

This month's meeting, Friday, March 16, 2001, was held at New Jersey Department of Transportation Headquarters, in Trenton, New Jersey. The Association expresses its appreciation to **TED MATTHEWS**, of NJDOT, for providing our meeting room, which was in the Commissioner's Conference Room..

Due to the tight meeting schedule, lunch was not provided at this meeting.

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Attachments

NEXT MEETING: 8:45 A.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2001

**LOCATION: TROPICAL HOTEL AND CASINO
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY**

Members NJSLRRA:

As in the past, our meetings are becoming more informative and helpful. **CONGRESSMAN MIKE FERGUSON'S** presentation at our meeting illustrates the continued support for transportation, including rail transportation, in the halls of our State government. Support of rail transportation, by our elected officials, clearly illustrates the importance of the service we provide to our State.

A.J.E.

NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEETING

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2001

Attending:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Telephone No.</u>	<u>Fax No.</u>
Tony Macrie	Cape May Seashore Lines	609-884-5300	
Carl Belke	Genesee & Wyoming	908-996-4963	
Kel MacKavanagh	CSX Transportation	609-704-1270	609-704-1273
Jack F. O'Connor	Consultant	609-871-7507	
Mike Brimmer	CSX	609-409-2039	
J. R. Wilson	NY & Greenwood Lake Railway	973-743-5300	973-743-4580
Jeff Sutch	SMS/Penn Jersey Railway	856-467-4800	857-467-2121
John Fiorilla	Watson Stevens Fiorilla & Rutter	732-545-2250	
G. W. Herkner	NJ Transit Rail Operations	973-491-7874	
Steven Friedland	Morristown & Erie	973-267-4300	
A. J. Erdman	NJ TRANSIT	201-714-2788	201-714-2829
Mark McKeon	FRA	619-494-2302	
Tom Collard	SRNJ	609-871-8699	
Ron Batory	CR	856-231-2003	
Bob Bailey	Port Jersey Railroad	201-434-8373	201-434-8242
Jim Turcich	Philadelphia Belt Line	215-592-7775	
Tom Tulley	FRA		
Tom Noon	FRA	732-438-6843	
Frank Reilly	Morris County DOT	973-829-8101	
Fran Hennessy	Norfolk Southern	215-591-3653	
Charles 'Dutch' Tubman	Norfolk Southern	540-985-6057	
Mark Mastro	CSX	215-209-4359	
Michael Allen	Somerset Terminal	616-218-3212	
J. Petaccio, Jr.	SRNJ	215-634-2582	
William Wright	Union County	908-272-5968	

NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2001

This month's meeting was called to order by **BOB BAILEY** at 10:00 A.M. The first order of business was the subject of securing a suitable Business Car to accommodate the reception of the opening of the Pleasantville Transportation Center for the Southern Railroad of New Jersey and the NJSLRRA Reception for TransAction. Car rental will be \$500.00.

Bob then introduced **CONGRESSMAN MIKE FERGUSON**, of the 7th Congressional District. Mike had requested to attend our meeting to meet the members. He is aggressively determining the issues and problems being experienced in New Jersey in various areas. Mike wants to serve the people of New Jersey. Mike noted that there are many challenges in New Jersey related to highway, railroads, airports, seaports, etc. and he wants to address and improve all, including the freight and passenger railroads. He understands the importance of railroads to the economy of New Jersey. Being a member of the Transportation Committee, Mike is in a position to address these issues. He asked to attend our meeting today in order to let us know he is here to assist transportation. He concluded in asking if anyone had any questions.

JIM WILSON asked if Mike had any insight about the recent Bill submitted in the State Legislature on \$350 Million for Rail Transportation Infrastructure. Mike was aware of this Bill and, as it had just been introduced, he was still reviewing its details.

JEFF SUTCH asked Mike about the RRIF Program (Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing). Jeff felt that there were too many strings attached to obtain this funding. Jeff asked if Mike could look into this issue. **BOB BAILEY** noted that out of 20 projects, submitted for RRIF funding, 5 have been approved. Bob asked if the State could establish a fund to handle the credit risk insurance required.

MIKE BRIMMER handed out a Fact Sheet (attached) outlining Short Line Railroad statistics in New Jersey. These numbers illustrate the importance of the Short Line Railroads serving the industries which the economy of New Jersey depends upon. This information could also be used to bolster requests for funding to improve rail infrastructure. Mike Brimmer also handed out a list of suggestions for investing in improvements for rail infrastructure. Another issue of importance is the weight increases allowed on railroads. Increased tonnage from 263,000 to 286,000 and ultimately 315,000 pounds will allow for more capacity with fewer cars.

JEFF SUTCH made an analogy, by illustration, of the American Railroads as the skeleton for the country body.

TOM COLLARD explained the situation whereby his railroad operates over much State owned track. This creates problems when attempting to obtain funding or loans to perform needed track improvements. Tom also related the issue of grade crossing elimination for roads with light highway traffic.

BILL WRIGHT noted that railroads are not on a level playing field with other modes of transport in areas such as taxes, funding subsidies and legislation. Railroad competitors get government funding for their infrastructure. Railroads build and maintain their own rights of way.

FRA Region I Director **MARK MC KEON** advised the attendees that the FRA will be hosting a Safety Seminar with Region II at Steamtown, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday March 20th. Currently, there are 76 attendees signed up. The session runs from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

BOB BAILEY supported the Switching Operations Fatalities Analysis (SOFA) concept. Bob stressed that a number of fatal injuries, during switching operations, happened to older experienced employees. Stress safety to your employees - Zero injuries.

Short Line Railroads may want to consider presenting an award to employees each year if they have had no injuries.

The American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association will have a Safety Website available to allow employees to test themselves on safe work habits.

JEFF SUTCH advised the attendees about being careful while fueling locomotives. If the required 4 X 4 spill pad is not used a \$5,000. Fine can be made against the railroad.

ART ERDMAN handed out a recent Safety Advisory (attached) sent by the Federal Railroad Administration regarding certain covered hopper cars. These particular cars have had failures in their drawhead assemblies which can sometimes result in the entire assembly falling off the car. Included in the advisory are the car numbers and what to look for to determine if the drawhead assembly may fail.

CARL BELKE asked for the status of the I-81 Corridor Project and the related line improvements to increase the capacity of the railroads. **MARK MASTRO** related that CSX is handling priority freight on the hind end of the Tropicana trains running from Jersey City to Florida. This traffic is making it to Florida in three days. Mark asked if any members may want to solicit their shippers to see if they could utilize this service.

BILL WRIGHT suggested that elected officials be shown the comparison between the Interstate Highway and railroad traffic between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia to show how highway traffic (and pollution) could be reduced by using the railroad.

BOB BAILEY reported on the Railroad Days on the Hill Conference in Washington, D.C. Canadian National President **PAUL TELLIER** spoke on the CN relationship with its Short Line Railroad partners. CN is paying the Credit Risk premium in the RRIF Program for the Short Line Railroads it connects with. CN also works with its Short Line Railroad partners to grow new business. Bob hoped the Class I railroads in the U.S. would follow suit.

It was noted that CSX expects to be establishing a Shared Executive which will liaison and work with the Short Line Railroads on projects and issues. **JEFF SUTCH** expressed concern over the issue of confidentiality with this new position. **BOB BAILEY** replied that this is being addressed.

JOE PETACCIO updated the members on the liability insurance coverage for our meetings. The cost would be approximately \$300.00.

BOB BAILEY proposed that the NJSLRRA create an award that would be given to the individual that performed the most benefit to the rail transportation industry in New Jersey. The parameters and frequency of the award will be discussed further to establish this award. We will not have to look far for individuals which will be deserving of this award.

MIKE BRIMMER announced that **ED TUCKER** will be retiring from CSX at the end of the month.

STEVEN FRIEDLAND reported that the NJSLRRA Web Site will be carrying the meeting minutes. Steven also announced that the Morristown and Erie Railroad has made a new format for its Bill of Lading for outbound loads. This was done account the original was difficult to read when sent over a FAX machine.

BOB BAILEY advised that **BILL FLYNN** made note of 15 items to be addressed at the CSX Short Line Meeting and he wanted to see their status at the next meeting. Bob was glad to see CSX making that approach to the issues.

FRAN HENNESSEY noted that Norfolk Southern may be hosting a Short Line Railroad Meeting in May. **DUTCH TUBMAN** stated that the meeting will probably be held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

JOHN FIORELLA reported that he recently attended a meeting in Boston and rode the Acela train of Amtrak. He said that this is the best way to go to Boston, even considering the cost.

JIM WILSON advised that he attended Railroad Days on the Hill in Washington, D.C. and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers make a very good presentation on the status of the railroad industry.

ART ERDMAN reported on the status of NJ Transit's Advanced Speed Enforcement System (ASES). Engineers are currently being trained on its operation. ASES is similar to the Amtrak Advanced Civil Speed Enforcement System (ACSES) in use on the Northeast Corridor. Trains operating over NJ Transit will have to be equipped with ASES once the system is placed in service. CSX expressed concern over the issue of trying to access the CSX and NS main lines in the west from New Jersey and the passenger railroads they must operate over. **JEFF SUTCH** asked how the foreign railroads do this in the Chicago area. **RON BATORY** replied that there are more rail routes into and out of Chicago whereby freight railroads can avoid the passenger lines when possible.

BOB BAILEY expressed his gratitude to **ALEX DE CROCE** for his assistance in the Middlesex Tax issue. Alex made telephone calls and wrote letters to resolve the situation.

BILL WRIGHT asked about **SENATOR PETER INVERSO'S** Bill which wants to consider tracks as abandoned if out of service for two or more years. This Bill has been withdrawn.

FRANK REILLY reported that TransAction is still awaiting a reply from U.S. Secretary of Transportation **NORMAN MINETA** to see if he will attend this year's event. We should know by Wednesday, March 21st.

JEFF SUTCH complained that the most concern over issues of ports was in Northern New Jersey. He felt that South Jersey should also be considered as there are identical problems in the South Jersey Ports of Paulsboro, Camden and Philadelphia. These issues are dredging, access and port improvements to attract commerce.

FRANK REILLY noted that the Delaware River Port Authority will have an exhibit at TransAction. Frank also noted that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey forecasts that truck traffic will double in the next ten years and triple in the next twenty years. Frank also reported that the exhibit booths for Trans Action have been sold out. Acting New Jersey Governor **DONALD DE FRANCESCO** will be attending.

ART ERDMAN advised that in the 45 minute drive from Hoboken to Exit 8 Hightstown, on the New Jersey Turnpike, he counted over 150 eighteen wheel trucks heading north on the Turnpike. Considering that all 150 trucks would make one intermodal train, there is an opportunity for the railroad industry out there for business being handled by over the road trucks.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: 8:45 A.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2001
AT
TROPICANA HOTEL AND CASINO
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY