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Statewide Freight Plan In Place

Monday, September 14, 2009

Scott Wykoff

Maryland's first statewide freight plan has been released.

The plan was unveiled at the Maryland Department of Transportation's second Statewide Freight Summit at the BWI Airport Hilton.

In addition to reviewing the new Plan, Transportation Secretary Beverley K. Swaim-Staley discussed the future of freight in Maryland with key federal and State officials attending the summit, including: Governor O'Malley, Senator Cardin, Congressman Sarbanes, Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary Christian S. Johansson, Federal Highway Administration Associate Administrator of Policy Shailen Bhatt and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Transportation Infrastructure Director Janet Kavinoky.

"In the coming years, Maryland will experience 75 percent more freight shipments sharing our roadways and railways," said Governor O'Malley. "This Statewide Freight Plan has identified more than 100 port, highway and rail projects to help us support these additional trucks and trains without increasing congestion on our already overburdened highways and commuter railways. This Plan shows how economic development and quality of life can coexist."

In preparation for the 75 percent increase by 2030, the Plan prioritizes the 100 projects based on specific criteria ranging from safety and security to freight connectivity.

The Statewide Freight Plan was built after many months of working with Maryland freight stakeholders.

"This Summit and the Maryland Statewide Freight Plan continue the communication and collaboration with local governments that is so critical in developing the best statewide and regional freight system in the country," said Transportation Secretary Swaim-Staley. "Working together with our public and private sector partners, this plan will inform local and regional planning and guide our transportation investments for years to come."

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