

# Focus on Freight– August 2009

## A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



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### **Freight Subcommittee Update**

Our next Freight Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at MWCOG offices. We will discuss the Transportation Authorization Bill. More details will be shared in the September newsletter.

[Freight Subcommittee Web Page](#)

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### **Freight Program Activities**

Transportation Planning Board (TPB) staff presented a Freight Program Update at the July 15, 2009 TPB meeting. The focus was on the final Integrate Freight Report that details activities taking place to incorporate freight into the transportation planning process.

#### **Integrate Freight Report**

TPB members also discussed a draft letter of support for the CSX Transportation National Gateway Initiative. Members wanted more information regarding the benefits of this project for commuter rail and Amtrak services. CSX Transportation will provide a second more detailed briefing to the Technical Committee on September 4th. A decision on whether to support this major project will be up for consideration at the September 16th TPB meeting.

#### **CSX National Gateway General Briefing**

[Draft TPB Letter to CSX and Background Information](#)

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### **Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor**

Similar to the CSX National Gateway Initiative is the Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor Project that spans from the Port of Hampton Roads Virginia to Chicago. The project includes 28 tunnel clearance projects. This project will help the railroad avoid alternative more lengthy routes to Chicago via Harrisburg, PA or Knoxville, TN. The Heartland Corridor falls outside the TPB planning region.

[Norfolk Southern Heartland Corridor](#)

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### **Norfolk Southern Thinks Worst of Recession is Over**

Norfolk Southern, a Norfolk, VA-based railroad believes that based on second-quarter earnings, it appears the worst of the recession is over. Executive Vice President characterized it as “it does appear we have experienced a bottom in the economy.” Norfolk Southern CEO Wick Moorman commented “It does feel...like we’ve reached a bottom. It also seems likely that a economic recovery will take some time.” Similar comments have been made this month by rival CSX as well as Union Pacific and Burlington Northern Santa Fe. The railroads have had a tumultuous year trying to reduce costs wherever possible. Norfolk Southern stock has traded as high as \$75.53 and as low as \$26.69 in the past 12 months.

[Norfolk Southern Article](#)

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### **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)**

#### **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)**

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