

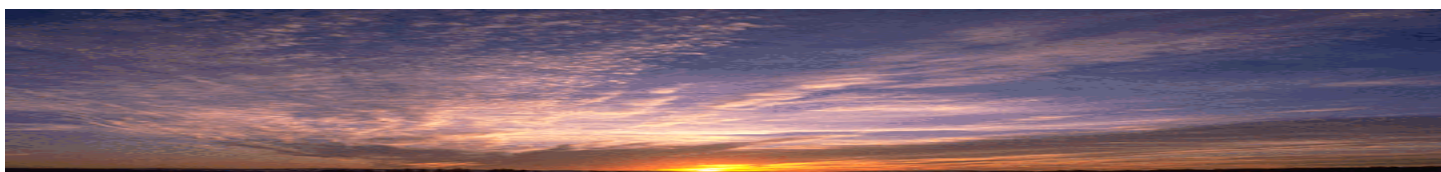


Focus on Freight-June 2008

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region

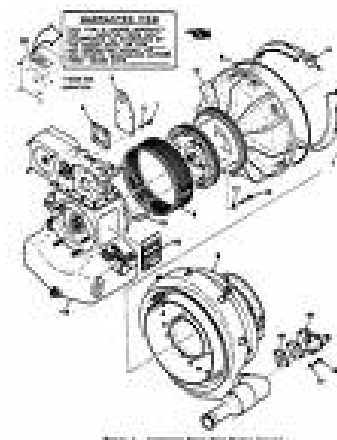
This Focus on Freight newsletter provides regional and national freight-related highlights and freight meeting and event announcements as an informational tool for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments-Transportation Planning Board Freight Subcommittee. Please refer to source links for additional information.

Our next [Freight Subcommittee meeting](#) will feature a special presentation by CSX's Stephen Flippin on the National Rail Gateways project. This meeting will be held at on July 24th from 12:30pm to 2:30pm at COG in Room 3. Lunch will be provided. Please come with any comments you may have on the [Freight Planning Work Plan](#).



Auxiliary Power Unit Loans

The Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), a trade association that represents independent truck owner-operators and professional truck drivers, is now offering loans for truck owners wishing to purchase Auxiliary Power Units or APUs. With an APU truckers can turn off their engine while maintaining climate control and in-cab appliances during their rest periods. APUs reduce air pollution, noise, and save the trucker money in fuel costs. For more information on OOIDA loans visit: http://www.ooida.com/Benefits/Truck_Finance/truck_finance.htm



Congestion

Inrix Inc., a leading provider of traffic information, recently published a report ranking the worst market for congestion. In terms of overall congestion for all hours and all days, the Washington metropolitan area ranked 4th at 36% of the congestion experienced in the most congested market of Los-Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA. The New York and Chicago metropolitan areas were also reported to have worse congestion than Washington. The report also ranks the 100 most congested freeway locations in the nation according to the company's data, of which the Washington area's worst is northbound I-395 just before the 14th Street.

Midwest Floods Impact on Economy

Freight traffic on U.S. rails fell 3.5 percent in the week ending June 14, 2008, according to the Association of American Railroads. Estimated tonnage was down approximately 1.2 billion ton-miles as floods throughout the Midwest caused outages and disruptions. The two largest U.S. railroads—Union Pacific and BNSF—warned that their second-quarter earnings will be hurt mainly by Midwest floods. The other major lines suffered as well. As a result we can expect the inflationary tide to ripple through the nation's supermarkets and restaurants -- and meat prices may soon start rising along with prices for bread, eggs and breakfast cereals. "The U.S. consumer has gotten used to cheap, affordable food," said Fiona Boal, a food-industry analyst at the U.S. arm of the Dutch financial firm Rabobank.