

Freight Advisory Council
August 22, 2013 Meeting Minutes
9:30am-2:45pm
Historic Park Inn
Mason City, IA

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

	Joel Brinkmeyer	X	Delia Moon-Meier
	Kevin Burke	X	Don Petersen
	Larry Daily	X	Dan Sabin
X	Tom Determann		Kelly Sanders
	Kathy Evert		Devin Sires
X	Murry Fitzer	X	Scott Stabbe
X	Natalie Hammer		Mike Steenhoek
	Bill Horan		Brent Vanderleest
	Greg Jenkins	X	Tim Woods
	Ron Lang		

Ex-Officio:

X	Todd Ashby		Shirley McGuire
	Kate Carlucci		Mike Norris
	Mike Hadley	X	Brett Tjepkes
X	Becky Hiatt	X	Jennifer Wright
X	Joseph Rude		Cecil Wright
	Harold Hommes		

Iowa DOT:

X	Paul Trombino III	X	Phil Meraz
X	Stu Anderson		David Lorenzen
X	John Adam		Mark Lowe
X	Phou Baccam	X	Craig Markley
X	Mike Clayton	X	Amanda Martin
X	Mikel Derby	X	Tammy Nicholson
X	Dan Franklin	X	Craig O'Riley
	Tina Hargis	X	John Selmer
X	Laura Hutzell		Kim Snook
X	Sandra Larson		Lee Wilkinson

Guests:

X	Mark Sabin, Iowa Northern Railway
X	Tracy Troutner, FHWA
X	Paul Dierking, HDR Inc

X	Laura Heilman, HDR Inc
X	Theresa McClure, HDR Inc
X	Dave Little, Iowa DOT
X	Diane McCauley, Iowa DOT
X	Jon Ranney, Iowa DOT
X	Krista Rostad, Iowa DOT

1) Welcome and Introductions (10:00am): Dan Sabin, Chair, welcomed the members of the Freight Advisory Council. The Council members introduced themselves; a sign in sheet was made available.

2) Freight Vision Statement and Future meetings Outline: Tammy Nicholson of the Iowa DOT handed out and discussed a freight vision for Iowa that defines the way the Iowa DOT will pursue freight initiatives and emphasizes action. It included **Smarter** – use data and technology to inform freight decisions and actions, **Simpler** – remove or mitigate barriers to safe and efficient freight transportation, and **Customer-Driven** – create economic benefit through policies and actions that address the needs of the freight community. Tammy also used a sticky board to discuss an outline of future meetings to February 2015. Each member was given cards to write ideas on and post them on the sticky board.

3) Mississippi River Action Plan: Paul Dierking from HDR presented the results, key findings and outcomes of the U.S. Inland Waterway Modernization: A Reconnaissance Study, completed in April 2013 for the Iowa DOT. Paul also presented the results of the workshop held June 27th hosted by the Iowa DOT to engage stakeholders in the planning process for the Mississippi River Action Plan. The goal of the workshop was to develop a recommended pilot project(s) for the Iowa DOT to repair and/or modernize the Mississippi River inland waterway system. The workshop identified 6 brick and mortar projects and 9 study projects as possible pilot projects. The next steps in the Action Plan process are to engage stakeholders to foster partnerships and develop a specific pilot project based on the results of the workshop.

4) White Paper Status Report and Solution Prioritization: The FAC was given a set of the seven white papers: Infrastructure Challenges, Transloading Intermodal, Operations, Regulation, Financial, Labor and Driver Shortage, and Policy Support and Communication. Each white paper included a goal statement, a report on the current conditions surrounding the issue, the regulatory authorities and stakeholders involved, a list of possible solutions with desired outcomes, as well as recommendations and next steps. Solutions were grouped under various ‘methods’ of approaching the issue.

All FAC members, including ex-officio members, in attendance were given an electronic polling device and invited to provide input on the individual solutions during the polling exercise portion of the meeting. After an explanation of the technology and a test poll, each white paper was briefly introduced by an FAC member or Iowa DOT staff member, then a slide was shown for each solution listed in that white paper. Members were asked to use their polling devices to indicate their perception of the impact each solution would have on its associated white paper issue based on level of impact. Through this grouping process, priority solutions were identified in categories of impact.

5) Legislative Updates: Dan Franklin and Mikel Derby of the Iowa DOT provided federal and state legislative updates. They discussed the importance of connecting freight transportation and Iowa's economy as new legislation is considered.

6) Prioritization of the Preferred Solutions: All solutions with approximately a four or higher polling ranking, as well as additional solutions received that had not been considered during polling, were listed on large note pads. Participants were asked to use stickers to prioritize the list of solutions by putting one or more stickers next to the solution(s) they felt should be a priority for the Iowa DOT. The top 6 priorities included:

1. Generate revenue from multiple sources
2. Increase the state fuel tax
3. Prepare a state freight infrastructure plan
4. Increase funding for freight related activities
5. Optimize intermodal and multi-modal facilities
6. Market analysis for transload and intermodal facilities

Participants were asked to list the stakeholders that should be involved in each solution on index cards.

7) Iowa Freight Plan Outline: Craig O'Riley of the Iowa DOT presented an outline of the proposed Iowa Freight Transportation Plan. Craig said the plan would be developed in two phases with phase I being the policy plan and phase II the implementation plan with projects. The proposed plan will include 12 chapters that follow the interim guidance developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation. He then proceeded to discuss the contents for each of the 12 chapters.

8) Manly Intermodal Facility Tour: The FAC boarded a bus and drove to Manly Iowa to tour the Iowa Northern Railway Company's Intermodal Facility which consists of the Terminal and the Logistics Park.

The Manly Terminal was developed for the primary purpose of supporting the distribution of ethanol and other bio-fuel related commodities. Additionally, Manly Terminal is a transload yard for commodities such as caustic soda, sulfuric acid, corn oil and methanol along with animal feeds and various other commodities. The terminal has also developed into a distribution center for wind turbine components. Generators, hubs, blades, and tower sections are railed in from ports and manufacturing facilities all over North America for distribution to wind farms in the Midwest. Components are also trucked in from Midwestern manufacturing sites to be transloaded and railed out.

Currently under construction adjacent to Terminal is the Logistics Park, which is being developed to create warehousing, transloading and staging for many products pertaining to agriculture, renewable energy, renewable fuels and construction projects. The Logistics Park is also an ideal location for manufacturing due to the heavy rail infrastructure with access to the entire North American rail network.

The tour also included a stop at the Manly Railroad Junction Museum, a project of Dan, Brad and Mark Sabin. The museum includes displays consisting of an orange rail motorcar, weathered lanterns, signs, timetables and mural-size photographs. Dramatic black-and-white photos dating from the late 1800s to

modern times and 13 flat-screen TVs with separate slide shows help tell the story of the railroad days in Iowa and southern Minnesota. Other exhibits feature memorabilia such as railroad watches, grips, uniforms and tools, donated by Manly residents and other interested individuals.

9) Next Meeting Date: It was discussed that the next meeting of the Iowa Freight Advisory Council would take place sometime during the month of November. Iowa DOT staff will send out a meeting notice to Council Members within the next several weeks with confirmed date and location.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.