

Allied Member Spotlight

Vehicle Tracking Solutions: Full-Service Fleet Tracking & ELDs

When the Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers began exploring ways to accurately capture turn times at the Port of NY & NJ, one fleet management tracking system kept cropping up as the preferred choice by our members. It was the Silent Passenger solution developed, offered and supported by Vehicle Tracking Solutions (VTS), a leading fleet management software company and Allied Bi-State member.



Although VTS maintains a large national presence, they are a local company based in Commack, NY. VTS offers a variety of software and hardware options for trucking companies seeking to track vehicles and assets in real time. They also specialize in aggregating this vital fleet data to help our members make sound business decisions relating to optimizing their fleet operations. "One of the biggest advantages of using Silent Passenger is that it provides flexibility," says Bianca Rivera, Senior Sales Executive. "We offer installed devices for company-owned trucks as well as portable models that plug into the truck's Diagnostics port or cigarette lighter. VTS also configures our new client's systems to suit each individual motor carrier's needs, as no two companies operate exactly the same way."



Custom geofences like this one allow for accurate vehicle tracking and turn time captures at the port

"Another differentiator of the VTS offering," says Rivera, "is its elegant and easy-to-use interface with Google maps, which is often cited as the most accurate and user-friendly mapping application available. This ultimately makes system set-up simple and drastically reduces training time."

The company's proximity to the Port of NY & NJ is also seen as an advantage. "Many of our Bi-State customers appreciate the fact that we're local to the area," says Rivera. "We offer support 24 hours a day, and our services are not farmed out to subcontractors; our own highly skilled technicians perform installations and offer staff training. This results in a superior customer experience."

In addition to asset and vehicle tracking, VTS also provides a host of safety, fleet efficiency and risk mitigation features (two-way messaging, speed monitoring, workforce analysis, driver identification, vehicle maintenance, etc.) combined with sophisticated reporting options (such as mileage tracking) to help streamline operations.

For more information on [Vehicle Tracking Solutions](http://www.vehicletracking.com), contact Bianca Rivera (631) 492-1156 or via email at brivera@vehicletracking.com.

Meeting Advisory: Port Environmental Listening Session, 12/8

On Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 6pm to 9pm, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Port Authority of NY & NJ will host a Port Environmental Listening Session at the Hilton Newark Penn Station, 1048 Raymond Blvd. in downtown Newark. The session seeks to provide an overview of the current state of the Port of NY & NJ and its environmental initiatives. Members are STRONGLY encouraged to attend and contribute the motor carriers' perspective, particularly as it pertains to the impact of proposed regulations and mandates that may adversely affect the trucking industry. To RSVP, call Catherine Massab at 212-435-4214 or click the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/port-environmental-listening-session-tickets-28224329730>

Regional Truck Replacement Program Expands

The Port Authority of NY & NJ recently announced that they will be expanding the eligibility for trucks that may apply for funding under the Regional Truck Replacement Program. As of November 30, 2016, trucks with model years 1996 through 2000 will now be eligible to apply, with a limit of 2 trucks per applicant. Model years 1994 & 1995 will remain eligible as well. Approved applicants will receive grant funding of up to 50% of the total purchase price for a new, energy-efficient truck, up to \$25,000 (whichever is less).

For full details on eligibility requirements and to obtain [an application](#), visit www.replacemytruck.org. A total of \$5 million in funding will be available, and the application process may take 45-60 days to complete. Due to anticipated high-demand, those seeking funding are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.



Legislative Update: Gas Tax Debate Redux, CDL Pilot Program



As the Legislature winds down the first half of its 217th Session, there were a flurry of bills filed in response to the recent gas tax increase, which went into effect for regular motor fuels on November 1, 2016 (increases on diesel will be phased in on January 1, 2017 and July 1, 2017). A few proposals of note:

S2717 calls for a total repeal of the gas tax increase that took effect on November 1, 2016. Sponsored by Senators Bateman and Doherty, there is currently no Assembly version of the bill, which was referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and awaits action.

S2730/A4283 provides a gross income tax deduction for New Jersey fuel taxes paid through purchases of motor fuel for personal use of motor vehicles. The gross income tax deduction is allowed for taxpayers at any income level and any filing status, with deductions capped at \$1,000 for the 2016 taxable year (only for fuel purchases made after November 1, 2016) and at \$2,000 for each taxable year thereafter.

S2748/A4281 would exempt school buses contracted with public and private schools to transport students to and from school and school-related activities from paying any tax on gasoline. If passed and signed into law, the measure would result in a recurring annual loss of state fuel tax revenue, but the actual amount of that loss was deemed “indeterminate” in a fiscal note released by the Office of Legislative Services.

Other bills we’re watching:

S2364/A3946 calls upon the Motor Vehicle Commission to begin a pilot program appointing third party vendors to administer commercial driver license testing. The Senate bill passed unanimously on November 14, and has been referred to the Assembly Law & Public Safety Committee, where it awaits further action along with the Assembly version of the bill.

The last voting session of the year for both the Senate and the Assembly will be held on Monday, December 19, 2016. For more information on these and other bills, visit <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us> Click [HERE](#) for a printable roster of NJ Legislators, including state office addresses and contact information.

Annual Port Packing Day at Seamen's Church Institute



Seamen's Church Institute hosted another successful Port Packing Day this month, with a team of volunteers from the port community pitching in to create holiday gift bags for distribution to seafarers. Executive Director Dick Jones and Communications Director Lisa Yakomin represented the BiState.

SCI Chaplain Marjorie Lindstrom Retires



The Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers sends its best wishes to Rev. Majorie Lindstrom on her retirement this December, after many years of selfless service at the Seamen's Church Institute. Rev. Majorie has been a great friend to not only the Bi-State but to all of the seafarers who pass through the Port of NY & NJ. Her warm smile, generosity of spirit, and dedication will be missed by many. We wish her well as she embarks on this new chapter!

DATES TO REMEMBER

	Dec. 8	EPA Listening Session (<i>see pg. 2</i>)
	Dec. 13	Monthly Member Meeting
	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve

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**Join us for our next
General Member Meeting
Tues. Dec. 13 @ 1000 hours**

**NYSA Training Ctr. Auditorium
1210 Corbin Street,
Elizabeth, NJ**