

**Morris County Freight Rail Advisory Committee
 Tuesday October 12, 2010: 2:00 PM
 Morris County Administration & Records Building
 Fifth Floor, Knox Room
 Morristown, NJ**

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Schrier at 2:00 PM.

In Attendance:

Board Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Freeholder Jack Schrier, Chairperson	Gary Behrens, Roxbury	Erik DeLine
Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom	Chris Mazzei, M&E	Frank Pinto
Kathy DeFillippo, Roxbury	Ted Mathews, NJTPA	Gerald Rohsler
Jack Holland, Holland Manufacturing	Maggie Peters, MCEDC	
Allen Napoliello, Randolph	Jakub Rowinski, NJTPA	
Wes Weis, M&E	Tom Phelan, Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates	
	Chris Vitz, Engineering	

I. Welcome

Freeholder Schrier welcomes everyone and calls roll for the 4th FRAC meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from July 13th, 2010

Freeholder Nordstrom made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Kathy DeFillippo seconded the motion. The minutes from July 13th, 2010 were unanimously approved.

III. Introduction of Wes Weis, President & CEO, Morristown & Erie

Mr. Wes Weis, the President and CEO for the Morristown & Erie Railway gave a brief introduction of himself and his history with the railroad.

IV. Overview of North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and their freight initiatives

Mr. Ted Matthews gave an overview of NJTPA's role in regional freight planning. In his presentation, he explained who makes up the NJTPA and what the organization does. Mr. Matthews also discussed the Freight Initiatives Committee, the Freight Roundtable as part of the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan formulation, recent initiatives such as the

Grade Crossing Study, Quiet Zone Brochure, and the Truck Rest Stop Study, among others. In addition, NJTPA has started a 2040 Freight Forecasts Study and will be undergoing a Freight Rail Corridor Analysis.

V. Current Initiatives

Mr. Erik DeLine gave an update on current freight rail initiatives in Morris County. Mr. DeLine provided an update on the Chester Branch Rehabilitation Project. Construction was being completed along County Concrete and north towards Berkshire Valley Rd. Additionally, Railroad Construction is painting the bridge over Berkshire Valley Rd.

Mr. DeLine also updated the committee regarding the potential realignment of the Dover & Rockaway Railroad. Morris County had met with NJ Transit in September to discuss the potential of getting on to NJ Transit east of Dover station rather than west of the station. While Transit was open to the idea, there are some potential obstacles to overcome such as operating windows and the curvature of the track at the potential switch. A gauntlet track is another potential solution where the railroad would run parallel to NJ Transit until it could tie in west of Dover station again. A potential obstacle is the availability of space for a 3rd track under the Dover-Rockaway Rd. The county has also reached out to the current owners of McWilliams Forge on the possibilities of realignment since the new tracks would have to go right next to their facility. At that time, they would look into the matter and respond at a later date.

VI. Other Business

Mr. Gary Behrens asked if the M&E runs on NJ Transit. Mr. Chris Mazzei, responded that they do operate on NJ Transit between Lake Junction and Morristown.

Ms. DeFillippo asked for explanation of what constituted a freight village. Mr. DeLine responded that freight villages is an area that combines the movement and distribution of goods with other activities such as value-added manufacturing, service industry businesses such as hotels, banks, and restaurants that cater to the workers of that area as well as local residents.

The committee briefly discussed height clearance issues affecting shipment of goods by rail, particularly for Toys R Us and Kuiken Brothers Lumber. Norfolk Southern ships from the west and has a height clearance bottleneck at Phillipsburg which restricts shipments to Plate C cars. Ideally, the M&E would like to be able to bring in the taller Plate F cars which allow for more goods in the railcars. To east, shipments to the county are delivered by CSX, but restrictions on NJ Transit keep all cars to less than Plate C which greater limits competition and what services CSX can provide.

Mr. Weis asked about Lake Junction, stating that when Gordon Fuller was running the M&E he was trying to get a resolution from Roxbury to move forward on this project. Ms. DeFillippo said that Mr. Weis should meet with the Town Council to discuss the project, which Mr. Fuller had not done. Mr. Weis said that he would be willing to do this.

There was a discussion of the Star-Ledger article on the Chester Branch rehabilitation which included quotes from Mr. Jack Holland on the importance of the project to his business. This project helps save blue collar jobs which aren't as abundant in New Jersey as they had been in the past.

Mr. Mazzei mentioned the arrest of the NJDOT employee who worked for the Bureau of Freight Services offices and was responsible for administering state rail plan monies. The M&E was the company that he reached out to do this and the railroad worked with the State Attorney General's Office to build the case.

Mr. Frank Pinto announced that when the Chester Branch project was closer to completion that the county would be holding a spike driving event and that the committee would be invited to attend.

Mr. Mazzei said that the Toys for Tots Santa train would be happening again this December, this time on Sunday, December 12th. He said it would follow the same route as the year before and gave the tentative train schedule.

VII. Adjournment

Freeholder Schrier thanked everyone for coming and participating in the meeting and reminded all in attendance that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

Freeholder Nordstrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Dodd seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Erik DeLine
Assistant Planner