

Focus on Freight–July 2011

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



TPB Freight Subcommittee

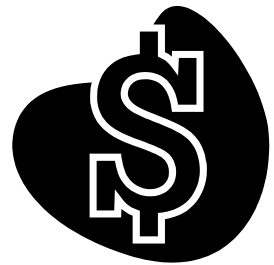
The TPB Freight Subcommittee meeting will be held next Thursday, September 8th at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments offices from 1pm to 3pm. Agenda details will be e-mailed closer to the meeting date.

Transportation Research Board

The TRB held its summer meeting in Boston July 10th-13th, 2011. Several freight committees met. Freight presentations were made and agendas were developed for the upcoming TRB Annual Meeting to be held January 22-26, 2012 in Washington D.C. At the Joint Meeting of the Urban Freight and the Freight Logistics Committees, a presentation by Stacey Hodges (NYC DOT) and Jose-Holguin Veras (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) captured the attention of many about the success of an off-peak commercial delivery program in Manhattan. To learn more about this program, visit this [NYC DOT website](#).

The Debt Ceiling Debate Impacts Transportation Big Time

On Friday, July 22, 2011, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization expired at midnight. Congress normally extends the program without controversy, as it has 20 separate times. With Congress consumed in the debt ceiling debate, the deadline came and went. “Because of [Congress’] inaction, states and airports won’t be able to work on their construction projects, and too many people will have to go without a paycheck. This is no way to run the best aviation system in the world” said Secretary Ray LaHood. The FAA was forced to furlough (leave without pay) 4,000 employees and will be unable to move forward on important airport construction projects until funding is in place. The 4,000 FAA employees work in 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Furloughed employees includes engineers, scientists, research analysts, administrative assistants, computer specialists, program managers, environmental specialists, and community planners. It is important to note that the safety of the flying public is said not to be compromised.



National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

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