



**NOTES OF
FREIGHT RAIL & PORT WORKING GROUP**

**Monday, September 14, 2026
2:00 PM**

Location: VIRTUAL

TEAMS Link was provided.

Working Group Members in Attendance

Chair Michael O'Connor (Connecticut Port Authority); Kyle Craig (Connecticut Department of Transportation); Andrew Lavinge (Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development); Jennifer Perry (Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) Aaron Swanson (Connecticut Department of Transportation); Anthony Afriyie (Connecticut Port Authority)

Registered Attendees

- Lisa Brandes
- Todd Fontanella
- Nick Bragaia
- Mike Riley
- Jay Levin
- Tyler Frost
- Paula Clarke
- Carey E. Redd II
- Peter Baiardi

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Opening remarks delivered by Michael O'Connor of the Connecticut Port Authority reviewed the purpose of the Freight Rail & Port Working Group and the public comment process.

Members of the public were reminded that they may participate through scheduled public meetings or submit written comments through the Connecticut Port Authority website.

2. Public Comment

James Gura: Moran Shipping Agencies (0:01:47)

James Gura provided comments from the perspective of the maritime shipping and port services industry. Gura emphasized the importance of viewing Connecticut's ports and freight rail infrastructure as long term economic assets and protecting the land, connections, and infrastructure necessary for future maritime and freight growth.

Sally Kruse: New Haven Port Authority (0:09:17)

Sally Kruse, Executive Director of the New Haven Port Authority, discussed the role of the Port of New Haven and opportunities to shift additional freight from highways to rail and water. Kruse emphasized that moving freight by rail and water can produce benefits beyond the individual shipper or terminal. Kruse referenced the New Haven Harbor Improvement Project and the opportunities that a deeper and wider federal navigation channel may create for the port.

Kruse noted that expanded maritime capacity must be matched by adequate landside infrastructure and emphasized the importance of preserving adequate industrial land within and near the port.

3. Working Group Discussion

Following the public presentations, working group members thanked the speakers for their comments and discussed how the testimony would contribute to the working group's ongoing analysis.

4. Next Steps

1. Continue accepting written public comments and information from freight, maritime, rail, municipal, environmental, and economic development stakeholders.
2. Incorporate public testimony into the Working Group's analysis of potential policies, incentives, infrastructure investments, and recommendations.
3. Continue assembling findings and recommendations for the Working Group's eventual report.

5. Next Meeting

Monday, September 28, 2026 – 2:00 p.m. Virtual on TEAMS

6. Adjournment

Closing remarks thanked the public participants and working group members for their participation. Members of the public were again encouraged to provide written comments and participate in future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:17 p.m.