

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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## **Memorandum**

Item #13

April 24, 2009

To: Technical Subcommittee

From: Karin Foster  
Department of Transportation Planning

Subject: Draft Integrate Freight Report

## **Background**

Attached is a copy of the draft *Integrating Freight into the 2010 Constrained Long-Range Plan* report. Transportation Planning Board (TPB) staff hope to receive valuable feedback as we finalize this report for presentation to the TPB in June of 2009.

*Integrating Freight into the 2010 Constrained Long-Range Plan* is organized into five sections.

- I. Introduction
- II. National Capital Region Freight Movement
- III. Methods of Freight Integration
- IV. Stakeholder Outreach
- V. Next Steps

## **Methodology**

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program *Guidebook for Integrating Freight into Transportation Planning and Project Selection Processes* (Study 594) was largely the foundation of Section III, Methods of Freight Integration. The Guidebook provided seven steps toward freight integration. The Integrate Freight Report describes actions taken by the TPB Freight Program in each of the seven areas:

1. Freight Point of Contact/Technical Lead;
2. Understanding Regional Freight System;
3. Linking Freight Planning and Transportation Planning and Programming Activities;
4. Freight Data Needs Assessment and Collection;
5. Effective Outreach;
6. Freight-related Training and Outreach Opportunities; and
7. Advocacy.

## Next Steps

Our Recommendations to better integrate freight into the transportation planning process are:

1. Scan CLRP projects and identify projects that particularly support goods movement. Identify these projects and draft a letter of support for these projects on behalf of the Freight Subcommittee.
2. Compile freight projects that fall within our region from other transportation plans. Sources include the I-95 Mid-Atlantic Rail Operations Study, the Mid-Atlantic Truck Operations Study, Maryland State Freight Plan, Virginia State Freight Plan, and the CSX National Gateway Report. Input also will be sought from the Stakeholder Outreach Survey, the Freight Subcommittee, and the freight stakeholder community in the region.
3. Maintain the current Freight Subcommittee, *Focus on Freight* e-newsletter, and outreach. Additionally, continue to compile and analyze freight data to better understand the regional freight system.
4. Enhance the freight section of the CLRP during the next major CLRP update.
5. Develop a detailed National Capital Region Freight Plan that incorporates these projects and analyzes data available about freight flow in the region.