Council on Port Performance
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
9:00 AM

Identified Attendees: Peter Barb, John Nardi, David Cicalese, Tim Avanzato, John Atkins, Steve Schulein, John Farell, Tom Heimgartner, Chris Lutick, Lou Notaro, Peggy Mecca, Jerry Dooley, Rob Cannizzaro, Stacey Normington, Melissa Spata, Kurt Mittenzwei, Tony Murrello, Courtney Robinson, Mike Verney, Al Raffa, Thor Hove, Jason Jasovsky, Jason Kirin, Matt McGuire, Thomas DuJat, TenaVel Thomas, Rich Werkmeister, Dan McQuate, Amanda Rutherford, Jakub Rowinski, Sofia Kyle, Jeanette Gioia, Dan Kennedy, Mike Divirgilio, Beth Rooney, Amanda Valdes, Liz Langmaid, Crystal Almanzar, Stephanie Dominguez, Blair Kelly

Opening Remarks:

- State of the Port will be rescheduled due to impending snowstorm; new date is February 2nd at the Newark Airport Marriot
    - Updated invites will be shared shortly
- Final 2025 PONYNJ Volume will be announced shortly; expected to be slightly above 8.9 Million TEUs
    - December 2025 was 10% lower than November 2025
    - 2025 volume will be above 2024 volume
- Experiencing challenges and shift of demand in the industry from 2025 to 2026
    - Trucking capacity seems to be oversaturated in NY/NJ
        - 2023- 3,405 registered trucking companies and 36,000 trucks
        - 2025- 4,220 registered trucking companies and 46,000 trucks
    - Warehousing capacity for port purposes in the region also seems to be larger than current demand
        - Vacancy rate across the state of NJ is down from 10% to 7% with lower rates around the PONYNJ
- NJ Governor Mikie Sherrill was sworn in on January 20th
    - Monitoring new agency and department leadership announcements, including NJDOL, for potential impact on industry
    - PANYNJ met with Governor's transition team to address vital supply chain issues
- NJ Legislature has introduced upwards of a dozen bills which could impact the PONYNJ; PANYNJ & SANYNJ are tracking progress and analyzing bills to then discuss CPP partnership/advocacy as needed
    - A new piece of legislature on rail safety was introduced that would have had a negative impact on the industry; Gov Murphy partially vetoed and signed a revised bill in line with industry advocacy prior to transition
- Labor supply in NJ is strong
    - Working to increase labor in NY and looking to hire part-time baggage handlers for Cruise weekend shifts
- USCG Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Sail 4th 250/International Naval Review 250 in the Port of New York and New Jersey.
    - Comment period ends February 17th

    - Comments should be submitted to the docket as outlined in link: NPRM Sail 4th 250- 90 FR 59422 pdf
- CBP staff is working in their new Bid locations, which went into effect on January 11th
    - Assisting with some priorities throughout the country though it has not impacted the ability to service the trade community
    - In the decision-making phase for the Air CES, which should be completed in the next few weeks

Appointment System Working Group

- No changes or edits have been made since last discussion in December
- Vote on Adoption: Passed
    - Yes Votes
        - SANYNJ
        - MMMCA
        - CMA CGM
        - ONE
        - OCEMA
        - Port Liberty Terminals
        - Maher
        - APM
        - Danish Crown
        - NYNJFFF&BA
        - Shipco
        - Flexi-Van
        - C&C
        - Columbia
        - NAIOP NJ
        - PANYNJ
    - No Votes
        - Lanca Sales
        - NRS
        - DCLI
        - NJMTA
        - H&M
    - Abstain Votes
        - Association of BiState Motor Carriers
        - TRAC

Sector Specific Recommendations to Improve Supply Chain Efficiency

- Review final edits and comments
    - Additional bullet on data sharing flagged for proprietary or confidential information; disclaimer will be added noting concern

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- Next Steps- PANYNJ will create a workplan around the Top 3-5 Recommendations based on survey results for recommendations that are most impactful to efficiency
    - Will share with CPP members for feedback and participation at our February meeting

2026 CPP Tentative Meeting Schedule (Wednesdays)

- Adjusted to avoid conflict with Port Planning Sail 250 or Executive Steering Committee meetings
    - February 18th
    - March 25th or 18th
    - April 22nd
    - May 20th or May 27th (Memorial Day 25th)
    - June 24th
    - July 22nd
    - August 26th or 19th
    - September 23rd or 30th
    - October 28th or 21st

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- November 18th
- December 16th

- Finalized 2026 dates and calendar invites will be shared with members in coming weeks