



Daniel P. Sullivan, Chairman
Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.

FREIGHT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Freeholder Peter Palmer, Chairman
Freeholder James Lacey, Vice Chairman

Minutes

October 17, 2011

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He recognized Freeholder James Lacey, Ocean County, who is Vice-Chairman of the Committee. Chairman Palmer said that the NJTPA had applied for AICP credits for this session, and approval is pending. He said that the AICP credits for the August 22, 2011 meeting were approved.

I. Roll Call of Members

There were eight voting members of the Freight Initiatives Committee present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 22nd meeting was made by Hudson County, seconded by Ocean County and carried unanimously.

III. Presentations

Chairman Palmer said that, in spite of economic conditions, the movement of goods is one area where growth is evident, and as this growth continues it is more important than ever that attention be paid to the state's aging rail, highway and maritime infrastructure.

1. New Jersey State Rail Plan

Alan Kearns, NJ Transit, explained that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requires that each state have a state rail plan (SRP) to be eligible for FRA grants. Mr. Kearns said that over the next six months, NJ Transit and NJDOT will collaborate on developing New Jersey's State Rail Plan covering the passenger and freight systems, respectively. During a detailed overview of the joint effort, he said components of the SRP include: visions, goals and objectives, rail system inventory and assessment, and planning for the future. He pointed out that New Jersey's commuter and freight rail systems share a similar footprint and have a legacy of shared corridors and providers.

Mr. Kearns said the two agencies will coordinate with the state's MPOs. He said outreach for the project will include soliciting input from various stakeholders, including: Metropolitan Planning Organizations and associates, freight railroads, counties and cities, and shippers.

Mr. Kearns welcomed input from stakeholders and provided his contact information at NJ Transit: Alan Kearns – akearns@njtransit.com.

2. New Jersey Turnpike Interchange 14A Improvement Project

Steve Buente, Project Manager, discussed the New Jersey Turnpike Authority's plans for the interchange improvement project. He said project goals include: congestion relief at the intersection, mobility improvements and reduction in travel times, increased safety, and accommodations for future growth in the area. He said the preliminary engineering process was completed, and an initially preferred alternative was determined. It calls for toll plaza expansion, widening of the westbound entrance ramp to two lanes, replacement of the bridge connecting the interchange to Port Jersey Boulevard, the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor, and southbound Route 440. Mr. Buente said the preferred alternative also includes a flyover ramp from the toll plaza and Port Jersey Boulevard to southbound Route 440, improvements to Avenue E, and elimination of the East 53rd Street traffic signal. Mr. Buente said potential improvements to the areas local to the interchange will be studied also, specifically evaluation of traffic impacts within Bayonne and pedestrian access to Port Jersey Boulevard. He said project construction is expected to begin in 2014; completion is expected around 2017.

VI. Next meeting date – December 12, 2011

VII. Adjournment

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

**Freight Initiatives Committee
ATTENDANCE
October 17, 2011**

VOTING MEMBERS	
Freeholder Peter Palmer (Chair)	Somerset County
Freeholder James Lacey (Vice Chair)	Ocean County
John Lane	Hudson County
Mike Gelin	City of Newark
Liza Betz	Union County
Paul Truban	NJDOT
Lou Millan	NJ Transit
Steve Brown	Port Authority of NY & NJ
OTHERS	
Charles Meidhof	AECOM
Chris Wood	AECOM
Ronald S. Weening	AS-W Inc.
James L. Badgley	Eastman Linnett Assoc.
Stewart Weiss	Inman Railroad Committee
Scott Parker	Jacobs Engineering
John Pavlovich	Jacobs Engineering
Naomi Hsu	Jersey City
Michael Morgan	Gannett Fleming
James Greller	HCIA
George Ververides	Middlesex County
Erik DeLine	Morris County
Gerald Rohsler	Morris County
Christine Danis	NJ Highlands Council
A. Ludasi	NJDOT
Alan Kearns	NJ Transit
Robert Parylak	NJ Transit
Steve Buente	NJ Turnpike Authority
Lazar Spasovic	NJIT
Michel Fesen	NS Corp
L. Fordjour	NYMTC
Frank Scarantino	Ocean County
Michelle Pak	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Michael Lysicatos	Passaic County
Marios Phili	Port Authority of NY & NJ
Bob James	Port Authority of NY & NJ
Jackson Whitmore	Regional Plan Association
A. Lambiase	RTC
Al Meyer	Sam Schwartz Engineering
Paul Mulligan	Seashore Lines
Tony Macrie	Seashore Lines
Tom Drabic	Sussex County

James Lester	T. Y. Lin International
Dan O'Connell	UTU
Mary K. Murphy	NJTPA Central Staff
Karen Shannon	NJTPA Central Staff
Ted Matthews	NJTPA Central Staff
Dave Dawson	NJTPA Central Staff
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA Central Staff
Beverly Morris	NJTPA Central Staff