

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

DANIEL P. SULLIVAN, CHAIRMAN

MINUTES July 9, 2007

**The NJTPA Office
One Newark Center, 17th floor
Newark, NJ 07102
10:00 A.M.**

A. Open Public Meetings Act Compliance - Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan opened the meeting and advised that, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975, adequate notice of this meeting had been forwarded to the Star Ledger, the Jersey Journal, the Record, the Courier News, the Asbury Park Press, the New Jersey Herald News, and the Times Observer and posted in the Essex County Administration Building, Newark, New Jersey, and on the bulletin board of the Secretary of State, Trenton, New Jersey.

B. Salute to the Flag

Chairman Sullivan led the Board of Trustees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Following the salute to the flag, Marie Della Pelle called the roll. Fifteen voting members were present. (Attachment 1).

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 14th meeting was made by Sussex County, seconded by Monmouth County and approved unanimously.

E. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Sullivan noted that this year's TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) contains \$2.5 billion in funding for the first year and \$9.74 billion over its four year span, making it the largest capital program in NJTPA history. He said the TIP culminates months of priority setting, consultations and negotiations to make cost effective use of the state and federal funds available to the region for advancing much-needed projects. The Chairman noted that the Project Prioritization Committee (PPC), under the leadership of Freeholder Suzan Zellman, deserves thanks for its work in getting the TIP process to this point.

The Chairman said that the TIP represents a realistic and balanced program of improvements for the region and includes \$1.5 billion for highways and just over \$1 billion for transit in the coming fiscal year. He said this shows a continuing strong commitment to addressing congestion and other roadway problems as well as providing the region's citizens with viable transit alternatives. Chairman Sullivan noted that a full 78 percent of the funding goes to repair and

maintenance of existing infrastructure, fulfilling the principle of "fix it first" and insuring the safety of the traveling public.

The Chairman noted a few of the "big ticket" highway and bridge projects to be funded over the next four years:

- \$124 million for the replacement of the Route 3 bridge over the Passaic River in Bergen and Passaic Counties,
- \$190 million to replace the St. Paul's Avenue Bridge in Jersey City, Hudson County,
- \$27 million for the operational improvements and replacement of the Route 31 bridge over the Raritan Valley Line in Hunterdon County,
- \$37 million for the repair of the Route 37 Mathis Bridge Eastbound over Barnegat Bay in Ocean County,
- \$36 million for the realignment of Route 23 in Sussex Borough,
- \$180 million for the construction of two ramps at the Interstate 78/Garden State Parkway, Interchange 142 in Union County, and
- \$23 million for the resurfacing of Eastbound Route 80 east of Ledgewood Avenue in Warren County.

Chairman Sullivan also mentioned significant public transit investments slated for the region, including:

- \$271 million for procurement of new rail cars and locomotives to expand capacity and improve reliability for thousands of commuters;
- \$539 million for the Access to the Region's Core (ARC) Tunnel, which the NJTPA has designated as the region's highest transit priority.

Chairman Sullivan pointed out that, following up on the action taken by the Board at its last meeting regarding the ARC tunnel, the TIP includes a flexing of state and federal funding that provides the first installment of what will eventually become an additional \$1 billion local match for the vital project. He said that in this year's TIP, \$50 million in federal CMAQ funding has been replaced with a like amount in funding from the State Transportation Trust Fund.

F. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Joel Weiner reported that NJTPA Central Staff is beginning work on the tasks included in the FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP, which was approved by the Board in March, guides the work of Central Staff and the subregions. Mr. Weiner highlighted some of the significant achievements of Central Staff over the past fiscal year, many of which lay the ground work for continuing efforts.

Mr. Weiner said that a key activity and responsibility of Central Staff is to help define the region's transportation needs in ways that can generate proposed projects for incorporation into the region's long range plan and eventual funding through the TIP. He said the broadest such effort is Strategy Evaluation, which examines similar places around the region in terms of various performance measures and issues.

Mr. Weiner reported that staff has finalized place type definitions, set performance targets and estimated needs for each place type. He pointed out that this was accomplished with input from RTAC, including a workshop at its last meeting. He said the next step in Strategy Evaluation will be to explore strategies and actions to address the needs. Mr. Weiner reported also that an

Environmental Justice component of Strategy Evaluation continues the NJTPA's attention to the travel needs of low-income and minority populations.

Mr. Weiner said that corridor studies are particularly important, because they allow detailed examination of the interplay of travel patterns in a particular sub area of the transportation network, usually along a highway or rail segment. Mr. Weiner reported that two major corridor studies started this past year are in their final stages:

- Draft recommendations have just been issued on the I-78 Corridor Transit Study, identifying general locations for new or expanded park & rides and the possible use of shoulders by buses during peak periods, among other measures.
- Candidate sites for potential new or expanded truck rest stops identified by the Truck Rest Stop Study are being explored by NJDOT, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and others.

Mr. Weiner said that other corridor studies have been initiated or are under development and will commence shortly. They include:

- Development of Regional Safety Priorities,
- Comprehensive Assessment of Bus Service Needs in the Greater Newark Area,
- Greater New Brunswick Bus Rapid Transit study,
- Freight Rail Crossing and Safety Assessment, and
- Northwest New Jersey Bus Study.

He said that staff also visited general aviation airports throughout the region to evaluate access needs, and a report is being prepared.

Mr. Weiner reported that nine subregions elected to participate in this past year's Subregional Study program, with a total of twelve studies receiving \$2.1 million. Some of the topics explored were:

- Access to port facilities in Union County,
- Bus circulation in Hudson County,
- Safe routes to school in Morris County, and
- A comprehensive community transportation plan in Passaic County.

Mr. Weiner said that, at both the subregional and regional level, safety remains a driving force behind NJTPA planning efforts. He said that, in addition to finalizing plans for the Regional Safety Priorities study, staff continues to administer the Local Safety Program to fund quick and cost-effective safety improvements on county and local roads. He noted that the \$2 million in projects to be considered by the Board at the meeting would bring the project total to over \$6 million over the past four years.

Mr. Weiner pointed out two other significant efforts in the area of safety:

- Central Staff organized and coordinated the North Jersey Deer Vehicle Crash Coalition, which led an awareness campaign last fall.
- Also last fall, the NJTPA conducted 15 Walkable Communities workshops to develop ideas for improving the pedestrian environment and safety. Several communities are taking steps to implement the recommendations.

Mr. Weiner reported that the NJTPA has worked diligently to expand travel alternatives:

- During the past year, Central Staff worked with the Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) to identify new shuttle routes throughout the region, and the Board has approved funding for new services, as well as existing ones.
- As required under federal regulations, Staff is working with the subregions, NJ Transit and other agencies to develop a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan that will provide a comprehensive approach to special transportation programs for seniors, the disabled and those seeking to move from welfare to work.

Mr. Weiner said that the NJTPA also has made procedural improvements during the year. Working with NJDOT, NJ Transit, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, staff revised the Memorandum of Understanding for TIP revisions. The revisions include new financial thresholds that provide greater flexibility in adjusting project scheduling. He said that staff also worked with a subcommittee of the PPC to revise the criteria used to score and rank projects being considered for funding.

In terms of project advancement, Mr. Weiner reported that Central Staff worked to see that High Priority Projects -- otherwise known as Congressional earmarks -- move forward to construction. He said efforts included holding 20 kick-off meetings with participation by local officials. Also, Mr. Weiner reported that the Local Scoping and Local Lead programs continue to be successful in allowing subregions to advance locally significant projects. Mr. Weiner noted that, in the past fiscal year, the Local Lead program used \$64 million to fund 32 projects, 12 of which graduated from the Local Scoping program.

Mr. Weiner said that a major upgrade of the region's sophisticated travel demand model was substantially completed and was used for this year's Air Quality Conformity Analysis. He noted that numerous datasets were added or updated within the NJTPA's regional databank, including land use and land cover GIS layers, Office of Smart Growth data, and geocoded crash data, among others. Mr. Weiner noted that the subregions benefit from the Technology Library program, which provides them with needed hardware and software. Also, during the past year, Staff conducted field visits to the subregions to assess their technology needs.

Mr. Weiner said it was worthy of note that a new Transportation Clean Air Measures study was launched this past year and so far has identified a variety of candidate initiatives for improving the region's air quality. He said that, while not mandated by regulation, this study is a proactive effort to realize further environmental progress in the region.

Mr. Weiner announced that steps have been taken in two key areas to enhance the region's compliance with SAFETEA-LU, the most recent federal transportation legislation, in two key areas. The NJTPA passed an improved and updated Public Participation Plan, and it expanded its discussion of environmental mitigation strategies used by numerous agencies in the region.

Mr. Weiner reported that, as part of the planning process described by SAFETEA-LU, the NJTPA continues to coordinate its work with many other agencies. He said that, during the past year, the agency initiated close coordination with the New Jersey Highlands Council, reviewing the draft Highlands plan for consistency with NJTPA plans and policies and developing a working relationship with the council. In addition, Mr. Weiner said that efforts are ongoing to fashion a memorandum of understanding among all the MPOs in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro region to achieve improved planning coordination.

Mr. Weiner noted that further information on NJTPA initiatives, can be found on the recently redesigned and restructured NJTPA website. Features of the updated website include menus that are easier to navigate, an "In the News" feature offering links to recent transportation related news articles, improved accessibility for the disabled and a host of other features. He said that feedback on the updated website is welcome.

Mr. Weiner announced that Central Staff's Lois Goldman has become the agency's new Director of Regional Planning, and Ted Matthews has been hired as Director of Freight Planning.

G. Committee Reports/Action Items

- **Executive Committee – Freeholder Daniel Sullivan, Chairman**

Chairman Sullivan reported that the Executive Committee endorsed two action items for the Board's consideration:

1. Renewal of the lease for the office space the NJTPA currently occupies – The current lease is set to expire on June 30, 2010. The Chairman said that, given the current redevelopment in downtown Newark as well as other factors, it was decided to explore a lease extension now rather than wait another two years when market forces may drive up costs.
2. An amendment to the FY 2008 work program to add an additional staff member to support freight planning activities – The addition will bring the NJTPA staff complement to 50 employees. Chairman Sullivan said the NJTPA has made great strides in elevating its freight agenda to underscore the importance of sustaining economic competitiveness, which is due in large part to the highway, rail, port and air cargo network. He said that a robust agenda has been developed by the Freight Initiatives Committee, under the leadership of Freeholder Peter Palmer.

In other business, Chairman Sullivan introduced an additional resolution to be considered by the Board that day (Action Item #4 below). He explained that in response to residents' concerns at the June meeting of the Project Prioritization Committee, the Committee agreed to endorse Board approval of the TIP with a recommendation that NJDOT meet with municipalities and counties that would be affected by a project in the draft TIP – the Interstate 78/Diamond Hill Road interchange project. Since the PPC meeting, NJDOT indicated that there is additional study work currently underway on this project. Therefore Chairman Sullivan presented a new resolution separate from the TIP resolution which calls on NJDOT to suspend all work on the advancement of the project pending the completion of additional analysis and community consultation.

Action Item 1: Approval of a Five-Year Extension to Current Office Lease at One Newark Center, 17th Floor, Newark, NJ (Attachment 2)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Union County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

Action Item 2: Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2008 UPWP to Add an Additional Position to the NJTPA Central Staff to Provide Support for Freight Activities

(Attachment 3)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Somerset County, seconded by Ocean County and carried unanimously.

Action Item 3: Calling For Suspension of Work On Route I-78/ Diamond Hill Road Project (DB# 9141) Pending the Completion of Additional Study and Community Consultation (Attachment 4)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Union County and seconded by Hunterdon County. Before the roll was called there were comments from the floor:

- Mark Stout, NJDOT, said the department supports the resolution and had agreed to undertake additional traffic studies before moving forward with project. He said NJDOT would work collaboratively with the counties and towns involved to reach a decision on how to go forward. Freeholder Palmer asked when the study would be completed, and Mr. Stout said the study was in progress and expected to be completed by the end of September.
- Freeholder Zellman commented that attendance at the PPC meeting by several members of the public was helpful as a way of addressing all of the concerns plus any positives that may come out of resolving the issue. She thanked Mr. Stout for keeping the PPC and Central Staff apprised of developments.
- Freeholder Palmer asked what would happen to funding already spent to date if the project is terminated. Mr. Stout said the Federal Highway Administration makes such decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- Tom Perrone, Councilman, Berkeley Heights Township, expressed appreciation for the decision to conduct additional traffic analysis and requested that enough of the study be conducted after the summer to assess the site when rush hour is “in full swing.” He noted that much of the traveling public vacations in the summer, and traffic is therefore less intense.
- Al Ellis, Mayor of the Borough of Watchung, expressed appreciation for the changes made in the resolution. He noted that a traffic analysis file already exists and could provide a good start for the NJDOT study. He said he would appreciate being notified of ensuing developments.
- David Behrend, Central Staff, a read letter from Robert Scalera, Jr., of Watchung, who is adamant in his opposition to any changes in the TIP involving moving the interchange project. He wrote that “Diamond Hill is the logical site.” The letter was entered into the meeting record.
- Margaret Illis, Berkeley Heights resident, thanked the Board for its consideration in the matter and urged the Board to approve the resolution to suspend work on the project pending additional study. She said her research showed no reference to a regional plan or study for analysis of traffic movement specific to the area and its relationship to the best interests of the region. Ms. Illis urged a more regional approach and cautioned against considering the interchange project in isolation from other projects affecting traffic flow in the I-78/Diamond Hill Road area.

Chairman Sullivan closed the meeting to further comment and the vote was taken. The resolution was carried unanimously.

- **Project Prioritization – Freeholder Susan Zellman, Chairman**

Freeholder Zellman reported that at its June meeting the PPC recommended approval of the NJTPA Self-Certification resolution, which must be approved each year at the time of the adoption of the TIP. The certification confirms that the NJTPA is in compliance with all relevant federal regulations.

Next, the Freeholder said that the committee considered the draft FY 2008-2011 TIP and accompanying air quality conformity determination, which were distributed to the Board in May. She noted that the TIP document is roughly split evenly between federal and state funds and has a high degree of consistency with the Board's adopted Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS). Repair and maintenance dominate the program at a combined level of 78 percent, which is on target with the RCIS goal of 76 percent.

Freeholder Zellman noted that, as previously stated, residents and officials from the Township of Berkeley Heights attended the Committee meeting and voiced their concerns regarding the current configuration of the I-78/Diamond Hill Road project, which is listed in the TIP. She noted that additional comments were received from members of the public from both Union and Somerset Counties. Referring to the additional resolution introduced by Chairman Sullivan and approved earlier in the meeting, Freeholder Zellman said the issue had been resolved sufficiently to allow the TIP to be considered by the full Board.

Freeholder Zellman pointed out that the final air quality conformity determination, which must accompany the TIP to ensure that the mix of projects does not have a negative impact on air quality, was revised with a minor update to the emission results. She said this is due to minor technical corrections in the project modeling and an update of the model software, and the NJTPA's inter-agency consultation group for conformity has concurred with these changes. The Freeholder noted that the revised analysis very slightly changes the forecasted emissions in future years starting with 2010, but it does not alter the essential finding that the NJTPA's TIP for fiscal year 2008 fully conforms to air quality requirements.

Next, the Freeholder reported that the Committee recommended approval of the FY 2008 Local Safety Program recommendations. She said a Technical Review Committee comprised of planners and engineers from Central Staff and NJDOT reviewed all applications and recommended eight projects for implementation. She noted that the recommended projects meet the requirements of the program in that they will quickly address acute safety needs and are construction-ready.

Freeholder Zellman reported that the Committee also recommended approval of an additional one-year suspension of the solicitation of the Local Scoping Program. She explained that last year the Board approved a one year suspension in order to slow down the program's intake and concentrate resources on advancing the existing projects. Also, the \$2 million in annual funding was used to cover funding shortfalls for projects graduating from the Local Scoping Program. The Freeholder said that since that time progress has been made in reducing the backlog of projects, but it is not sufficient to warrant a renewed solicitation for FY 2008. She noted that the

additional one-year suspension of solicitation also would allow staff to complete the reevaluation of the Local Scoping Program and implement its recommendations.

Freeholder Zellman also reported that at the meeting Central Staff announced that the Criteria Update Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing the draft NJ Transit project criteria. She said the full set of updated criteria is expected to be submitted for PPC approval at its August meeting. She noted that another product of the criteria update project is a comprehensive rule book on criteria application, which will be provided for information purposes.

Action Item 4: Approval of the FY 2007 Self-Certification (Attachment 5)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Sussex County, seconded by Monmouth County and carried unanimously.

Attachment 5: Approval of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Accompanying SIP/TIP Conformity Determination (Attachment 6)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Sussex County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

Attachment 6: Approval of the NJTPA Local Safety Program Projects for FY 2008 (Attachment 7)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Ocean County, seconded by the City of Newark and carried unanimously.

Attachment 7: Approval to Suspend the Solicitation of the FY 2008 Local Scoping Program (Attachment 8)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Sussex County, seconded by Monmouth County and carried unanimously.

- **Planning and Economic Development – Freeholder John DiMaio, Chairman**

Committee Vice Chairman Elise Evans, Freeholder, Passaic County, reported that at its June meeting the Committee endorsed approval of funding for the FY 2006 and 2007 Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC). She explained that the federal program provides funding for new or expanded commuting services to connect welfare recipients and other low income persons to jobs. Changes in the federal funding structure for the program resulted in a decrease of five percent for the region this year. The Freeholder said that although new services cannot be added at this time, available funding does allow continuation of the 17 JARC services now in operation. The Freeholder noted that the total annual federal funding level of \$3.4 million for the program will be matched by the local sponsors.

Freeholder Evans reported that the Committee also recommended approval of an amendment to the FY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program that would allow for additional work needed for the Truck Rest Stop Study. She said that, based on preliminary findings of the study, additional outreach meetings and potential technical refinements will be needed beyond June 2007. She said the amendment would reprogram \$23,000 in unused funds already allocated to this project into the FY 2008 work program.

The Freeholder said that the Committee considered a series of amendments to the FY 2008 Project Development Work Program (PDWP). The PDWP contains all the project planning and development work anticipated over the course of the year. She explained that the PDWP was adopted by the Board in May and most of the proposed changes were discussed during the development of the program this spring. However, the changes were not finalized in time to be included in the document approved in May. Freeholder Evans said the changes requested by NJDOT reflect project breakouts, as well as the movement or non-movement of projects from one phase of work to another.

Freeholder Evans reported also that, following the meeting and prior to the PPC meeting, both committees were provided with an update on the status of the ARC project by a representative from NJ Transit. The Committees were informed that there have been revisions to the proposed project, both in New Jersey and New York. These revisions were the result of extensive public outreach and more advanced engineering analysis. NJ Transit said that the revisions will not change the capacity goals or the operations of the tunnel project. The Freeholder noted that the revisions will require the preparation of a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Action Item 8: Endorsement of the Rounds 8 & 9 Recommendation of Proposals for the FTA Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Competitive Grant Program

(Attachment 9)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Passaic County, seconded by Middlesex County and carried unanimously.

Action Item 9: Approval of an Amendment to the FY 2008-2009 UPWP and Budget to Reprogram the Consultant Effort Titled “An Assessment of Potential Locations for Truck Rest Areas in Northern New Jersey and the Port District (Attachment 10)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Passaic County, seconded by Hunterdon County and carried unanimously.

Action Item 10: Approval of a Series of Amendments to the FY 2008 Project Development Work Program (Attachment 11)

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Passaic County, seconded by Sussex County and carried unanimously.

- **Freight Initiatives – Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman**

Freeholder Palmer reported that the Truck Rest Stop Study consultant developed a draft list of candidate sites based on criteria developed by the study’s Technical Advisory and Stakeholder Committees. He said the draft list was presented to Deputy Commissioner Steve Dilts of NJDOT and his freight staff at a meeting in early June. At that meeting it was decided that further comment would be sought on these preliminary sites from other affected agencies prior to release of the list.

The Freeholder said that he and staff subsequently met with New Jersey Turnpike Authority officials for a briefing by the consultants. He said that both NJDOT and the Turnpike Authority are supportive of the efforts, and meetings are also being arranged with NJ Transit and the Port

Authority to gather their insights on particular locations. Freeholder Palmer noted that, because of this continuing vetting process, the board was asked to approve an extension of this study into FY 2008 (Action Item 9).

Freeholder Palmer also reported that the Liberty Corridor program is advancing quickly. He participates on both the Technical and Advisory Committees whose job it is to recommend projects and investments in support of the objectives for the corridor. He explained that the vision of the Liberty Corridor is to develop a corridor of national significance where the strengths of the state's ports, universities and goods movement system – as well as the potential of the region's brownfields – combine to create a model of innovation, research and economic development. Freeholder Palmer noted that, although the initial funding level of \$100 million is small in view of the region's overall needs, if wisely spent on cost effective and innovative projects it will be the key to favorable consideration by Congress of future funding requests in the next Surface Transportation Bill.

The Freeholder said the first list of candidate projects is already being referred to as "Phase I." He noted that, at recent meetings with Senator Robert Menendez, who championed the Liberty Corridor concept, this initial list of projects was discussed and subsequently refined. He said the refined list would be finalized with the senator at a meeting at NJIT. Once finalized, the list will serve as the basis for a Section 1301 application to be prepared by NJIT under the direction of NJDOT and NJTPA. The Freeholder said he anticipated that the list would go before the Board for approval in September.

Freeholder Palmer also reported that proposals for the Freight Rail Crossing and Safety Assessment Study were received and being evaluated. He said final scores will be reviewed at a meeting of the Consultant Selection Committee scheduled for July 11th, and engagement of a consultant is anticipated by month's end. The study is expected to be completed within eight months of the start date.

H) Presentation: Findings and Recommendations from the I-78 Corridor Transit Study

William Crowell, Urbitran, Inc. said that the goal of the study was to identify potential improvements to increase the use of public transit along the I-78 corridor between Lehigh County, Pennsylvania to the west and Somerset County, New Jersey to the east. Mr. Crowell said that Phase I of the study process was completed and included extensive data collection and considerable public outreach.

Mr. Crowell reported that next steps for the project will include NJ Transit assessment of potential rail service extension in central New Jersey and the advancement of recommendations generated by the study. The recommendations from this first stage include improvements to transit services and expansion of park-and-ride facilities, highway improvements to facilitate transit service, establishment of transit villages, and TMA activities for implementation.

Gary Johnson, Newark resident, inquired if major and mid-sized employers in the study area were contacted concerning shuttle transportation from the transit hubs to places of employment. Mr. Crowell said that TMAs have been involved in the process as members of the project steering committee. (TMAs work with employers to reduce traffic congestion by developing commuter transit options.) Richard Roberts, NJ Transit, said that most TMAs have Guaranteed Ride Home programs that address the problem.

Mr. Crowell said that results of study will be published and updated on the NJTPA website, and comments can be submitted by e-mail through the site.

Following the presentation, Chairman Sullivan introduced Board alternates Freeholder Pasquale Lepore, Passaic County; Linda Bentz, PANY&NJ Acting Director, Planning; and Mehdi Mohammadish, Manager, Traffic and Signals, Newark Department of Engineering.

I) Public Participation

Leon Goodman, Institute of Transportation Engineers, read from a statement in support of New York Mayor Bloomberg's proposal for area-based congestion pricing as a means of reducing traffic congestion in Manhattan's central business district and improving transit operations. Mr. Goodman urged New Jersey/New York cooperation in congestion mitigation efforts.

Stewart Weiss, Inman Railroad Committee, noted a recent crash involving a train and truck, which underscored his ongoing advocacy for limiting the expansion of rail freight transport in the state. Mr. Weiss also expressed concern about the lack of advance notification to communities through which hazardous cargo might be transported by rail.

William Fidurski, Coalition to Stop the (Freight) Train, said that the possible hazards inherent in transporting dangerous chemicals through suburban neighborhoods further highlights the need for an isolated and dedicated freight rail system.

On behalf of Mayor David Cohen of Berkeley Heights, Township Councilman Joseph Bruno thanked the NJTPA for considering suspension of the Interstate 78/Diamond Hill Road Interchange project, pending a traffic survey. He said the mayor looked forward to the study and any plan that would address traffic problems in the area.

J) Time and Place of Next Meeting

Chairman Sullivan announced that the next meeting of the NJTPA will be held on Monday September 10th at 10:00 a.m., at the NJTPA offices at One Newark Center, Newark, NJ.

K) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. by unanimous acclaim.