



Freight Advisory Committee

NOTES

February 25, 2026, 9:30 AM

In-person: 1 Park Place, Colonie, NY 12205

[Virtual: contact Ethan Townsend for Zoom details](#)

Attendance:

Name	Title	Representing
David Montiverdi	Aviation Planner & Strategic Development Manager	Albany County Airport Authority
Jeff Wojtowicz	Senior Research Engineer	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Kate Maynard	Director of Planning & Economic Development	Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Martin Hull	Director of Regional Planning	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Leah Rye	Administrative Specialist	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Juvena Ng	Traffic Engineer	CHA
Gautam Mani	Senior Community Planner	Federal Highway Association, NY Division
Erica Beckford	CEO	MC Samuels Logistics
Valerie Deane	CHIPS, Rail & Bike/Ped Coord.	NYSDOT Region 1
William Fitzgerald	Transportation Analyst	NYSDOT Region 1
David Rosenberg	Associate Transportation Analyst	NYSDOT
Reema Loutan	Senior Environmental Engineer	US Environmental Protection Agency
Tory Riley	VP Project Executive	Saratoga Economic Development Corporation
John Schneidawin	Director of Strategic Initiatives	Port of Albany
Megan Daly	Chief Commerce Officer	Port of Albany
Ted Thompson	Interested Citizen	Public
Tom Phelan	Senior Transportation Specialist	BHX Engineering
Kimberly Lambert	Senior Planner	Saratoga County
John Scavo	Director of Planning	Town of Clifton Park
Louis Esposito	Supervisor	Town of Princetown/OOIDA
Peter Comenzo	Senior Planner	Town of Rotterdam
Ryan Riper	Director of Engineering	Town of Wilton
Catherine Lawson	Prog. Director, Masters of Regional Planning	University at Albany
Parker Morris	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Adam McCarvill	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Andrew Tracy	Director of Transportation Operations	Capital Reg. Transp. Council
Ethan Townsend	Transportation Planner	Capital Reg. Transp. Council

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting at 9:33 AM. In-person virtual introductions were made.

2. Feature Presentation: Airport Cargo/Freight Operations & Opportunities – David Montiverdi, Albany County Airport

David Montiverdi gave a presentation about the freight and cargo operations at the Albany International Airport. He shared information about the current operations handled by UPS and FedEx, as well as the airports capacity to handle a majority of large freight aircraft. Despite its strong regular cargo service, the airport's cargo facility is well under capacity, and airport's master plan allows for growth at the freight terminal if demand increases. This summer, there will be some construction away from the terminal to redo the GA (General Aviation) apron and put in a concrete pad for large aircraft.

Tom Phelan asked if UPS and FedEx have dedicated facilities on the airport grounds, or if they are just transferring cargo from the aircraft to trucks at the airport. David responded that no sorting happens at the airport. Cargo from the carriers goes to local facilities before being sorted for last mile delivery.

Ethan Townsend asked if weight is a concerning factor because of limitations for landings on the runways, the pads where the planes are parked, or something else. David responded that it is be a mix of things. The airport sometimes must reach out to a pavement consultant to determine if an aircraft can even park in a certain location due to the weight.

Tom Phelan asked if the Albany International Airport deals with a lot of belly cargo on passenger aircraft, as has been increasing across the industry. David responded that the airport currently handles very little belly cargo.

Ethan Townsend asked if the airport has facilities on site to stage materials for a client wishing to take advantage of the ad hoc cargo service that David mentioned during the presentation. David responded that the logistics of the ad hoc cargo service are very workable. The Million Air facility and tarmac space could potentially be used for staging.

Adam McCarvill asked if there has been interest from expressed companies/clients who would like to utilize the additional cargo space at the airport, David responded that the airport might see feeder flights come back at some point, and he thinks the airport will see more cargo activity as time moves on, particularly if DHL comes back to the area.

Ethan Townsend indicated that if anyone would like to get in contact with David, please reach out to Ethan (etownsend@capitalmpo.org) and he will make that connection.

3. Discussion Items:

a. Superload Corridors Study – RFP Update

Ethan Townsend shared that the Capital Region Superload Corridors study has secured \$250,000 in funding. The RFP was released on January 23, with the proposal deadline on February 27. Proposal scoring will be conducted through March, with consultant selection toward the end of the month.

b. 2026-2027 UPWP – Public Review Open

Ethan Townsend shared that public review is open for the Transportation Councils 2026-2027 United Planning Work Program (UPWP). Highlights of the UPWP include the implementation of “In Motion: The Plan to 2050” and the “Capital Region Vision Zero Safety Action Plan.” Other initiatives include hiring consultants to prepare a variety of studies, plans and surveys; beginning the planning for a regional active transportation network; and continuing to provide on demand services such as data collection, technical assistance and modeling.

Work specific to freight planning includes continuing to hold Freight Advisory Committee meetings; conducting the Capital Region Superload Corridors Study; continuing to collaborate with academic partners; and assessing the need for an update to the 2016 Freight Plan.

c. Status of Regional Planning Initiatives

Ethan Townsend provided an update on the Transportation Council’s various planning initiatives.

4. Participant Updates

Megan Daly asked a question about who was being included on the evaluation team for the Superload study. Ethan responded that the evaluation team will probably not include anyone who is directly involved with the project, in order to maintain some independence for the scoring committee. It will be a small team that includes some people at the regional level.

Tom Phelan shared that there has been a lot of talk regarding the proposed Union Pacific / Norfolk Southern railroads merger. It’s probably less of an issue for New York State, as New York is a state served mostly by CSX, but in Pennsylvania there is concern, specifically about shortline railroad connectivity. If this group would like a presentation on the highlights of the

proposed merger, Tom could provide that. If the merger happens, it will create the first single transcontinental railroad company in the United States. Highlights of the presentation could include what's driving the merger and the potential implications. Ethan indicated he will follow up with Tom on this.

Louis Esposito shared recent news that a federal law requiring truck drivers to be able to communicate with an officer and read road signs will begin to be strongly enforced. His understanding is that transportation funding may be held up for states that do not adhere to this law. There was discussion about whether independent operators and fleet operators were responding differently to the rule. Louis' impression is that most trucking companies are in favor of it. Ethan shared that he is on the statewide bridge hit task force, and one cause of bridge strikes in the state is people not understanding the posted warnings and detour directions. Hopefully enforcement of this law will increase safety for truck operators.

5. Upcoming Meetings: May 13, August 12 & November 18

Meeting ended at 10:17 AM.