

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

*FREEHOLDER PETER PALMER, CHAIRMAN
FREEHOLDER DAN SULLIVAN, VICE CHAIRMAN*

Minutes

October 7, 2008

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

I. Roll Call of Members

Nine voting members were present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 3rd and August 19th meetings was made by NJ Transit, seconded by Hudson County, and carried unanimously.

III. Action Item

Approval of Modification Two to the FY 2009 UPWP for a Contract Extension for the NJTPA Freight Rail Grade Crossing Assessment Study Allowing for Development of Problem Statements for the Next 10 Ranked Grade Crossings

Freeholder Palmer presented the item for action. He said that approval of the modification would extend the consultant contract for the study to allow for development of problem statements for 10 additional grade crossings. Previously, the top five crossings on the list were studied in detail and problem statements were developed, including a range of possible solutions to issues found at each of these crossings. The Freeholder said that, with the action, the process will be repeated for the 10 next highest ranked crossings.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by NJDOT, seconded by NJ Transit and carried unanimously.

IV. Discussion:

NJTPA Executive Director, Mary K. Murphy, reported that the first of a series of roundtable discussions was held at the NJTPA that morning with a freight industry focus group. She said that the discussions are part of the development of Plan 2035, the federally required Regional Transportation Plan for the 13 counties of northern and central New Jersey. Ms. Murphy said

that the discussions complement the visioning workshops being conducted around the region. She announced that two additional roundtable discussions were scheduled:

- Energy and Climate Change—November 17
- Social, Economic, Environmental, and Employee Housing issues—December 8

Ms. Murphy noted that the FIC meeting would follow a similar roundtable format to build on the morning's discussion. She introduced Jack Lettiere, President of Jack Lettiere Consulting LLC, and former NJDOT Commissioner. With the aid of a slide presentation, Mr. Lettiere summarized the proceedings of the earlier focus group discussion, which he had facilitated. He said that participants included a range of key leaders representing various industries involved in freight movement in the region:

- Trucking
- Rail freight
- Ocean transport
- Port terminals
- Labor
- Developers
- Warehousing
- Distribution
- Related business sectors.

Mr. Lettiere said that the group focused on four discussion items encompassing the needs, challenges and opportunities connected to freight movement in the region: strengths, weaknesses, policies, and investments. He listed the discussion points that emerged from each category and then asked the Committee members, members of the public, agency representatives, and stakeholders for input that would augment the earlier discussion. In his closing remarks, Mr. Lettiere emphasized the value of infrastructure to the creation of wealth and economic development.

Scott Giering, Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates, then facilitated a wide-ranging discussion that addressed areas of agreement, points of disagreement, additional issues, and possible solutions.

V. Adjournment

At 2:45 p.m., the meeting was adjourned by unanimous verbal acclaim.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
Attendance

October 7, 2008

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Peter Palmer	Somerset County
John Lane	Hudson County
Steve Merman	Union County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Mehdi Mohammadish	City of Newark
Steve Brown	Port Authority of NY & NJ
Talvin Davis	New Jersey Dept. of Transportation
Rich Wisneski	NJ Transit
OTHERS	
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Stephen Kehayes	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection: Brownfields Office
Miki Krakauer	New Jersey Dept. of Transportation
Ray Tomczak	HWTP
Erik DeLine	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
Bob James	Port Authority of NY & NJ
F. DeStafane	HMM
Carolyn Feffernan	Office of Senator Menendez
Eyal Shapira	Raritan Central Railroad
Robert Beard	Port Authority of NY & NJ
M. Thatcher	Maser Consulting
Rich Brundage	NJ Turnpike
W.G.M. Goetz	CSX
Harry T. Smith	Port Authority of NY & NJ
Crystal Barnes	Hunterdon County
Lazar Spasovic	NJIT
Carl Czaplicki	Jersey City HEDC
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
Ted Dahlburg	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Brian Wahler	NJ Turnpike Authority
Chris Lamm	Cambridge Systematics
Paul Truban	New Jersey Dept. of Transportation
Scott Douglas	New Jersey Dept. of Transportation
Ann Strauss-Wieder	AS-W, Inc.
Ronald S. Weening	AS-W, Inc.
Melinda Dower	NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
Fernando Rubio	City of Newark
Suzanne Mack	Bayonne
Paul Gessner	MARAD

Betty Spinelli	Hudson County Economic Development
Olev Tareamal	Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Mary K. Murphy	Central Staff
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Mary Ameen	Central Staff
Martin Hofler	Central Staff
Ted Matthews	Central Staff
Dave Dawson	Central Staff
Jakub Rowinski	Central Staff
Ted Ritter	Central Staff
Zenobia Fields	Central Staff
John Schote	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff