

**Morris County Freight Rail Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday January 10, 2012: 2:00 PM**  
**Morris County Administration & Records Building**  
**Fifth Floor, Knox Room**  
**Morristown, NJ**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Freeholder Margaret Nordstrom, Chairperson		Erik DeLine
Freeholder Gene Feyl		Gerald Rohsler
Gary Behrens, Roxbury		Deena Cybulski
Kathy DeFillippo, Roxbury		
James Dodd, Dover		
Jack Holland, Holland Manufacturing		
Al Napoliello, Randolph		
Chris Mazzei, M&E Railway		

**I. Welcome**

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

**II. Approval of minutes from October 11, 2011**

Councilwoman Kathy DeFillippo made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Gary Behrens seconded the motion. Mayor James Dodd abstained. The minutes from October 11, 2011 were approved.

**III. Operation Lifesaver Presentation**

Mr. Erik DeLine showed a video, Focus on Morris County with Joe Garifo, which was aired on local television stations. Mr. DeLine discussed what Operation Lifesaver is, the audiences that it targets, and some of its key messages as part of the video. This program is being offered to schools, neighborhood groups, and others through Morris County.

Mr. DeLine then gave the Operation Lifesaver Adult PowerPoint Presentation to the Committee. He discussed the importance of paying attention to what is going on when driving at a rail-highway grade crossing what a driver should expect to see and how to react if something does happen. Additionally, Mr. DeLine talked about how people

should stay away from train tracks and that they should not be used as a shortcut between locations or a place for recreational activity.

Ms. DeFillippo asked what the Morristown & Erie Railway did at the Carey Road and Emmans Rd crossings in Roxbury. Mr. Chris Mazzei said that the M&E typically stops and has a flagman to walk the train over the crossings though they have the right just to continue across the roadway without stopping.

Ms. DeFillippo remarked that Jefferson School in Roxbury was located near the Carey Road crossing and that it would benefit from an Operation Lifesaver Presentation. Ms. DeFillippo asked if Mr. DeLine would consider giving presentations to community groups. Mr. DeLine responded that he would be willing to give a presentation to any group that was interested in Operation Lifesaver.

#### **IV. Current Initiatives**

##### *A. Crossing Projects*

Mr. DeLine stated that NJDOT did approve the funding requests for the Warren St. and North Sussex St. crossings in Dover along the Dover & Rockaway Railroad and because the weather was cooperative the contractor was able to complete the project in two days each with no delays.

Ms. DeFillippo stated that there was pooling water at the Route 10 and High Bridge Branch Crossing. When the town reached out to the state, they were informed that NJDOT would be addressing drainage issues in the spring time. Mr. DeLine said that he believed that the issue is arising from the fact that the crossing was raised to meet the future profile of the Route 10 and Commerce Boulevard intersection project, which is not scheduled to be completed until the summer of 2012. Mr. DeLine said MCDOT would reach out the NJDOT on the issue.

Mr. Dodd stated that the Dover Crossings did not have concrete sidewalks up to the rail and that they needed to be ADA Compliant. Mr. DeLine agreed and said that at the pre-construction meeting, NJDOT's representative said that they would pay for the installation of concrete sidewalks up the rail line, however, they were later informed that NJDOT would only use asphalt at the crossings since it has a longer lifespan and concrete sidewalks up to the rail tend to crack more easily as a result. Mr. Dodd said that the Dover would be sending a letter to NJDOT.

#### **V. Open Discussion**

Freeholder Feyl mentioned that New Jersey was having their State Strategic Plan Public Hearing at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on February 27<sup>th</sup> and that there was considerable opposition to the State Plan by different groups. Freeholder Feyl suggested that people

might want to come out to see what concerns there were. Additionally, a Six County Coalition meeting is being held on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to discuss the State Plan.

## **VI. Other Business**

Mr. DeLine mentioned that Warren County was sending a letter to the Commissioner of Transportation asking for his help to address the condition of the orphaned bridge at South Main Street in Phillipsburg, which is the bridge that limits the height of rail cars that can enter Morris County from Pennsylvania. Mr. DeLine asked the Committee to consider a Resolution of Support for Warren County's efforts in addressing the South Main Street Bridge.

Mr. Behren made the motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Jack Holland seconded the motion, and the Resolution was unanimously approved by the Committee.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Freeholder Feyl made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Behrens seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

The next meeting will be held on April 11, 2012 at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted

Erik DeLine  
Senior Planner