



<p><b>NJ-NY-PA Rail Freight Economic Development Conference Set</b></p>	<p><b>Inside this issue:</b></p>
<p>The first of its kind joint rail freight conference will take place on September 18, 2008 in Cooperstown, NY at the Otesaga Hotel. Several panels have been set up to provide an informative discussion on rail freight and economic development issues in NJ-NY-PA. Deputy Secretary Eric Madden will attending with his colleagues from New York and New Jersey.</p> <p>As development in the Northeast continues at a rapid pace, the growth of rail freight and its importance to commerce will go hand in hand. This conference is a great place to exchange ideas on how our neighboring states can work together to make our industry stronger.</p>	<p><i>NJ-NY-PA Rail Freight Economic Development Conference Set</i> 1</p> <p><i>Legislative Update</i> 1</p>
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<p>The Senate is on recess until September 16, 2008. Additional Session days are September 17, 18, 22, 23 and 24 and October 1, 2, 6 and 7.</p> <p>The House is on recess until September 15, 2008. Additional Session days are September 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24 and October 6, 7 and 8 and November 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25.</p> <p>Among the issues KSRRA will be lobbying for is a bill to toughen penalties for metal theft which has become a serious problem for railroads. With the short fall legislative session, it may be difficult to achieve final passage but we intend to make our legislators aware of this growing problem.</p>	<p><i>PennDOT to Prepare Report</i> 2</p> <p><i>Operation Lifesaver— Pennsylvania</i> 2</p> <p><i>Contacting the KSRRA Staff</i> 2</p>
<p><b>Cell Phones in Locomotives</b></p>	
<p>On August 1<sup>st</sup> the United States Senate passed SA. 5259, the “Cantwell Amendment”, which is the Senate version of a rail safety bill for this session. It is a wide-ranging bill, but there is one particular issue that has been raised in Pennsylvania before: cell phones in the locomotives.</p> <p>In section 405, it would require the Department of Transportation to study the use of cell phones or other “distracting devices” by train crews. We will continue to educate our legislators here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that cell phones are both unnecessary and potentially unsafe in the cab of a train.</p>	

## **KSRRA Calendar—Important Dates**

August 1, 2008	2009 Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Rail Funds Application period opens	
August 29, 2008	2009 Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) Rail Funds Application period ends	
September 18, 2008	Tri-State Rail Freight Economic Development Conference	Cooperstown, NY
October 13-15, 2008	ASLRRA Eastern Regional Meeting	Williamsburg, VA
October 14, 2008	KSRRA Board Meeting	Harrisburg, PA
October 15, 2008	RFAC Meeting	Harrisburg, PA
May 13—15, 2009	18th Annual PA Rail Freight Conference & Seminar	Harrisburg, PA

## **APRAS Meeting Scheduled**

KSRRA President, Mike Fesen and KSRRA staff have arranged an APRAS users group meeting with PennDOT to discuss the system. The meeting is Monday, August 25th at 11 a.m. in the Keystone Building.

If you would like to attend in person or by phone, please contact Joe Gerdes by phone or email.

## **PennDOT to Prepare Report**

PennDOT is to prepare a report entitled “Cost Benefit Analysis to Measure the Impact of Rail Freight Funding on Transportation and Economic Development.”

The report, which will obviously be important to the industry, will be prepared by a research firm selected by a competition bid. Executive Director, Joe Gerdes will participate as a panel member on behalf of the KSRRA.

## **Operation Lifesaver—Pennsylvania**

Lugene Bastian is planning to have a booth at the Thomas the Tank Days at the Strasburg Railroad in Strasburg PA on September 19, 20 and 21, 2008. The display will run from 9am to 5pm and she needs our help to staff the booth. If you can spare 4 hours on any one of these days please let Lugene know as soon as possible so that she can fill out the schedule.

She is not doing the Farm Show as in years past because we reach more people who are interested in trains at Thomas the Tank Days. In June over a 3 day period we made contacts with over 6,000 people. To do that we have four people at a time in the booth, it's busy but the day flies by. So come out and help us and enjoy a great fall day in Strasburg. Lugene can be reached by email at [lbastian@state.pa.us](mailto:lbastian@state.pa.us).

### **Contacting the KSRRA Staff**

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