



This Focus on Freight newsletter provides regional and national freight-related highlights and freight meeting and event announcements as an information tool for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments-Transportation Planning Board [Freight Subcommittee](#). Please refer to source links for additional information.

The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) launched its new Freight Subcommittee on April 24, 2008. The Freight Subcommittee is part of TPB's new Freight Program to promote freight concerns in the region.



Rail Hazmat and Maryland State Security

On January 31, 2008, Maryland state police Superintendent Terrance Sheridan signed a memorandum with CSX to share information about hazardous cargo moving through Maryland on freight trains. Maryland joins three other states taking part in an information-sharing pilot project with CSX. For more information see the February 2008 [Baltimore Sun article](#).



Maryland State Freight Study

The Maryland Department of Transportation is well underway in the preparation of the [Statewide Freight Plan](#). MDOT has recently completed a series of public outreach meetings in different areas of the State including the Washington suburbs. Feedback gathered at these meetings from both public and private sector attendees will be used to formulate an extensive list of infrastructure, policy, and regulatory considerations. Next steps will include a review of these recommendations with an internal MDOT advisory group as well as a committee of private freight stakeholders. MDOT anticipates that a draft freight plan will be prepared by this coming fall to circulate for another round of public meetings. Ultimately, the Freight Plan will be part of the Maryland Transportation Plan and serve as the principal policy document to guide future freight initiatives.

GAO Releases Freight Report

The U.S. General Accounting Office released its [National Policy and Strategies Can Help Improve Freight Mobility](#) report in January 2008. GAO is recommending that the Department of Transportation (DOT) work with Congress and freight stakeholders to develop a national strategy to transform the federal government's involvement in freight transportation.



Upcoming Freight-Related Events

5-15-08: Baltimore Metropolitan Council [Freight Movement Task Force Meeting](#)
5-30-08: [Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals D.C. Roundtable](#)

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