

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman
Freeholder Director James F. Lacey, Vice Chairman

Minutes

February 22, 2011

I. Roll Call of Members

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. There were eight voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 13 meeting was made by Union County, seconded by NJ Transit and approved unanimously.

III. Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Palmer announced that an application for AICP CM credits for the session was pending approval and those who planned on reporting their credits must sign in and stay for the entire presentation to qualify. (Formal approval has since been received.)

The Chairman updated the Committee on the Rail Corridor Study, which is part of a Request for Proposals issued by the NJTPA in January. He said the selection of a consultant is anticipated by the end of March.

IV. Presentation

Erik DeLine, Assistant Planner for the Morris County Division of Transportation, provided a detailed overview of the county's rail system, which includes three freight lines that contribute significantly to the county's economy. Mr. DeLine also detailed the County's various freight planning initiatives, which include some projects partially funded by the State Rail Plan.

Mr. DeLine also outlined elements of the Morris County Freight Infrastructure & Land Use Analysis, a two year comprehensive study examining the impact and role of the goods movement industry on Morris County's transportation network, the county's land use policy, and its economy. The study is being funded through the NJTPA Subregional Studies Program. Downloadable portions of the study are available at

<http://www.morrisdot.org/accessories/transportation-freightstudy.asp>

Mr. DeLine also discussed the rehabilitation of the county's Chester Branch freight rail line, a \$5.1 million project that is nearly complete, which was funded largely through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

During a question and answer session, Chairman Palmer acknowledged the contribution of Frank Reilly, a member of the Morris County Freight Rail Advisory Committee, who had advocated the county's active involvement in its freight rail system for several years. Mr. DeLine urged other counties that are considering acquiring abandoned rail or improving freight rail systems to reach out to their local freight rail operators.

Following the Q&A, Scott Rowe, Central Staff, spoke about the NJTPA Subregional Studies Program (SSP), through which the Morris County Freight Infrastructure & Land Use Analysis was funded. Mr. Rowe explained that the program provides financial and technical assistance to subregions for conducting planning studies that help advance the recommendations of Plan 2035. He encouraged the subregions to consider freight rail studies for future SSP solicitations

V. Next meeting:

Chairman Palmer said the next meeting of the FIC is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. It is anticipated that the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey will provide an update on the status of the plan to raise the Bayonne Bridge road bed.

VI. Adjournment

At 2:30 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by NJ Transit, seconded by Somerset County and carried unanimously.

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
February 22, 2011**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman	Somerset County
John Lane	Hudson County
Kamal Saleh	Union County
Tom Drabic	Sussex County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
Talvin Davis	NJDOT
Rich Wisneski	NJ Transit
Steve Brown	Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
OTHERS	
Erik DeLine	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
Kelvin MacKavanaugh	NJ Shortline RR Assn.
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
Ronnie Piccolo	Hatch Mott MacDonald
Jim Badgley	Eastman L innett Assoc.
Paul Gessner	Gessner Transportation Consulting LLC
Vince Mantero	PANYNJ
Dominick Fiorilli	PANYNJ
Michelle Pak	Parsons Brinckerhoff
James Savage	John D. Heffner, PLLC
Allison Fahey	The Louis Berger Group
Howie Samezsin	New Jersey Rail Carriers
Donald Lotz	Retired
Henry Butz	M&E Railway Inc.
Andrew Ludasi	NJDOT
Chris Mazzei	M&E Railway Inc.
Walter Hughes	RCC
Tom Phelan	EWT
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County Dept. of Transportation
William Sheppard	Atlantic Rail Services
Ken Wedeen	Somerset County
Bob Bailey	NJSLRA
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT
Anne Strauss-Wieder	ASW Inc.
Ronald S. Weening	ASW Inc.
Leslie Fordjour	NYMTC
Bill Goetz	CSX
Cliff Sobel	Central Staff
Ted Matthews	Central Staff
Dave Dawson	Central Staff
Scott Rowe	Central Staff
Jakub Rowinski	Central Staff
Mark Solof	Central Staff
David Behrend	Central Staff

Karl Vilacoba	Central Staff
Beverly Morris	Central Staff