Cross Harbor Freight EIS
Stakeholder Committee

September 30, 2009

Agenda

- Introductions
- Challenges to Freight Movement
- The Port Authority’s Role
- Stakeholder Committee
- The EIS
- Market Analysis Update
- Comments / Questions
- Next Steps
Regional Freight Movement

- Dependence on trucking for goods movement threatens the economic vitality and the quality of life in the New York region.
- Future increases in freight demand will require a modally diverse approach that takes advantage of underutilized freight capacity.
- The rehabilitation of the existing rail freight network would support a shift from truck to the more sustainable mode of rail for goods movement.

Challenges to Movement by Rail

- Lack of Direct Connectivity between W and E of Hudson
- Failing Rail Infrastructure
- Passenger Services Dominate
- Limited Rail Support Facilities
- Need for Greater Coordination and Overall Strategy
**Existing Freight Movement**

- Overwhelming dependence on trucking—79% regional mode share

**Projected Highway Congestion**
Cross Harbor Freight Network

- Redirect the previous efforts
- Mindful of potential local impacts
- Develop comprehensive bi-state solutions

Port Authority Approach
Recent Cross Harbor Activity

- PA acquires railcar float operation and Greenville Yard lease
- Repairs to Barge #19
- Repairs to Greenville Transfer Bridge
- Successful 65th Street Test
- EIS Team
- Data Purchase

MIS ➔ DEIS ➔ Tiered EIS

Major Investment Study (1998)
- Problem Identification
- Market Conditions
- Goals Development
- Establish Public Involvement Process
- Identify/Evaluate Alternatives
- Advance Selected Strategies

Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- Enhanced Market/Transportation Analysis
- Preliminary Engineering
- Detailed Environmental Review
- Comprehensive/through Public Outreach Process
- Identify a Preferred Alternative

Tiered EIS
- Tier I
- Tier II

Timeline:
- 1998
- 2004
- 2009
- 2011
Tier I EIS Timeline

STK Responsibilities

- Stakeholder Committee Members
  - Strategic Group
  - Provide the PA and the Consultant Team with upfront local expertise
Public Involvement

- **Technical Advisory Committee**
  - Key transportation agencies + federal and state resource agencies + the Railroads active in New York and New Jersey

- **Stakeholder Committee**
  - Community boards, elected officials, business, civic & advocacy groups

- **Joint Committee Workshops**
  - Discussion of market analysis assumptions & findings
  - Development of comprehensive alternatives

*These Committees are in addition to SAFETEA-LU Coordination*

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**NEPA Process**

- **What is the difference this time?**
  - Comprehensive Alternatives
  - Tiering
  - Draft NOI
  - SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 Coordination
### Cross Harbor Tier I EIS

- What is the difference in this new DEIS
  - More transparency
  - Comprehensive alternatives
  - Updated market analysis and demand forecasts
  - New mode choice analysis
  - Refined rail operations analysis
  - Tiered Approach to NEPA process

### Project Alternatives

**Comprehensive Alternatives**

- Development will be mindful of local impacts
- End to End solution
- Combine elements from previous DEIS and new thinking
- Effort to capture a variety of potential freight markets
- Determination of Logical Endpoints
Draft Project Alternatives

- No Action Alternative
  - Planned upgrades to existing infrastructure (e.g. railcar float operations)
  - Committed and programmed improvements to rail lines and rail yards
- TSM Alternative
  - Repair or upgrade of existing float bridges
  - Scheduling improvements to allow both freight and passenger rail traffic
- TDM Alternative

Draft Project Alternatives

- Build Alternatives may include
  - Expanded railcar float system
  - Tunnel (several versions) & ancillary facilities
  - Combination railcar float/tunnel & ancillary facilities

---Will be the subject of a joint committee workshop---
**Tiering**

**What?**
- Staged process for environmental review of complex projects

“...Agencies are encouraged to tier their environmental impact statements to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and to focus on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review...” (CEQ Section 1502.20)

**Why?**
- Allows agency to prepare NEPA documents with the appropriate level of detail at different stages
- Encourages Corridor level decision-making
- Sets project milestones at interim stages
- Stakeholders to influence decision-making at various points
Cross Harbor Tier I

- Corridor-level analysis of alternatives
  - A broad examination of goals and objectives
  - An assessment of regional and corridor-level transportation effects
  - Similar to an Alternatives Analysis (FTA)

RESULT:
- Record of Decision with mode, alignment and logical termini
- Regional and corridor-level assessment of economic and transportation effects
- Definition of alternatives to proceed into Tier II EIS or other environmental documents and permits

Cross Harbor Tier II

- Site-specific impacts analysis
  - In-depth look at alternatives selected in Tier I
  - Quantitative analysis of environmental impacts
  - Refinement of logistics and costs

RESULT
- Project specific NEPA documentation
Need

- Heavy reliance on truck movement contributes to serious regional highway congestion and travel delays, especially on the crossings
- Current estimates predict a substantial increase in truck tonnage through 2035
- Continuation of this trend without improvements will threaten the economic vitality of the greater NY/NJ/CT region

Purpose

To improve the movement of freight across the Harbor
Draft Project Goals

- Reduction in congestion on the Verrazano-Narrows and George Washington bridges
- Congestion relief on the major freight corridors leading to Harbor crossings
- Reduction in travel time for the freight movement between the regions
- Increase in cross-harbor freight movement capacity

--- Opportunity ---
Non-trucking freight movement modes are under-utilized

SAFETEA-LU Section 6002 Coordination

- In addition to the TAC and Stakeholder Committees
- Allows for an Efficient Environmental Review
- Works to Expedite Approvals of Transportation Improvements
- Project team will seek input from the SAFETEA-LU Committee at key coordination points throughout the NEPA process
  - Cooperating
  - Participating
Public Involvement Timeline

August  
September  
October  
November  
December  
January

- August
  - Technical Advisory Comm.
  - Stakeholder Comm.
  - First Meetings

- September
  - Joint Committee Workshop

- October
  - SAFETEA-LU First Meeting

- November
  - Series of Public Scoping Meetings

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Market Analysis Scope

- **Accurate, defensible, and explainable** market demand estimates are critical inputs to outreach, engineering design, and environmental investigations

- Market analysis work is led by CS and supported by Oliver Wyman Group and SBRI Inc.

- Three major work tracks
  - Logistics and Market Demand
  - Rail Operations and Multimodal Network Analysis
  - Economic and Financial Analysis
**Data Analysis Framework**

**Market Analysis Schedule**

**First Six Months – Develop Tools**
- Collect and analyze freight and logistics data
- Prepare highway and rail network modeling tools
- Prepare economic impact modeling tools
- Develop current and future “no action” freight flows
- Conduct interviews for mode choice models

**Second Six Months – Apply Tools**
- Complete mode choice models
- Formulate alternatives
- Apply models to test market capture, highway and rail network impacts, economic impacts
- Refine alternatives and re-test
Four key market opportunities:

#1 Grow direct rail service to/from customers East of Hudson, focusing on proven rail commodities

#2 Shift the ‘middle’ segment of long-haul truck trips to/from the East of Hudson from truck to rail

#3 For rail traffic that currently terminates in the West of Hudson and is trucked to the East of Hudson, move the rail trip end to the East of Hudson

#4 Provide an alternative river crossing for short-haul freight trips within the region

**Tier I Next Steps**

- Purpose & Need
- Notice of Intent
- Methodology Reports
- Public Involvement
- Market Analysis
- Alternative Development
- PDEIS and DEIS
- DEIS Public Hearings
- FEIS and ROD

0 6 12 18 22 months
Questions?

Tier II EIS Flow

- Detailed site investigations (e.g., geotech, survey, environmental)
- Preliminary engineering or other studies
- Alternatives analysis (screen and aggregate, per TIP ROD)
- Integrate into Tier II EIS
- Public Input
- Public Comments
- Tier II
- Final EIS
- Public Hearing
- ISS and Tier II
- Notice of Intent
- Final EIS
- Final Order
- Final Rulemaking Notice
- Provide EIS/EIS for target Alternatives