



Connecting **INDUSTRY** and **PLANNERS**
 with **FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION**

QUARTERLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

10:00 AM | Wednesday, July 10, 2019

8th Floor, American College of Physicians Building | DVRPC Main Conference Room
 190 N Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520

1. Welcome and Introductions

Barry Seymour, Executive Director of DVRPC, welcomed attendees and provided opening remarks. Mr. Seymour along with co-chair Genevieve Clifton of New Jersey Department of Transportation welcomed all task force members and friends after which all attendees were invited to introduce themselves and their affiliations.

2. Kennett Area Freight Transportation Study

Kristen Scudder, Transportation Planner at DVRPC, presented an overview of the Kennett Area Freight Transportation Study undertaken by DVRPC to explore opportunities to support continued economic growth by improving the safe, efficient movement of people and goods through the Kennett Area in Chester County, PA. This area is home to small towns with valued rural character that also host the nation’s largest production facilities of mushrooms.

Public input highlighted concerns with increased truck traffic on rural roads and through residential areas. DVRPC found that truck traffic was heavily concentrated on major arterial routes such as PA 41 which runs directly through Avondale Borough. Recommendations included improving signage visibility and clarity, implementing traffic calming measures at borough gateways, and creating a multi-jurisdictional workgroup to develop truck routes and restrictions across multiple municipalities.

3. Freight Rail Updates from Norfolk Southern

Rick Crawford, Director of Public Projects for Norfolk Southern, presented on the railroad’s recent implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC), their new precision scheduling operating plan (TOP21), and ongoing investment in the freight rail economy of the region. Norfolk Southern railroad is one of two Class I railroads that serves Greater Philadelphia. The railroad provides critical links for regional shippers, employs hundreds in the region and thousands more across Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Mr. Crawford highlighted the complexity of implementing PTC across the Norfolk Southern network which requires technology interoperability among over 30 railroads. Norfolk Southern has completed 77% of their PTC upgrades as of March 2019 and is scheduled to have full PTC operations before the end of 2020. Their TOP 21 plan, Norfolk Southern’s version of precision railroading, also aims to improve service, efficiency, and safety by enabling trains to run on time, cars to be switched in less than 6 hours, and providing higher train frequencies. Norfolk Southern expects the TOP 21 plan to open a number of growth opportunities for rail to transport goods traveling in the range of 250-750 miles where previously trips over 1,000 miles were seen as the most viable for their competitive advantage over truck freight.

2018 projects completed include: Portageville Bridge replacement, Simpson Yard expansion, Pittsburg Clearance Project.

4. Industry Spotlight: Chemistry Council of New Jersey

Dennis Hart, Executive Director of the Chemistry Council of New Jersey, presented on the role of the chemical industry in the New Jersey economy and the benefits and challenges of growing this industry. Mr. Hart highlighted the importance of the chemistry sector to the American economy and its role in helping to solve challenges that make our world healthier, safer, more sustainable and more productive.

Chemistry is the largest manufacturing industry in the state of New Jersey and provides over 43,000 direct jobs with an average wage that is 60% higher than the average manufacturing wage. Some of the industries represented by the Chemistry Council include refiners, pharmaceuticals, adhesives and coatings, as well as additive and flavoring companies among others. While there is clear growth across the American chemical industry, Mr. Hart emphasized the challenges that manufacturing growth in New Jersey faces from the high tax on industrial energy usage, tariffs on hazardous materials that enter the state boundaries, and higher discharge fees than neighboring states. The state also faces a shortage of skilled-labor to meet manufacturing needs.

5. Two-minute Reports

The following Task Force and Subcommittee chairs and Task Force members provided updates on the activities of their companies and agencies:

William SheppardAtlantic Rail Services, Inc

Raised to the committee concern about the lack of redundancy for rail access into South Jersey beyond the Delair Bridge and questioned if the bridge has been or will be upgraded to provide double stack clearance. She also announced that the on September 23, 2019, in lieu of the regular NJ FAC meeting the Department will be hosting a truck parking workshop.

Genevieve CliftonNew Jersey Department of Transportation

Announced that the next round of the NJ Rail Freight Assistance Program will be open in the fall but under the new process applicants should submit the Applicant Eligibility Assessment Form.

Stephen ChiaramonteWSP

Provided a brief update on planning activities that grew out of the NJ Statewide freight plan which include the evaluation of I-295 interchanges for freight issues and three interchanges have are being assessed for project screening.

Kelvin MacKavanagh.....MacKavanagh Rail Consulting

Provided the committee with an update on the successful 2019 New Jersey Transaction Conference that included an appearance by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. Planning will soon be underway for the 2020 conference sessions.

Michael RimerPennsylvania Department of Transportation - CPDM

Announced that Pennsylvania is working towards kicking off the next update to the Comprehensive Goods Movement Plan for the Commonwealth and is about to finish and launch a guide on Regional Freight Planning for MPO/RPOs across the Commonwealth.

Andrew BesoldMontgomery County Planning Commission

Announced that the county has launched a draft of their Complete Streets policy that is available for comment at montcopa.org.

Gus SheerbaumCity of Philadelphia

Provided an update on three City freight initiatives. A delivery/loading zone pilot is planned for Chestnut Street to address lane obstructions by freight and passenger vehicles. Truck network identification is on hold as funding is identified and overnight truck parking planning is progressing as the City works with partners to identify land opportunities.

Steve Panko.....Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Announced that the next statewide rail freight plan is kicking off for 2020.

Mike ShieldsEconomy League of Greater Philadelphia

Announced that they are currently working on identifying export opportunities at Philadelphia International Airport to take advantage of planned expansion of the cargo facilities, those with ideas or interested were encouraged to reach out.

6. Old or New Business/ Adjournment

Barry Seymour shared the remaining 2019 meeting dates of the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force:

- Wednesday, **October 9**

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Meeting Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Alvarez, Michael	Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Anderson, David	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Anderson, Kevin	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Attard, Nathan	Delaware DOT
Baucom, Marlee	Norfolk Southern
Besold, Andrew	Montgomery County Planning Commission
Blevins, Dan	WILMAPCO
Boyer, Michael	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Brown, Corey	Delaware County Planning
Chiaromonte, Stephen	WSP
Clifton, Genevieve	New Jersey Department of Transportation
Coyle, Gerry	Evans Delivery Company
Crawford, Rick	Norfolk Southern
Culbertson, Jeff	Penn Terminals
Davis, Jackie	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Dub, Avri	Self
Elkis, Patty	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Flood, Joe	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Flora, Paul	Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Gallagher, Kevin	Pennoni
Genevie, Jamie	ICF
Haak, John	Philadelphia City Planning
Hart, Dennis	Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Hess, Jim	AECOM
Hester, Ian	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Jan, Farooq	PennDOT District 6-0
Jones, Dennis	United States Steel/KIPC
Kazmi, Maryiam	NJ DOT Freight Planning
Korejko, Kim	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Lawrence, Gary	AECOM
Ludasi, Andrew	NJ DOT
MacKavanagh, Kelvin	MacKavanagh Rail Consulting
McCreavy, John	SMS Rail
Panko, Steve	PennDOT
Plummer, Alicia	AECOM

Name

Affiliation

Regosch, Christian

Bucks County Planning Commission

Rimer, Michael

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation - CPDM

Ruane, Mike

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Scheerbaum, Gus

City of Philadelphia

Schiavi, Bill

SJTPO

Schwarzenberg, Ian

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Scudder, Kristen

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Seymour, Barry

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Sheppard, William

Atlantic Rail Services, Inc.

Shields, Michael

Economy League of Greater Philadelphia

Truban, Paul

Keller Engineers

Turcich, Jim

Philadelphia Belt Line Railroad

Ward, John

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Young, Lindsay

PhilaPort

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

April 2019 – July 2019

Each quarter of the fiscal year provides a unique opportunity for DVRPC's Freight and Aviation Planning program to perform essential and high priority freight planning activities and to provide support to Greater Philadelphia's freight community. For the benefit of the members and friends of DVRPC's freight advisory committee, the Delaware Valley Goods Movement Task Force, the following "progress report" has been compiled to highlight the range of accomplishments and tasks successfully completed by DVRPC staff during the specified time period.

April 2019

- Presented on urban freight planning activities at the SAE Government/Industry Meeting (04/03/19).
- Conducted the quarterly meeting of the Goods Movement Task Force in partnership with the DVRPC Regional Community & Economic Development Forum with a focus on Building a Resilient Supply Chain (04/12/19).
- Participated in a kick-off meeting for the development of the updated DVRPC freight model (04/19/19).
- Provided feedback and participated in a Study Advisory Committee meeting for the Moving Mindfully Monmouth/Mercer freight study (04/23/19).

May 2019

- Collected and analyzed lane obstruction data on City of Philadelphia corridors to determine the impact of deliveries on street performance (05/01/19).
- Conducted a Study Advisory Committee meeting for the Kennett Area Freight Transportation Study to provide preliminary findings and recommendations (05/15/19).
- Presented the findings of the Marcus Hook Grade Crossing Study to the Marcus Hook Borough Council (05/28/19).

June 2019

- Participated in a field conference led by Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission concerning the NS Morrisville Line crossing over Butler Pike in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (06/14/19).
- Presented best practice work on urban freight issues and community freight planning at a meeting of the New Jersey Transportation Planning Agency's Freight Initiatives Meeting (06/17/19).
- Conducted the quarterly meeting of DVRPC's Regional Aviation Committee (06/20/19).

July 2019

- Attended the general membership meeting of the New Jersey Railroad Association (07/09/19).