

Focus on Freight– February 2009

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



Freight Subcommittee Meeting

Learn about the logistics of Package Delivery at our next [Freight Subcommittee Meeting](#). A spokesperson from FedEx will be present! Mark your calendars, this will be a lunch meeting held from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on March 19th, 2009 at our regular location at COG offices, first floor Room 3. More details to come as we get closer to the meeting date.

Freight Program Update

TPB staff continues to develop the [Integrating Freight into the 2010 Constrained Long-Range Plan](#) report. This is a working document that is constantly updated through freight stakeholder input. This report reviews transportation conditions in the region and challenges to moving freight. It also summarizes the TPB Freight Program efforts that work toward integrating freight into the metropolitan transportation planning process. Please take a moment to review this report and provide comments to Karin Foster at kfoster@mwkog.org.

Railroads Rolling On

CSX Transportation's fourth quarter year to year earnings report showed a four percent revenue gain and a 14 percent jump in sales per unit hauled. Rail operating profit rose 16 percent to \$692 million, both from higher rates and falling fuel expenses. Despite these earnings, CSX traffic fell nine percent.

CSX Announces Fourth Quarter Results

Norfolk Southern also reported gains. Fourth quarter operating revenues reached \$2.5 billion, up two percent. Norfolk Southern also reported a record fourth-quarter 2008 net income of \$452 million, an increase of 13 percent compared with \$399 million for fourth-quarter 2007.

Norfolk Southern News Release

New Emphasis in VDOT's Spending Plans

Virginia's intersection at Lee Highway and Gallows Road is one of the most congested in Northern Virginia. Last year, the state Department of Transportation announced a \$132 million project to redo it. The state has already spent \$10 million on design and \$72 million to buy and demolish 13 buildings. It is working to relocate utility lines and preparing to spend \$12 million to move a giant water main. However, Virginia's latest spending plan has cut the \$38 million to build the actual roadway.

The sharp decline in state funds from tax revenues has forced Virginia and Maryland to cut transportation projects. Virginia Transportation Secretary Pierce R. Homer added that the state's funding plan has been retooled to prioritize projects that receive federal matching funds; structurally deficient bridges; Dulles rail; and freight improvements on Interstates 95 and 81. However, with no funds available this year, he said the state would continue to allocate funds for everything up to construction, hoping elected officials will eventually find the dollars to complete the project.

[See related Washington Post article by Eric Weiss, Thursday January 29, 2009](#)

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

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