

NORTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AUTHORITY, INC.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

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

Minutes

December 20, 2007

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

I. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Palmer spoke briefly about the action item on the agenda, which concerned approval of the North Jersey Truck Stop Study. He said that over next several years truck parking issues will receive greater national attention. The Freeholder said the problem is not easy to resolve, and the planning recommendations presented at the meeting would only be a first step. He noted that land use pressure and the understandable pursuit of ratables place truck parking sites low on the list of municipalities' priorities. Chairman Palmer said establishment of truck rest stop facilities will require action by state or local government, or regional authorities. He said the least desirable option is federal intervention, which is increasingly becoming a possibility.

II. Roll Call of Members

Eight voting members of the Committee were present.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 4th meeting was made by Hudson County, seconded by Union County, and carried unanimously.

IV. Presentation: NJTPA Truck Rest Stop Study: The Findings and Recommendations

Project consultants Keith Chase and Patrick Anater, Gannett Fleming, Inc., and Tom Phelan, Eng-Wong, Taub & Assoc., provided a detailed presentation on the progress of the study, which Mr. Chase said is a comprehensive springboard for the future of truck parking in the region. Mr. Chase highlighted the following achievements of the study:

- Clear objective estimate of the need and how it will grow unless addressed;
- Solid framework for identifying sites and supporting criteria that can be used in the future to identify additional sites;

- Inventory of night parking that was observed on road shoulders as well as an inventory of existing rest stop parking facilities;
- Recommendations of sites and related policy issues;
- Dialog begun on many levels with stakeholders and various public agencies; and
- Good communication with communities.

The three sites recommended for truck stop areas were: a site adjacent to the Molly Pitcher Turnpike Rest Area, the Vince Lombardi Turnpike rest area, and the Shell/Motiva Site in Newark (note: the Newark site later was removed from consideration due to development plans). In addition, it was noted that additional work should be done to identify a suitable truck parking site somewhere in the area of the interchange of I-78 and I-95, near the region's seaport. It was noted that implementation of the study recommendations will involve coordination among the lead agencies, region-wide support for ongoing development of the rest facilities, secure funding, and the development of a model ordinance. A wide ranging discussion ensued.

V Action Item

Approval of the Submission of the North Jersey Truck Rest Stop Study to the Identified Lead Agencies to Initiate the Next Steps at the Recommended Sites

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

VI. Staff Updates

1. Proposed Freight Activities for the FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Ted Matthews, Central Staff outlined freight related staff activities proposed for the FY 2009 UPWP:

- Enhanced outreach to freight industry stakeholders, including internet surveys and an interactive link on the NJTPA website;
- Periodic distribution of excerpts from the Regional Transportation Plan during the update process to garner input about the direction being taken in the interests of freight;
- Follow-up to the ongoing rail crossing study;
- Follow-up to the aviation study including development of a wayfinding system to assist travelers in getting to the region's general aviation airports; and
- Study of the potential for waterborne freight services to relieve truck traffic.

Mr. Matthews noted that a recruitment effort is underway for an additional member of the freight staff.

2. Status of the Rail Freight Grade Crossing Study

Dave Dawson, Central Staff, reported that the consultant-led grade crossing study will conclude in April. The freight rail lines that are being examined are: River Line Northern Branch, Lehigh Valley Line, West Trenton Line, Port Reading Secondary and the Chemical Coast Line. Mr. Dawson reported that over 65 crossings in six counties in the region have been examined. He said that all field work has been completed, detailed information sheets and photo logs for each site have been loaded into a GIS database, and rail and road data collection has commenced. He noted that the study focuses on safety and community concerns. He said that a website will be developed soon, and the study team will solicit comments from the public and partner agencies as the study progresses.

Following a brief general discussion, Freeholder Palmer announced that NJTPA Executive Director, Joel Weiner would retire in January. He also announced that NationsPort would hold its annual meeting on January 22nd at the NJTPA and encouraged all to attend.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous verbal acclaim at 11:50 a.m.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE

December 20, 2007

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman	Somerset County
John Lane	Hudson County
Mehdi Mohammadish	City of Newark
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Talvin Davis	NJDOT
Rich Wisneski	NJ Transit
Steve Brown	PANYNJ
OTHERS	
Mike Collins	NJ EDA
Stewart Weiss	Inman Railroad Committee
Erik DeLine	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
Bob James	PANYNJ
Walt Lane	Somerset County
James Masserelli	J. H. Cohn LLP
Brian Appezatto	Hunterdon County Planning
Fernando Rubio	City of Newark
Brian ten Siethoff	Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Harry T. Smith	PANYNJ
Fred Kirschner	NATSO
Bob DiBarzolo	Maser Consulting
Monica Tharner	Maser Consulting
Ronald S. Weening	AS-W Inc.
Gerard Von Dohler	Newark
Paul Truban	NJDOT
Bob Marcolina	NJDEP
Melinda Dower	NJDEP
Brian Wahler	NJ Turnpike Authority
Elizabeth L. Cox	NJ Research/Information Service
Andrew Feranda	Shropshire Assoc.
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT
Paul Gessner	Gessner Transportation Consulting LLC
Tom Phelan	Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates
Martin Bierbaum	Municipal Land Use Center, The College of NJ
Howie Mann	NYMTC
Katie Watson	Nation's Port
Matthew Walsh	Nutley
Patrick Anater	Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Keith Chase	Gannett Fleming, Inc.
George M. Ververides	Middlesex County
Karen Shannon	Central Staff
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Dave Dawson	Central Staff
Ted Matthews	Central Staff
Dave Behrend	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff