



MEMORANDUM

TO: TPB Technical Committee
FROM: Jon Schermann, Department of Transportation Planning
SUBJECT: October TPB Work Session on Policy Aspects to Include in the Regional Freight Plan
DATE: October 30, 2015

BACKGROUND

At the July meeting, TPB Chair Phil Mendelson asked that Board members be given an opportunity to review the draft National Capital Region Freight Plan currently under development, including an opportunity to provide policy input to the plan as a complement to the technical aspects developed by the Freight Subcommittee and staff. This request resulted in the organization and conduct of a dedicated TPB Work Session held immediately prior to the October 21 TPB meeting, as a first step toward an eventual policy element.

OVERVIEW OF WORK SESSION

At the October 21 Work Session, facilitated by TPB First Vice Chairman Timothy Lovain, participants—Board members, freight stakeholders, and jurisdiction staff—discussed a number of policy issues related to freight in the Washington region, including transport of hazardous materials, the shared use of freight rail lines by both passenger and freight trains, and the interrelationship of land use and freight transportation. The group reviewed a draft list, prepared by staff, of potential policy topic areas for which policy statements could be prepared under Board direction.

During his closing comments, Mr. Lovain provided the following list of underlying principles discussed during the work session:

- Maximizing public safety in our freight planning activities
- Facilitating land use compatibility and coexistence with respect to freight transportation
- Prioritizing freight infrastructure investments, especially those related to activity centers and intermodal facilities
- Serving the region's economic development goals, including those in the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan
- Protecting the environment

A briefing on the work session to the Board during the afternoon meeting was planned but not executed due to time constraints.

WRITTEN MATERIALS PROVIDED IN ADVANCE OF THE WORK SESSION

Prior to the work session, a package of read ahead materials was provided to Board members. This packet can be downloaded in its entirety on the [TPB website](#). This package included the following items:

- Agenda of the October 21 Work Session

- Selected Policy / Strategy Statements from Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia Planning Documents
- MAP-21 National Freight Policy
- Stakeholder input from the Maryland Department of Transportation, the District Department of Transportation, Virginia Railway Express, the City of Bowie, the City of Frederick, Frederick County, and CSX Corporation
- Table of Contents of the Draft Regional Freight Plan

NEXT STEPS

Based on current and upcoming discussions, staff will craft a new policy section of the draft plan. Additional Freight Subcommittee, TPB Technical Committee, and TPB discussions are anticipated, likely including another work session immediately prior to a TPB meeting, over the next few months. These discussions will facilitate policy development, plan finalization, and potential TPB action for approval of the full freight plan, enhanced by the policy element, in early 2016.

If you have any questions please contact Jon Schermann at jschermann@mwcog / (202) 962-3317.

Potential Policy Topic Areas
For Discussion at TPB Work Session
October 21, 2015
DRAFT

TPB staff has compiled this list of policy topic areas for Board members to consider for inclusion in a to-be-developed policy chapter the National Capital Region Freight Plan. The TPB may choose to make a policy statement on some or all of the following topic areas:

1. The shared use of freight rail lines by both passenger and freight trains.
2. The collaboration among agencies and between agencies and the private sector on freight planning and operations concerns.
3. The routing and/or modes used for the shipping of hazardous materials affecting the region.
4. Information sharing on hazardous materials being shipped to or through the Region, including real-time notifications and long-term planning information.
5. The conduct of first responder training and exercise activities regarding freight in general and hazardous materials in particular.
6. The prioritization of freight-related transportation projects, particularly those that will have significant safety benefits.
7. Freight's role in regional economic development, including the role of the Region's airports.
8. The accommodation of freight deliveries within the Region's activity centers.
9. Freight-related performance measurement in the context of overall regional performance measurement.
10. Positioning the Region to take advantage of freight-related new technologies or emerging business practices.