

Focus on Freight–September 2011

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



TPB Freight Subcommittee

The TPB Freight Subcommittee met on September 15th and heard two perspectives on logistics. Jim Shapiro, the Director of Thunderbolt Global Logistics LLC described working as a “travel agent for freight” serving primarily export clients in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Robin Williams, a Logistic Manager at ITT Corporation, spoke about how the company is building out a new Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) technology for tracking aircraft as part of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) federal requirement. A summary of the meeting is posted online.

[TPB Freight Subcommittee Documents Web Site.](#)

The next TPB Freight Subcommittee meeting will be on November 10, 2011.

Recent Storms Disrupt Freight Rail

The heavy rains in the last couple weeks, particularly following Tropical Storm Lee, spread flooding up the Mid-Atlantic region and into the Northeast disrupting freight rail operations in several states. Lee’s storm system triggered flash flooding along routes from Washington, D.C.. Canadian Pacific railroad said water was above the tracks in some areas in Pennsylvania, while others had track washouts. Norfolk Southern Railway and CSX Transportation both experienced delays in their operations that run through the flooded areas while crews worked to restore service.

[Journal of Commerce-Northeast Floods Disrupt Freight Rail](#)

The End of Cheap Oil

This week, the chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell, Peter Voser, predicted future volatility...for energy prices...” “Oil output from fields in production declines by 5 percent a year as reserves are depleted, so the world needs to add the equivalent of 4 Saudi Arabias or 10 North Seas over the next 10 years just to keep supply level, even before much of an increase in demand,” said Voser. At the September 21, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals meeting, Charles Taylor of Awake! Consulting presented on the “End of Cheap Oil.” He discussed the geological, geopolitical, and oil industry trends that have converged to put the world in an “Oil Danger Zone” and why we need to consider alternative fuels and modifying lifestyles now.

[Financial Times-Shell Chief Warns of Era of Energy Volatility](#)

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202

Staff contact: Karin Foster, kfoster@mwkog.org, 202-962-3206

Please send an e-mail to kfoster@mwkog.org if you wish to be removed from the distribution list.