

Focus on Freight– January 2009

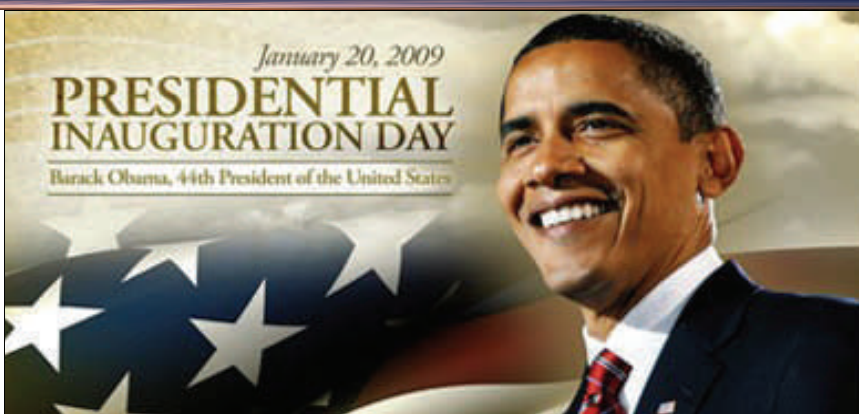
A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



Freight Subcommittee Meeting Our next Freight Subcommittee Meeting will be a lunch meeting held from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on January 15th, 2009. The meeting will take place at the COG offices, first floor Room 3. Click above for more agenda details. Additionally, TPB staff continues to develop the [*Integrating Freight into the 2010 Constrained Long-Range Plan*](#) report and welcomes your feedback. E-mail Karin Foster at kfoster@mwkog.org.

Inauguration Day Transportation

Transportation Planners are working with the Secret Service to develop a plan to move the projected 1.5 to 3 million people who plan to come see President-elect Barack Obama's Inauguration Ceremony ([link to Secret Service Information and Road Closure Map](#)). All Metro Stations will be open for auto parking except the Minnesota



Avenue Station, which will be reserved for Metro employees. The District has set aside designated parking areas to accommodate about 10,000 buses. [Charter buses must pre-register to be able to come into the city and park](#) (click link for more info). Beginning at 12:01 AM January 20th, the District will have a large cordon of roads open only to buses and authorized vehicles. There will be a vehicle-free cordon around the swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol and along the Pennsylvania Avenue parade route. See [*Washington Post, Lena H. Sun, Wednesday January 7, 2009.*](#)

The District is requesting that shippers avoid shipments from Monday, January 19th until mid-morning Wednesday, January 21st. Local businesses are being encouraged to increase their stock levels in advance. The District of Columbia Department of Transportation has prepared a letter to the Trucking Community regarding transportation considerations for the Inauguration period. See [*District of Columbia Letter to Trucking Companies.*](#)

E-Z Pass Truck Toll Increase Proposal The Maryland Transportation Authority currently finds itself in a financial crunch and has proposed a “cost recovery effort” that would increase tolls on its seven facilities, the inter-county connector, and the I-95 express toll lanes. The toll increase would impact large trucks and cars hauling trailers only. The toll increase would range from \$2-\$13. In addition, the proposal would include a \$1.50 monthly service charge on transponders and a \$21 cost for new transponders. Public comment will be accepted on the proposal until January 27th and on January 29th, the Authority Board is expected to make its decision. The Maryland Motor Truck Association commented that it is unfair to “balance the budget on the backs of the trucking industry.” [*Washington Post, Matt Zapposky, Tuesday January 6, 2009*](#)

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

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