

# Focus on Freight– July 2010

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



---

## **\*\*Freight Plan Update\*\***

The National Capital Region Freight Plan 2010 was presented to the Transportation Planning Board on July 21, 2010. Following an extensive and lively discussion by the Board on freight plan topics such as coordination between freight railroads and local jurisdictions, and the implications to the Washington region of the upcoming 2014 expansion of the Panama Canal, the Board unanimously approved the freight plan. The effort brought renewed high-level attention to the issue of freight movement in the National Capital Region, and is hoped to bring continuing momentum to focusing on freight in regional transportation planning and implementation.

[Freight Plan as Approved July 21, 2010](#)

[Beyond DC Blog: Article on Freight Plan](#)

As part of the Next Steps of the Freight Plan, staff will work with the Freight Subcommittee to come up with a list of priority projects. Next meeting in autumn, date TBD.

---

## **Freight Subcommittee**

The Freight Subcommittee was honored to have Anne Ferro, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, to present at our July 8, 2010 meeting. She noted the Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood's dedication to safety and FMCSA's goal to eliminate truck accidents.

---

## **Senate Bill Puts New Emphasis on Freight**

The **Focusing Resources Economic Investment and Guidance to Help Transportation Act** (FREIGHT Act S.3629) was introduced July 22, 2010 by Senator Lautenberg. The Freight Act contains three major components:

- 1) To establish an Office of Freight Planning and Development, led by an Assistant Secretary for Freight and Development
- 2) To establish a National Freight Strategic Plan
- 3) To provide a National Freight Infrastructure Grants Initiative

Eligible projects for the merit-based National Freight Infrastructure Grants Initiative would include port development/improvement, multimodal terminals, land ports, freight rail improvement/capacity expansion, ITS to reduce congestion and improve safety, improved access to port or terminal, and planning/preparation/design for the above category projects.

In addition to the bill components mentioned, the legislation would encourage improvements to air quality, energy usage, and public health and safety.

It is unsure whether this bill would proceed as a stand-alone bill or be incorporated into the upcoming surface transportation bill. Either way, support is being garnered from groups such as the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors and the Environmental Defense Fund.

---

**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](mailto:kfoster@mwkog.org), 202-962-3206