

Focus on Freight–June 2011

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



TPB Freight Subcommittee

The TPB Freight Subcommittee meeting will be held next Thursday, July 7th at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments offices from 1pm to 3pm. Save the date for our packed agenda! To view the complete agenda, click on the link below. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

[Freight Subcommittee Meeting July 7th Agenda](#)

Fatal Truck Train Crash

An Amtrak passenger train travelling from Chicago to Emeryville, California was struck by a truck on Friday, June 24th. The incident occurred on a rural highway at a grade crossing about 70 miles east of Reno, Nevada. It is uncertain what factors caused the truck driver to crash through crossing gates into the train, destroying two passenger cars. Six people died and a handful were injured. The truck driver, who worked for John Davis Trucking, a small family-owned company, was killed in the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board will begin studies to determine the cause of the accident, such as driver fatigue, drugs, alcohol.

Read more in the Journal of Commerce article “[NTSB Investigates Fatal Truck-Train Crash](#),” June 27, 2011.

Offshore Drilling

American Trucking Associations have urged the White House to expand offshore drilling. The action would drive down the price of fuel for truckers, railroads, airlines, and ship operators. Trucking companies and businesses that ship goods have been hit hard by high fuel costs, as operating and trucking prices rise. Higher fuel costs impact consumer purchasing and are partly blamed for the sluggish economy. The expansion of offshore drilling is a big decision that does not come without environmental risks, as was evident during the Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil spill in April 2010. Read Journal of Commerce article “[Trucking Group Urges Obama to Expand Offshore Drilling](#),” June 24, 2011.

Freight Fun Fact

The freight transportation system must move approximately 40 tons of freight per person, per year. -Joe Szabo, Federal Railroad Administrator, Wall Street Journal, May 23, 2011

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

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