

# Focus on Freight– October 2009

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



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## **Maryland Food Center Authority Tour in November**

Our next Freight Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2009. Along with the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board Freight Movement Task Force, we will tour the Maryland Food Center Authority. The meeting/tour will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. For tour information and agenda click on the links below.

[Freight Subcommittee November 5th Tour Info/Agenda](#)

RSVP to Karin Foster at [kfoster@mwkog.org](mailto:kfoster@mwkog.org) or Bala Akundi at [bakundi@baltometro.org](mailto:bakundi@baltometro.org) (space is limited)

[Freight Subcommittee Web Page](#)

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## **Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Supports CSX National Gateway Initiative**

After much discussion, the TPB decided to provide a letter of support for the National Gateway Initiative. The TPB letter included some important caveats that were raised in several meetings leading up to the TPB decision. One important amendment was to focus the letter on support for the National Gateway Initiative in the upcoming transportation authorization. Another amendment was to clearly articulate that the TPB was not in support of the CSX TIGER grant because the region had identified other priorities. A third amendment added language to the letter that it is the TPB's expectation that the Initiative will accommodate increased passenger service by MARC, VRE, and Amtrak. Click on the link below to view the final letter from TPB to CSX in support of the National Gateway Initiative.

[TPB Letter to CSX on the National Gateway Initiative](#)

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## **Actions Against Distracted Driving**

President Obama has banned federal employees from text messaging when they are behind the wheel of government vehicles and from texting in their own cars if they use government-issued phones or are on official business. The ban is in the form of an Executive Order issued Wednesday September 30th, 2009. The Obama administration said Thursday it will seek to ban text messaging by interstate bus drivers and truckers and push states to pass their own laws against driving cars while distracted.

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## **Commercial Loading Zone Survey in the District of Columbia**

The District of Columbia Department of Transportation has requested that a new work item be included in the TPB FY 2010 United Planning Work Program to perform a commercial loading zone survey in selected areas of the District (Central Business District, U Street/Columbia Heights, Capital Hill/SW). The project will assist the District in developing a commercial curbside loading zone management plan.

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## **National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)**

### **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)**

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