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**NJTPA Morris-Warren Rail Study
Stakeholder Working Group Invitation**

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) has initiated a study of the primary rail freight corridor serving Morris and Warren Counties. The corridor consists of Norfolk Southern's Washington Secondary Line between Phillipsburg and Hackettstown in Warren County and NJ TRANSIT's Morristown Line from Hackettstown to Morristown in Morris County. The study is investigating the feasibility and potential benefits of upgrading this rail corridor to accommodate heavier rail cars and eliminate overhead height restrictions to better serve existing and future businesses located along the corridor.

The study builds upon the findings of the previously completed "Morris County Freight Infrastructure and Land Use Analysis" study, which identified a number of constraints on the corridor in Morris and Warren Counties that limit the ability of the freight railroad industry to serve the region.

Many businesses in the study area rely on rail freight to receive commodities and compete in a global economy. Businesses located along rail lines that are restricted from carrying today's industry standard rail cars are at a competitive disadvantage. Improvements to the corridor and the rail service that can be provided would serve as a catalyst to retain and grow existing rail served businesses, as well as attract new industrial development/redevelopment, bringing jobs and economic vitality to the region. Vacant and underutilized industrial properties could be made more attractive locations for rail-oriented businesses.

An important component of this investigation is gathering input from stakeholders along the corridor - those who would be most affected by improvements to the rail corridor. A Stakeholder Working Group ("SWG") is being assembled to ensure that those having an interest in the future of the rail corridor are fully informed on a range of study issues, and that they have the opportunity to provide meaningful comments and input to the study process. The SWG will be comprised of county planning officials, municipal officials, rail operators, private property owners, economic development agency officials, rail customers and industrial development brokers. We welcome and encourage your participation as a member of the SWG.

The first SWG meeting is scheduled for:

**Thursday April 11, 2013
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Township of Roxbury Municipal Building
1715 Route 46
Ledgewood, NJ 07852**

To indicate your interest in participating on the Stakeholder Working Group, and to confirm your attendance at the first SWG meeting, please contact:

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Thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you at the first SWG meeting.