

Staff Developed Freight Policy Statements

January 4, 2016

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The Transportation Planning Board...

1. supports the prioritized advancement of freight-related transportation projects that provide maximum value, efficiency, and safety with particular emphasis on those that improve freight access to activity centers.
2. supports the alleviation of roadway bottlenecks where feasible to improve travel times and reliability for trucks and passenger vehicles.
3. supports maximizing opportunities to expand transportation options, address roadway congestion, and reduce pollution by increasing the use of passenger and freight rail.
4. recognizes freight's role in economic development and supports efforts to maximize the use of important economic drivers, including airports, ports, and intermodal facilities serving the Region's residents and businesses.
5. supports the safe and community-friendly accommodation of freight deliveries within the Region's activity centers.
6. supports improvements in truck safety using education, enforcement, and engineering strategies.
7. supports efforts to route hazardous materials away from the National Capital Region; for hazardous materials that must be transported to, from, within, and through the Region, the TPB supports the selection of the safest and most secure modes and routes.
8. encourages information sharing on hazardous materials being shipped to, from, within, and through the Region, including real-time notifications and long-term planning information.
9. supports robust first responder training and exercise activities regarding freight in general and hazardous materials transport in particular.
10. supports collaboration among agencies and with the private sector on freight planning and operations concerns to support mutual goals.
11. supports the proactive analysis of freight-related performance measures in the context of overall regional performance measurement to identify lessons learned and promote regional goals.
12. promotes sustainable methods of freight operations that are sensitive to environmental, cultural, and community resources.

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13. encourages collaboration among transportation planners, land use planners, private railroads, elected officials, and other stakeholders to find creative ways to facilitate community-beneficial land use development (residential, commercial, or industrial as appropriate) while limiting encroachment along key rail corridors that might preclude necessary rail capacity expansions in the future.
14. supports the review and study of new freight-related technologies, emerging business practices, and evolving commodity mixes and mode shares to advance regional goals.