

III. STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH – STAGE 1

III.1 INTRODUCTION

A well-conceived and coordinated public outreach program is a critical element to the success of any project. It facilitates an open exchange of information and ideas between the project team and key stakeholders. From the onset, such an exchange was recognized as vital to the success of the Portway Extensions Concept Development study in understanding the true nature of container movement throughout the region, impediments to the safe and efficient movement of containers, and development of meaningful, realistic improvement concepts to facilitate container movements in and around New Jersey.

The public participation program designed for the Portway Extensions Concept Development study consisted of three distinct elements and incorporated a variety of techniques to ensure that a broad range of participants were involved. The first stage involved extensive data collection; the second involved refining and reaffirming the data; and the third involved widening the process to describe and effectively communicate the study status. The program was intended not only to disseminate information, but also to elicit feedback from all stakeholders and interested parties. Comments from stakeholders were specifically solicited and received orally at meetings and interviews as well as in writing to the project team members. Each stage of the public outreach process employed is discussed in the following sections.

III.2 STAGE I – DATA COLLECTION

Extensive outreach efforts were conducted on an on-going basis throughout the duration of the study. During the first stage of the public outreach program, the project team conducted meetings and interviews with numerous public and private stakeholders. The purpose was to:

- Obtain existing, relevant data for incorporation into the study.
- Identify projects likely to impact the study.
- Explore growth issues that may impact the movement of containers in the future.
- Identify current locations and future sites for port related development activity.
- Identify current and proposed warehouse distribution sites.

Coordination meetings were held with representatives from the following agencies. Summaries of these meetings may be found in Appendix B of this report.

- CSX Corporation – October 17, 2002
- Union County & City of Linden – October 29, 2002
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – November 7, 2002
- Bi-State Harbor Carriers – November 12, 2002
- Norfolk Southern – November 18, 2002
- CPIP Consortium – January 10, 2003
- Hudson County & Jersey City – December 18, 2002
- Bergen County, City of Newark & New Jersey Meadowlands Commission – December 20, 2002
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority – January 30, 2003
- Middlesex County – January 30, 2003
- City of Newark – February 3, 2003
- Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority – February 6, 2003

As a result of this series of coordination meetings and interviews, the project team acquired information on the various activities occurring within the project area. Among those is a list of development/redevelopment activities that were identified.

- **Bergen County**
 - Southern Bergen County, South of Route 4
 - Areas in Ridgefield, Ridgefield Park and Englewood, Teterboro, South Hackensack
- **Middlesex County**
 - NJ Turnpike Interchange 8A area development
 - Proposed carport at Port Reading
 - NJ Turnpike Interchange 7A development (Mercer County border)
 - Main Street Extension in Sayreville
- **Union County**
 - Kapkowski Road Area Transportation Planning Study
 - Tremley Point
 - Howland Hook Marine Terminal/Goethals Bridge
- **City of Linden**
 - Property owned by Linden Airport
- **City of Newark**
 - Seaport Support Zone Improvement

- Wilson Avenue Extension
- Delancy Road Improvement
- Avenue I Improvement

- **City of Bayonne**
 - Military Ocean Terminal
 - Connecting MOTBY and Global Peninsulas

- **Hudson County**
 - South Kearny
 - Roadway ramps to Croxton Yard from the South
 - New NJ Turnpike Interchange south of Interchange 16E/18E (referred to in this study as the Secaucus Interchange)

III.3 STAGE II – DATA REFINEMENT

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) established and sponsored the Portway Extensions Concept Development Task Force to provide input and feedback on the study's progress and findings. The primary functions of the Task Force include:

- Serve as a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Study.
- Provide input pertaining to the study process.
- Identify issues and impediments to container mobility.
- Assist in the development of improvement concepts.

The Task Force operated under the auspices of the NJTPA's Freight Initiatives Committee, chaired by Somerset County Freeholder, Peter Palmer. David Dawson was the contact person and coordinator for the Task Force. In addition to the standing members of the NJTPA Freight Initiatives Committee, the Task Force was comprised of representatives from:

- Bayonne Local Development Authority
- Bergen County
- Bergen County Economic Development Corporation
- BEST Transportation, Inc.
- Birdsall Engineering, Inc.
- Bi-State Harbor Carrier Conference
- City of Bayonne

- City of Elizabeth
- City of Jersey City
- City of Newark
- Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan
- Continental Airlines
- CSX
- Delaware River Joint Tunnel and Bridge Commission
- Earth Tech, Inc.
- East Coast Warehouse & Distribution Corporation
- Essex County Government
- First Admiralty, LLC
- Gannett Fleming
- Greenwood Lake Railway – New York
- Halcrow
- Hall's Fast Motor Freight
- HILX
- Howland Hook Container Terminal
- Hudson County
- Hudson County TMA
- Jackson Associates
- Jersey City Economic Development Corporation
- Jersey City Redevelopment Agency
- Maher Terminals
- McCarthy Trucking
- Middlesex County
- Morristown & Erie Railway, Inc.
- New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Jersey Institute of Technology
- New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
- New Jersey Motor Truck Association
- New Jersey Railroad Shortline Association
- New York City Economic Development Corporation
- New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
- NJ Transit
- Norfolk Southern
- NY & NJ Foreign Freight Forwarders & Brokers Association
- Port Jersey Distribution Services
- Port Jersey Railroad Company
- Port Jersey Transportation
- PSE&G

- Raritan Central Railway, LLC
- Regional Plan Association
- River Terminal Development Co.
- Robert A. Roe & Associates
- Sea Freight Trucking Services, Inc.
- Senator Jon Corzine's Office
- Somerset County
- Somerset Terminal Railroad
- Sussex County
- The Marcus Group
- The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- Union County Government
- United Parcel Services
- Voorhees Transportation Policy Institute, Rutgers University
- Wilbur Smith Associates

During the course of the study three meetings of the Task Force were held:

- **March 11, 2003:** Focused on the study goals and objectives, the study process, outreach efforts, anticipated work products and target dates.
- **April 22, 2003:** Focused on garnering feedback from the Task Force on the forecasts, data sets, projections and other data that were incorporated into the study.
- **June 10, 2003:** Focused on concept development process and the infrastructure improvements recommended to provide enhanced mobility for the movement of containers in the region. Emphasized submittal of comments during the 45-day written comment period ending August 8, 2003.

A lively exchange of information, opinions, comments and questions characterized each meeting. The Task Force provided a valuable mechanism for review and feedback.

III.4 STAGE III – PROCESS CONTINUATION

Following the development of the preliminary improvement concept sets, the project team conducted a second round of coordination meetings to discuss their findings including potential issues, modifications and new ideas that should be considered. Input was solicited from the following meetings:

- Bergen County – May 21, 2003
- Union County – May 21, 2003

- Middlesex County – May 23, 2003
- Shortline Railroads – May 23, 2003
- Port Authority of New York & New Jersey – June 2, 2003
- Norfolk Southern – June 3, 2003
- NJ Transit – June 4, 2003
- Hudson County and Jersey City – June 5, 2003

In general, stakeholders expressed approval of the improvement concepts developed. However, during the course of the meetings, a number of geographic areas were identified where the preliminary improvement concepts would need careful coordination with the infrastructure improvement plans of others. While not necessarily rendering the conceptual improvements infeasible, these issues will require further coordination during subsequent stages of advancement of concepts through the project implementation pipeline.

III.5 WEB SITE

To reach as many people as possible, an Internet web site was developed. This website may be accessed through NJDOT's official web site "<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation>". The website contains a wealth of information pertaining to the Portway Extensions Concept Development Study as well as other related efforts. Information provided includes items such as study overview, projects being conducted in proximity to the study area, and links to notable agencies contributing to the study. In addition a frequently asked questions section was included ("What is the Portway Extensions Study?" "What Will The Study Recommend?" "When Will The Study Be Completed?" "Where Can I Learn More?"). This section also provides a link to the fact sheets produced for the study, as well as each Task Force meeting presentation.

III.6 PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Three fact sheets were developed for distribution at the Task Force Meetings on March 11, 2003, April 22, 2003, and June 10, 2003. The first fact sheet included an overview of the project, a summary of the public outreach efforts, a status of efforts to date, steps taken to predict future container activities, overview of anticipated outreach efforts and key personnel in the study. The second fact sheet included a project overview, gave an update of the study, presented and interpreted the data collected, highlighted the steps to be taken following the data collection phase, and listed the study team.

The third fact sheet highlighted the public outreach efforts conducted throughout the study process, provided an update of the project, listed the improvement concepts developed, listed the guiding principles used in developing the concepts and the criteria used for evaluating them, as well as the key future growth scenarios incorporated into the concept development process.

Copies of the three fact sheets, as well as the presentation materials and meeting summaries are presented in Appendix B of this report, and are also available on the website referenced previously.