

**Council on Port Performance**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**  
**9:00 AM**



**Identified Attendees:** John Nardi, Steve Schulein, Rob Girardot, James Auger, Kurt Mittenzwei, Bill Skinner, John Farrell, John Atkins, Jason Jasovsky, Anne Strauss-Wieder, Bruce Fenimore, Thorkild Hove, Tim Avanzato, Michael McGuinness, Mike DiVirgilio, Bob Fredman, Tom Heimgartner, Tom Adamski, Stacey Normington, Randy Bayles, Thomas Morkan, Mike Bozza, Erika Francis, Rado Saragih, Hilary McCarron, Blair Wegescheide, Amanda Valdes, Dean Bodnar, Danette Carl, Elizabeth Langmaid

**Labor Update:**

- Labor remains steady
- Continue to interview and add workers
- Equipment tight for training, but terminals working on issue
- Cruise is starting to pick up, looking to hire more labor
- 49 ILA retirees set for June, July, August
  - 133 potential retirees in 2022 so far; monitoring this number to be prepared to backfill

**Ocean Carriers Update:**

- PONYNJ has 10-13 vessels at anchor with 1-2 day for small ships and 7 days for larger ships
- Norfolk has 6-7 vessels at anchor with a 2–3-day delay
- Charleston is berth on arrival
- Savannah has 14 ships at anchor with a 3-day delay
- Miami is clear
- Houston has 5-7 vessels at anchors with a 5-day delay
- LA/LB has 30 vessels in queue and about 50 slow steaming with a 7-day delay
- Oakland has 7 vessels at anchor with a 7-day delay
- Seattle implemented slow steaming program
- Rail very fluid
  - Moving empties from NY/NJ to West Coast
- Focus on pushing imports off terminal to some of the offsite pop-up space made available for empties
  - 2 extra loaders recently came through the PONYNJ
  - 8,700 empties month over month
- Strong Q1 and Q2 volume, traffic starting to migrate from West to East Coast
- IWLA negotiations currently paused until June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Double digit growth on East Coast and larger growth in Gulf
- Some services will be skipping Ports every 2 weeks, but PONYNJ remains in the service, so may see additional volumes
- Empties remain a challenge
- OCEMA priority remains the evacuation of empties
  - Discussions continue around the issues with billing and customer service

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**Marine Terminal Update:**

- Import dwell days are down to 7-9 days, where peak was 15 days
  - Capacity gains from lower import dwells, has been slowed by long empty dwells
- Processing labor fast to add additional workforce is helping turn vessels quickly
- Chassis shortages remain
- Empties continue to be evacuated

**IEP Update:**

- Chassis inventories remain tight, the few that comeback are turned quickly
- Dwell times are still long

**Depot Update:**

- Utilization rate must be high; not much to repair to put back into service
- Using appointment system for empty returns
- In the coming days hopefully adding additional capacity

**Shipper Update:**

- Consumer demand still high
- Struggles continue with billing and communication throughout the supply chain
- Thanked CES locations for huge improvement on quickly and efficiently inspecting and moving containers
- Working with truckers and appointments to see if brokers and forwarders can assist in improving the movement of cargo
- Empty container returns remain a challenge

**NAIOP NJ:**

- Annual Industrial Conference will be held June 8-9<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt in Jersey City
  - Focused on tours and trends in tech, labor and warehousing space changes.

**Rail:**

- Rail remains strong
- Consistency of car supply still a challenge
  - Remains top priority
- Challenged by empties and loads being moved from the East to West Coast which takes cars off lines since they are being moved to West Coast railroads
  - Constantly working to cycle these cars back to East Coast lines

**Bi-State/NJMTA Update:**

- Empty return locations continue to be an issue; Backlogs on empty returns has caused additional congestion. Urge the Ocean Carriers to continue their efforts of evacuating empties

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- Terminal congestion compounded when empty returns are confined to specific timeslots
- Empty appointments are hard to find or are all reserved immediately
- 20' chassis are becoming difficult to find

**NJTPA:**

- Amazon announced reducing warehousing space nationwide; NJTPA continues to monitor but feels that consumer demand remains strong
- IJJA funding becoming available; NJTPA has applied to infrastructure grants and continues to work to efficiently utilize available funds

**MARAD**

- Rear Admiral Ann C. Phillips confirmed as the new MARAD Administrator

**PA Update:**

- Working on setting up additional empty pop-up location which will be available very shortly
- Recently held a workforce event at the Maritime Community Engagement Center to discuss careers in roles that are not 9am-5pm. Included representatives from the ILA, NYSA, and TRAC.
- Looking for available space to host in-person event; Aiming to use space for a Job & Apprenticeship Fair in late June 2022 in partnership with manufacturers and supply chain partners.
- Working with BiState, NJMEP, and the NJ Consortium of Community Colleges to implement an Under-21 Trucker apprenticeship program in NJ. Connecting with elected officials currently.
- Currently working to update and edit a new Trucker Orientation Video for new drivers to be introduced to the rules and regulations of the Port. This will be in addition to the Trucker Resource Guide but in a more succinct version.
  - The video will be available at the Trucker Service Center and become a knowledge check for drivers to successfully obtain their SeaLink credential.
- Pursuing channel deepening and expanding passing zones in the NY Harbor with the USACE
  - Will be looking for advocacy and help to continue gaining approvals for these needed improvements in NY-NJ. Feel free to reach out to PANYNJ with questions.