approximately 70 railcars of waste per day and could expand its infrastructure to handle almost double that volume. Mr. Rizzo also noted that the company plans to add a float bridge with a crane to the operation. He said that a float bridge would enable NJRC to transfer rail cars onto barges and float them to various destinations. He said NJRC is seeking state and federal funding to help implement the project, which will allow the company to transport additional commodities.

Mr. Rizzo noted that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) endorsed NJRC's rail transport business plan, and the Surface Transportation Board authorized the development of its 12-acre site in Kearny. The business also enjoys a cooperative relationship with the Class One railroads.

2. New Jersey's Idling Regulations

Melinda Dower, NJDEP, said that vehicle idling is inefficient, wastes fuel and causes engine wear and tear. Ms. Dower explained that idling rules have been in place for 20 years but historically were rarely enforced. She said NJDEP and county health agencies began doing extensive sweeps in 2004, and now state and local police can enforce idling regulations as well. Ms. Dower noted that idling limits apply to diesel- and gasoline-powered vehicles, including cars.

Ms. Dower enumerated current idling regulations. There is a three-minute limit, with some exceptions, such as discharging or picking up passengers; being stopped in traffic; needing an engine for lift gates, refrigeration, etc.; responding emergency vehicles; and vehicles being repaired or inspected. Other exemptions are trucks with sleeper berths in use in a non-residential area and vehicles that have not been running for more than three hours in temperatures less than 25 degrees (these can idle up to 15 minutes).

Ms. Dower announced that the exception for truck drivers sleeping in their truck's berths will end April 30, 2010. She pointed out that new technologies are available that provide alternate power to trucks at rest, eliminating the need to run engines. Ms. Dower said NJDEP has been working to lay the groundwork for the end of this sleeper berth exemption by planning to build infrastructure for idling alternatives at various truck stop facilities in New Jersey. She noted that over 5,000 "No Idling" signs have been sold throughout the state.

V. Engaging the Membership: Discussion of Future Presentation Items

Mr. Matthews announced that the Committee would return to a bi-monthly meeting schedule, and he requested input about convenient days and times. He stressed the need for the Committee to provide a two-way flow of information. Mr. Matthews said the stakeholders are a resource and asked that they contact him about ideas or requests for topics for future meetings that would be of greatest use to them.

VI. Public Comment

Elizabeth Cox, NJ Research/Information Service, and Mr. Weiss expressed their concerns about the possible installation of an at-grade railroad crossing where Route 22 might intersect with a proposed extension of the Rahway Valley Rail Road line.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous verbal acclaim at 11:00 a.m.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE
March 31, 2008

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Peter Palmer	Somerset County
Mehdi Mohammadish	City of Newark
Kamal Saleh	Union County
John Lane	Hudson County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Steve Brown	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Talvin Davis	NJDOT
Jack Kanarek	NJ Transit
OTHERS	
Anthony Rizzo	New Jersey Rail Carriers, LLC
Melinda Dower	NJDEP
Fred H. Wertz	Railcars Sequencing Turntables, LLC
Joe Scheurer	RST LLC
Don Lotz	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Bob Ba-Fu	NJSLRA
Erik Deline	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
Paul Gessner	GTC LLC
Matthew Wilie	Citizen
David Stein	Nation'sPort
Anne Strauss-Wieder	A. Strauss-Wieder Assoc.
Vince Mentero	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Fernando L. Rubio	City of Newark
Elizabeth Cox	NJ Research/Information Service
Elizabeth Spinelli	Hudson County
Alan Lambiase	RTC Properties
Walt Lane	Somerset County
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering Group
Stewart Weiss	Inman Rail Road Committee
Ronald S. Weening	A. Strauss-Wieder Assoc.
Brian Wahler	NJ Tunpike Authority
George M. Ververides	Middlesex County
Paul Truban	NJDOT
Martin Robins	Voorhees Transportation Center
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Ted Matthews	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
David Dawson	Central Staff
Keith Miller	Central Staff
Megan Kelly	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff