

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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## **Meeting Notes**

### **FREIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**DATE:** March 3, 2011  
**TIME:** 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Room 3  
**CHAIR:** Victor Weissberg, Department of Public Works and Transportation  
Prince George's County

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment  
Eulois Cleckley, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Ed Daniel, Montgomery County Police Department  
Stephen Flippin, CSX  
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County  
Victor Weissberg, Prince George's County

#### **CALL-IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Thomas, Frederick County  
Lyn Erickson, Maryland Department of Transportation

#### **MWCOG STAFF ATTENDANCE:**

Michael Farrell, MWCOG  
Karin Foster, MWCOG  
Andrew Meese, MWCOG

#### **Victor Weissberg, Freight Subcommittee Chairman—**

Mr. Weissberg welcomed attendees and asked for introductions. Following introductions, Mr. Weissberg asked for comment on the February meeting minutes. No comment was received.

This Freight Subcommittee meeting was convened to finalize the list of freight transportation highlighted projects. The development of this list had undergone a lengthy process that included Freight Subcommittee meeting discussions, conference calls, and calls between TPB staff and various stakeholders.

Ms. Karin Foster prepared a memorandum to brief the Technical Committee on March 4, 2011 on the list of freight transportation highlighted projects. She reviewed this memo

with the Freight Subcommittee members. The memo includes background and criteria for the project selection, a summary table of the rail and highway projects, and a project description sheet with detail information for each of the selected projects.

As Ms. Foster went through the memo page-by-page, she received comments from committee members to improve the memo. Most of these comments were corrections or updates to the project description sheets. Committee member comments were incorporated into an addendum distributed to Technical Committee members at the March 4, 2011 meeting. The adjustments were incorporated into an updated memorandum that will be presented to the Transportation Planning Board on March 16, 2011.

*Questions and Comments:*

The comments included in the addendum are:

- Page 1: Delete three paragraphs of Freight Subcommittee background and replace with a paragraph that provides a broad context for freight in the National Capital Region
- Page 4: CSX Long-Term National Gateway; Update “Project Cost” to \$842,000,000
- Page 5: CSX National Gateway Projects in the National Capital Region; Update Virginia Avenue Tunnel project cost to \$160,000,000
- Page 6: CSX Short-Term: Virginia Avenue Tunnel; Under “Freight Benefit” note emissions benefits, under “Funding Status” note estimated three year construction time
- Page 7: Norfolk Southern Long-Term: Crescent Corridor; In graphic, remove “[T]he most...” language from first line and remove “The nation’s most...” language from last bullet
- Page 10: DC Long-Term: Establish a Weigh Station within City Limits; Under “Project Cost” note that the cost reflects a two-way weigh station
- Page 11: DC Short-Term: Uniform Commercial Curbside Loading Zone Program; DDOT agreed to provide a different graphic
- Page 13: MD Short-Term: I-70 Phase 4; Under “Funding Status” note that planning is complete, project in partial design phase
- Page 15: VA Long-Term: Relieve Congestion along the I-95 Corridor From Prince William County Southern Boundary to MD Boundary; Under “Project Source” add bullet with the following text: A number of highway and transit improvements for this corridor are at various stages of planning and construction

**Freight Forum Announcement —**

Ms. Foster announced the upcoming Regional Freight Forum on April 27, 2011. The Forum will focus on raising awareness of freight issues the in the National Capital

Region and to have a discussion with panel members and attendees on Regional Freight Priorities. The Transportation Planning Board and regional freight stakeholders will be invited.

**Roundtable Updates—**

Stephen Flippin of CSX noted that the Virginia Avenue Tunnel CSX improvement project was moving into the NEPA documentation phase.

Robert Owolabi noted progress on the silver line project to extend metro rail to Tyson's corner and later on to Dulles International Airport.

Eulois Cleckley discussed major redesign concepts presently under discussion for Union Station. He also commented that the purple line is anticipated to be complete in 2017.

John Thomas, Frederick County, commented on the freight Transportation Land Use Connections grant that the County was awarded by MWCOG. He noted field visits were made by the consultant last week, a web survey was underway, and a public meeting would be held on March 8, 2011. He expected the project to be completed by late June early July.

**Next Meeting April 27, 2011**  
***Regional Freight Forum***