

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
RAIL FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In accordance with Act 1988-188 amending the act of July 5, 1984 (P.L. 587, No. 119) the following is a report of the deliberations and actions of the Commonwealth's Rail Freight Advisory Committee for the year 2010.

In terms of administrative actions, the Committee elected the following officers for 2011: Chairman-Attorney Lawrence C. Malski, Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority; Vice Chairman-Richard Biery, Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission; Secretary-Mike Fesen, Norfolk Southern. Mr. Biery resigned in 2011 since he obtained a new position with an engineering consulting firm. He was replaced as Vice Chairman by Bryan Baker who works for the Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission. The full committee fulfilled its obligations under its enabling legislation by holding four formal meetings of the full committee. The full committee also held its October 26, 2011 formal meeting in Williamsport, PA at the Pennsylvania School of Technology and SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and the Lycoming Valley Railroad hosted an inspection train to allow RFAC members an opportunity to inspect the impressive growth of rail traffic and jobs related to the Marcellus Gas Drilling Industry. It also should be noted that the various subcommittees also communicated by means of informal meetings and telephone conference communications including involvement with PennDOT through the Department's Bureau of Rail Freight personnel and its task force on Costs/Benefits Study and its task force on Regulations and Policies for Grants.

Chairman Malski was in receipt of a letter of appreciation from PA Operation Lifesaver, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof denoting the \$10,000.00 donation that the RFAC approved during 2011. It was noted that such worthy donations have been a result of the financial success of the Annual Rail Freight Seminar that the RFAC and KSRRA have been able to administer annually.

The following subcommittees were also used to assist and advise the full committee in performing its functions.

The Essential Rail Freight Subcommittee continued its function as a clearinghouse for rail freight service problems and concerns that have impacted communities, railroads, counties, shippers and receivers of rail freight across the Commonwealth and was helpful in providing a forum to bring these local rail issues to the full Committee and PennDOT for action and assistance. Examples of the issues which were addressed by the committee with the help of this subcommittee were track abandonment issues, Marcellus Shale rail infrastructure issues, Rail to Trail issues, and providing advice to counties and communities regarding freight congestion issues just to list a few.

The Legislative Subcommittee assisted the full Committee on various issues affecting the rail industry in the Commonwealth such as truck size and weight legislation matters, Hazmat rail traffic reroute and detour issues and transit and other rail funding issues affecting the Commonwealth's rail system. The Committee also worked through its members as representatives of the House and Senate Transportation Committees as a comprehensive voice of the rail industry, shippers and other interested parties on legislative matters affecting the rail industry in Pennsylvania.

The Shippers Subcommittee performed its duties during 2011 by better coordinating and communicating issues pertaining to the consignees and consignors of rail freight in Pennsylvania with Class I, regional and shortline railroads and state government in the Commonwealth.

The Seminar Subcommittee and the full Committee addressed the public education and information functions of the committee's charter by holding the 20<sup>th</sup> annual statewide Rail Freight Seminar held jointly with the Keystone State Railroad Association on May 17, 18, 19, 2011 in Harrisburg. SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority was the local sponsor of the event which drew approximately 200 participants and serves as a valuable tool in disseminating information and knowledge of the vitality and importance of the rail industry to Pennsylvania industries and its impact on economic development in the Commonwealth. The Subcommittee has begun planning the 21st annual Rail Freight Seminar which will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton on May 15, 16, 17, 2012. The seminar will again be held jointly with Keystone State Railroad Association and SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority has agreed to be the local sponsor again in 2012. Of special note was the interest that was shown in the panel on Marcellus Shale Gas Industry and the benefits that the rail industry in Pennsylvania has brought to the growth of this new economic development in Pennsylvania.

Finally, the full Committee took an active role in its mission by passing and disbursing a number of formal resolutions including a resolution opposing changes to the rail regulatory policy that would be detrimental to the rail industry and a resolution opposing an increase in truck sizes and weights on Pennsylvania highways.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lawrence C. Malski, Esquire  
Chairman, PA Rail Freight Advisory Committee

On behalf of the 2010 Pennsylvania Rail Freight Advisory Committee Members as follows:

Honorable Barry J. Schoch  
Secretary of Transportation  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Honorable Robert F. Powelson, Chairman  
Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Honorable John C. Rafferty, Jr., Majority Chairman  
Senate Transportation Committee

Honorable John N. Wozniak, Minority Chairman  
Senate Transportation Committee

Honorable Richard A. Geist, Majority Chairman  
House Transportation Committee

Honorable Michael P. McGeehan, Minority Chairman  
House Transportation Committee

Honorable C. Alan Walker, Secretary  
Economic and Community Development  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Mr. Dave Zarowny  
Hatch Mott MacDonald

Mr. Rudy Husband (RFAC Secretary 2011)  
Norfolk Southern Corporation

Mr. J. Randolph Cheetham  
CSX Transportation

Mr. J. Michael Zaia  
Lehigh Valley Rail Management

Mr. Jeffrey K. Stover  
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority

Mr. Brian Baker (RFAC Vice Chairman 2011)  
Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission

Dr. James Hassinger  
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Mr. Donald Shanis  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Mr. Thomas Ferencz  
Standard Steel, LLC

Mr. Harvey Weiner  
Dependable Distribution Services, Inc.

Ms. Carol K. Keup  
Valley Distributing & Storage Company

Mr. Gary E. Landrio  
Stone Consulting & Design, Inc.

Mr. David J. Collins  
Genesee & Wyoming

Ms. Pamela A. Witmer  
Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council

Mr. Dan Gross  
United Parcel Service

Ms. Lou Ann Vavreck  
Pennsylvania Services Corporation