



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

TPB FREIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

TOPIC: PREPARATION FOR OCTOBER TPB FREIGHT PLAN WORK SESSION

The TPB Freight Subcommittee met on September 17, 2015 at COG. Highlights of the meeting are described below.

Review of TPB Interest in Providing Policy Input to the Freight Plan

Mr. Srikanth explained that during the July board meeting, TPB Chair Mendelson asked that board members be given an opportunity to review the draft National Capital Region Freight Plan at an early stage of its development and provide policy input to the plan. The purpose of the work session is to obtain this policy input. While the board has not discussed freight policy ideas within the past several years, we know of at least three areas of interest: (1) the shared use of the freight rail system by both passenger and freight trains, (2) the safety of the region's commuter and freight rail systems, and (3) the transport of hazardous materials. It is anticipated that the board will also be interested in truck freight as well as rail freight.

Call for Outreach to Encourage Participation in the TPB Special Work Session

Mr. Meese encouraged knowledgeable stakeholders, particularly the freight railroads, to attend the TPB work session in October to be able to answer questions from board members. He further noted that the work session is not a formal board meeting with minutes and that it is important that the policy discussions be informed by facts and that knowledgeable stakeholders are there to provide input.

Discussion on Draft Agenda for the TPB Special Work Session

Mr. Schermann led a discussion on the draft agenda for the work session. It is anticipated that board members will share their ideas of the broad topic areas for which policy language is needed. Staff, in consultation with the freight subcommittee, will then draft specific policy language for the board to review and comment on at a future time. Input from subcommittee members on touched on many areas and is summarized below:

- It would be helpful to include stakeholders with economic development perspectives at the work session, including the Washington Board of Trade;
- The importance of freight to the region's economy needs to be addressed in addition to the safety concerns of freight rail;
- The work session is an opportunity to emphasize the multimodal nature of freight transportation;
- The work session would benefit from the participation of a variety of jurisdictions and agencies;
- The work session is an opportunity to inform board members about the extensive training and other safety improvement activities that are already taking place;

TPB staff will reach out to stakeholders for written input in the form of key information that the stakeholder would like the board to be aware of as the deliberate and regional freight policy. This will be provided to board members ahead of the work session

Next TPB Freight Subcommittee Meeting (web only): October 8, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Bowden, Maryland Department of Transportation
Eulois Cleckley, District Department of Transportation
Rick Crawford, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Tim Davis, City of Frederick (phone)
Stephen Flippin, CSX Transportation
Christine Hoeffner, Virginia Railway Express
Donald Ludlow, CPCS
Chip Millard, Federal Highway Administration
Sree Nampoothiri, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (phone)
Laura Richards, District Department of Transportation
Vivek Sakhrani, CPCS
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County (phone)

MWCOG STAFF ATTENDANCE:

Andrew Meese, MWCOG-DTP
Wenjing Pu, MWCOG-DTP
Richard Roisman, MWCOG-DTP
Jon Schermann, MWCOG-DTP
Kanti Srikanth, MWCOG-DTP