

**Morris County Freight Rail Advisory Committee
Tuesday October 11, 2011: 2:00 PM
Morris County Administration & Records Building
Fifth Floor, Knox Room
Morristown, NJ**

In Attendance:

Committee Members	Other Attendees	Staff
Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom, Chairperson		Deena Cybulski
Freeholder Gene Feyl	Chip Greiner, M&E	Erik DeLine
Gary Behrens, Roxbury	Jakub Rowinski, NJTPA	Gerald Rohsler
Kathy DeFillippo, Roxbury		
Frank Reilly, Board of Transportation		
Al Siebold, M&E (for Wes Weis)		

I. Welcome

The Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Nordstrom at 2:00 PM. Chairwoman Nordstrom welcomed everyone to October's meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from July 12, 2011

Mr. Frank Reilly made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Gary Behrens seconded the motion. Freeholder Gene Feyl abstained. The minutes from July 12, 2011 were approved.

III. Morristown & Erie Emergency Services Program

Mr. Al Siebold, Director of Safety for the Morristown & Erie Railway, gave a presentation on the M&E's active emergency management program. As a result of 9/11, the M&E created a police force that interacts with emergency services personnel and worked with municipalities to plan safety drills.

The first drill took place in Morris County as a mass casualty drill along the Whippany line. Additionally, the program educates first responders and police about railroad operations including the fact that a locomotive engineer is not a driver. M&E in coordination with Rutgers University created instructional videos on locomotive emergency response, railroad improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and system security awareness for transit employees. M&E has a vulnerability assessment with a safety and security plan.

Freeholder Nordstrom commented that the M&E should think about a full scale drill in Morris County and coordinate it with the County's OEM. Mr. Siebold replied that the M&E is due to conduct one in Morris County. Freeholder Feyl asked how the M&E coordinated communications. Mr. Siebold answered that they still call 911, determine who has mutual aid responsibilities, and then wait for the first trained first responder to arrive at the scene. Freeholder Nordstrom suggested a tabletop drill with a group of towns. Mr. Siebold replied that it's good for incident commanders, but there's still a need for hands-on with first responders.

Ms. Kathy DeFillippo asked when there's no cell phone service, how do they communicate in rural areas. Mr. Siebold gave an example of when this took place. They had to communicate to another County about an incident because the was blocked from communications. This led to the relocation of the 911 communications center. Freeholder Feyl asked in there were any dead spots in Roxbury. Ms. DeFillippo replied that not since switching over to the County's 911 system.

Ms. DeFillippo asked if they've worked with other communities when they did their drills. Mr. Siebold replied that as a result of their second drill, they have also worked with Rockaway Boro.

Mr. Chip Griener, M&E Chief of Police, discussed the Grade Crossing Collision Investigation Course and would like to schedule one in Morris County in 2012. The first time they did it, it had an overwhelming positive response. Ms. DeFillippo asked if the training is new in 2011. Mr. Griener replied, no, it's generally unchanged in last 5-6 years as a result of 9/11. Ms. DeFillippo asked why there was a delay. Mr. Greiner replied that like anything, technology and knowledge lag behind.

Ms. DeFillippo asked if there was training available for children. Mr. Greiner replied, yes, there is a "Stop, Look, and Listen" DVD and Operation Lifesaver will go to schools to talk to children. Mr. Erik DeLine mentioned that he did go through Operation Lifesaver Certification Training and solicited for interest but received no response. Freeholder Feyl suggested reaching out to the school districts to offer the service. Mr. DeLine stated he will draft a letter with information of the Operation Lifesaver course.

IV. Update to Warren/Morris County Rail Corridor Study

Mr. DeLine stated that the Warren/Morris Rail Corridor Study was proceeding and that the NJTPA had set aside \$250,000 to study this area. The RFP was drafted and is being reviewed and edited by NJTPA. The RFP for the study is expected to be released in early 2012.

V. Current Initiatives

A. Crossing Projects

Mr. DeLine stated the crossings for Route 10 and High Bridge Branch and Route 46 and Chester Branch are scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks. The information was placed on the County's webpage, issued a press release that went to the Daily Record and local newspapers, and adjacent municipalities were notified of the closures via email.

As of now, Warren Street and North Sussex Street are still being reviewed for funding by NJDOT. If the change orders are received soon, it's possible they could be done by the end of the year. If not, it may have to wait until Spring 2012.

VI. Open Discussion

Ms. DeFillippo noted that Roxbury approved the resolution of support for M&S Lake Junction Rail Freight Assistance Program funding.

Mr. Jakub Rowinski stated that NJ Transit will be presenting on the NJ State Rail Plan on Monday, October 17th during NJTPA's Freight Initiative Committee meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Gary Behrens made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. DeFillippo seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Erik DeLine
Senior Planner