

# Review & Oversight Commission On the South Carolina Ports Authority

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## *Rail plans to be presented*

### *Opportunity for citizens and stakeholders to testify*

## **Port Review & Oversight Commission to Meet in North Charleston**

**COLUMBIA, S.C. - MARCH 7, 2011 --** The Review and Oversight Commission on the South Carolina Ports Authority will meet on Friday, March 11, 2011 in North Charleston to receive proposals for intermodal rail service at the Port of Charleston. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Charleston Airport / Convention Center in the Wilson Ballroom, 5264 International Boulevard, North Charleston, 29418.

Railway representatives will give engineering and technical explanations and present conceptual proposals for track and facility layout. The Commission will accept testimony from interested citizens and other stakeholders.

**Those wishing to testify should notify the Commission of their intent and provide their proposed testimony in writing by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9.** For more information or to submit comments, email David Owens at [davidowens@scsenate.gov](mailto:davidowens@scsenate.gov) or call 803-212-6402.

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The Review and Oversight Commission on the South Carolina Ports Authority is a ten-member, joint legislative panel. The Commission's charge includes consideration of whether the South Carolina Ports Authority is promoting, developing, constructing, equipping, maintaining, and operating the harbors and seaports of South Carolina in an efficient and effective manner.

In January the Commission released preliminary findings based upon earlier input from South Carolina Public Railways, both Class I Rail carriers serving the port, various chambers of commerce and economic development groups, environmental interests, neighborhood associations, and the City of North Charleston. Findings include:

- The economic well-being of South Carolina is inextricably tied to the success of South Carolina's ports;
- The Port of Charleston has a unique opportunity to benefit from the ongoing \$5.2 billion work to expand the Panama Canal;
- Port leadership seems to be positioning the Port to maximize this expansion;
- Near-dock, competitive rail access, with its accompanying efficiencies and access to various markets, is necessary for the long-term stability and growth of the Port;
- Easily understood proposals for competitive intermodal facilities should be available for public scrutiny.

The Commission also asked interested parties to submit specific plans to develop a regional intermodal rail facility to provide competitive, near dock rail access. The plans should provide a broad overview of development of one or more intermodal container transfer facilities, including functional characteristics, cost projections, and timelines.