

NEWS RELEASE

Coalition of Northeastern Governors

CONEG CO-HOSTS NATIONAL HEARING ON CURRENT CONDITIONS AND FUTURE NEEDS OF NATION'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG), joined by national and regional organizations, hosted a recent field hearing of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission in New York City to discuss the current conditions, future needs, and financing alternatives for the nation's surface transportation system. Panelists from state transportation agencies, the transportation construction industry, labor, and the private sector provided the Commissioners with information and insights into the demands that mature urban and rural transportation facilities and services place on the national system.

An agenda is attached. Hearing highlights will be provided shortly.

The National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission was created by Congress as part of Public Law 109-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) to study the current conditions and future needs of the nation's surface transportation system (all modes); examine its current financing and long term alternatives to replace or supplement current federal funding; and to make specific recommendations. The 12 members are: the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation as the Chair, three members appointed by the President, two members appointed by the Speaker of the House, two members appointed by the minority leader of the House, and two members each appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the Senate. Additional information on the Commission can be found at <http://www.surfacecommission.gov>

The Hearing was chaired by Commissioner Jack Schenendorf, Vice-chair of the Commission. Other commissioners who participated in the NYC Field Hearing are:

- Commissioner Frank McArdle, Senior Advisor to General Contractors Association of New York
- Commissioner Frank Busalacchi, Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation
- Commissioner Steve Heminger, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Francisco, CA
- Commissioner Paul Weyrich, Chairman and CEO, Free Congress Foundation

The field hearing was co-hosted by the Commission and national and regional transportation organizations. They include: Americans for Transportation Mobility, the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG), the Council of State Governments - Eastern Regional Conference, the I-95 Corridor Coalition, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority - New York City, the New York Roadway Improvement Coalition, the New York State Department of Transportation, the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and the Transportation Construction Coalition.

For further information, contact Anne Stubbs, CONEG, (202) 624-8450 or coneg@sso.org.

Attachment

NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION POLICY AND REVENUE STUDY COMMISSION
NEW YORK CITY FIELD HEARING
November 15-16, 2006

Agenda

Tuesday, November 14

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Private Reception

Millenium Hilton Hotel – Soho Room, 4th Floor

The Commissioners and staff are joined by co-host representatives for a private reception

Wednesday, November 15

7:00 - 7:45 a.m.

Breakfast and Briefing on Technical Tour

Millenium Hilton Hotel – Presidential Suite, 55th Floor

8:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Technical Tours

The Commissioners will participate in technical tours that include visits to Penn Station New York (including the Control Center), the Newark Airport AirTrain, and a tour of New Jersey Marine Terminal facilities, and the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail.

2:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Public Hearings

*MTA Offices, 2 Broadway
20th Floor - Conference Room C*

2 - 3:30 p.m.

Panel I Setting the Stage - Transportation and the Economy

This session, opening with a short video on the Northeast people, economy and transportation, will help set the stage for the Commission's discussion. It takes a look at the national and northeast demographics and economy, their role in shaping the region's transportation system and its needs, and the economic and transportation ties between the Northeast and the nation.

The Northeast Challenge...Creating the Future

A three minute video offers an overview of the unique characteristics of and demands placed on the Northeast's transportation system.

Panelists

Gerald Shaheen, Group President, Caterpillar, and Chairman of the Board, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (*confirmed*)

Robert D. Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association (*confirmed*)

Rae Rosen, Senior Economist and Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York (*confirmed*)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Panel II Intercity Rail, Mass Transit and Regional Interconnectedness in 2056

This panel will look at the contribution of public transportation – including intercity passenger and commuter rail – to providing mobility, managing congestion, and generating economic development linked to a multi-modal transportation system. It will examine the region’s Northeast Corridor Network for both its unique features and the lessons offered for passenger rail corridors across the nation

Panelists

Drew Galloway, Chief, Corridor Development and Project Planning, Planning and Analysis Department, Amtrak (*confirmed*)

David King, General Manager, Triangle Transit Authority (*confirmed*)

D.C. Agrawal, Assistant Executive Director, Corporate Strategy, Policy and Contracts, NJ Transit (*confirmed*)

James Boice, Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation (*confirmed*)

5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment Period

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

Free Evening for Commissioners

Thursday, November 16

7:00 a.m.

Commissioners’ Breakfast

Millenium Hilton Hotel – Commissioners on their own

8:00 a.m.

Commissioners Travel to MTA offices

8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Public Hearing

*MTA Offices, 2 Broadway
20th Floor - Conference Room C*

8:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Panel III Condition and Needs of the National and Northeast Transportation System

Users and providers of the national and Northeast surface transportation infrastructure system discuss the specific demands that movements of freight and people place upon the system in rural and urban markets. Panelists from the public and private sectors draw upon direct experience to provide insights on how current transportation infrastructure is performing versus the demands on the system, and on the unique challenges of constructing facilities and delivering reliable, safe and secure services in a complex, mature transportation system.

Panelists

Steve L. Massie, CEO, Jack Massie Constructor Inc., Senior Vice

President, Associated General Contractors of America (*confirmed*)

Matthew A. Coogan, Director, New England Transportation Institute (*confirmed*)

Neil Pedersen, Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration (*confirmed*)

Ken Andrews, Dow Corporation (*confirmed*)

10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Panel IV Meeting the Needs

Multiple modes, enhanced connectivity, improved capacity, greater flexibility, better coordination, innovative partnerships – these are just some of the ways that transportation users and providers seek to improve mobility and provide reliable transportation systems. Witnesses offer insights on how the future national and regional transportation system can meet these transportation needs; discuss the possible role of the Federal government in shaping such a system; and share their experiences of what works and what is needed to make things work better – particularly in the multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-state environment that is the Northeast’s transportation system.

Panelists

Dr. C. Michael Walton, Chairman, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, and Professor at University of Texas, Austin (*confirmed*)

James T. Taylor II, Principal, Mercator Advisors LLC (*confirmed*)

Thomas J. Madison, Jr., Commissioner, New York State Department of Transportation (*confirmed*)

Ross Pepe, President, Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc. (*confirmed*)

Noon - 1:45 p.m.

Lunch

Provided for Commissioners and staff

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Panel V Trade and Freight Gateways to the Northeast and to the Nation

Panelists will look at both ports and border crossings in terms of their role in national freight movements, and what will be needed from both the public and private sector to ensure that these urban and rural gateways can keep freight movements operating efficiently. Topics include what must be built and connected to accommodate growth, and the financial and institutional structures needed to govern creation of ports and gateways

Panelists

Richard Larrabee, Director, Port Commerce Department, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (*confirmed*)

Sam Crane, Maher Terminals (*confirmed*)

William Goetz, Resident Vice President, CSX Transportation (*confirmed*)

Anthony Hatch, Consultant and Analyst on finance and railroads (*confirmed*)

Glenn Weisbrod, President, Economic Development Research Group, Inc. (*confirmed*)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Panel VI The Role of Public Institutions in Providing Transportation Infrastructure in 2056

Panelists will examine the role of public sector agencies in designing, building, operating and maintaining infrastructure in the future. They will discuss the challenges of aligning the interests of public transportation and environmental planners with the interests and reward systems of public facility operators and the private sector actors, as well as the challenges to these institutions of operating a multi-modal system across jurisdictional boundaries.

Panelists

Christopher P. Boylan, Deputy Executive Director/Corporate and Community Affairs Metropolitan Transportation Authority, State of New York (*confirmed*)

Victoria Cross Kelly, Director, Tunnels, Bridges and Terminals, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (*confirmed*)

5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment Period

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn