

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012
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 2012.

In terms of administrative actions, the Committee elected the following officers for 2012: Chairman-Attorney Lawrence C. Malski, Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority; Vice Chairman-Brian Baker, Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission; Secretary-Rudy Husband, Norfolk Southern. The full committee fulfilled its obligations under its enabling legislation by holding four formal meetings of the full committee. 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.

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, 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 2012 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 21st annual statewide Rail Freight Seminar held jointly with the Keystone State Railroad Association on May 15, 16, 17, 2012 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 22nd annual Rail Freight Seminar which will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton on May 21, 22, 23, 2013. The seminar will again be held jointly with PennDOT's Bureau of Rail Freight, Keystone State Railroad Association and SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority as the local sponsors again in 2013. 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 supporting and making recommendations relating to two formal resolutions passed by the full committee in 2011 relating to opposition to changes in the rail regulatory policy that would be detrimental to the rail industry and opposition to 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 2012 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 2012)
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 2012)
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. Karin D. Hayes
Air Products and Chemicals

Mr. Dan Gross
United Parcel Service

Ms. Lou Ann Vavreck
Pennsylvania Services Corporation