

31st meeting of the
IOWA FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 18, 2020
 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
 Online - Microsoft Teams

Members

	Andy Cernin	x	Delia Moon-Meier
	Tom Determann	x	James Niffenegger
x	Greg Dickinson		Kelli O'Brien
	Don Egli	x	Joe Parsons
		x	Dan Sabin
x	Calean Kokjohn	x	Mike Steenhoek
	Ron Lang	x	Reilly Vaughan
	Jody Sandy	x	Tony Miller for Ron White
x	Don McDowell	x	Tim Woods

Ex-Officio Members

x	Todd Ashby	x	Mike Norris
	Mike Hadley	x	Paul Ovrom
	Tim Marshall		Robert Palmer
x	Michael Kober	x	Joseph Rude
x	Sean Litteral		Col. Steven Sattinger
x	Scott Marler		Louis Vander Streek
x	Shirley McGuire	x	Jennifer Wright

Iowa DOT

x	Stu Anderson	x	Justin Meade
		x	Phil Meraz
	Mikel Derby	x	Tammy Nicholson
x	Sam Hiscocks	x	Garrett Pedersen
x	Laura Hutzell	x	Charlie Purcell
x	Alex Jansen		Angel Robinson
	Renee Jerman		John Selmer
x	David Lorenzen		Melissa Spiegel
x	Craig Markley	x	Jeff von Brown
			Andrea Henry
	Amanda Martin		Susan Fenton

Guests

x	Susan Wallace (Iowa DOT)	x	Andrea White (Iowa DOT)
	Zac Bitting (Iowa DOT)	x	Brenda Freshour-Johnston (Iowa DOT)
	David Miller (Iowa DOT)	x	Bob Rafferty (Truck Stops of Iowa)

Meeting input objectives

1. Provide thoughts and recommendations on the inclusion of certain freight goals in the state freight plan update.
2. Provide thoughts and questions relating to numerous projects and initiatives being led by the Iowa Northern Railway.

10:00 AM Welcome & Roll Call

**Mike Steenhoek, Chair
Soy Transportation
Coalition**

Chair Mike Steenhoek opened the meeting by thanking the group members for attending the third virtual meeting of the Freight Advisory Council and stressed the importance of continued engagement. Mr. Steenhoek then made announcements related to meeting logistics and completed roll call before introducing the first speaker.

10:05 AM Iowa DOT Update

A brief update of COVID-19 impacts on traffic, revenues, etc., as well as other updates from the agency.

**Stu Anderson
Iowa DOT**

Stu Anderson provided an update on COVID-19 impacts to transportation and funding. COVID-19 has had significant impacts on transportation. This includes declines in rail carloads, passenger air enplanements, and vehicle traffic. However, traffic has begun to increase again and are back to near pre-pandemic numbers in some areas. Iowa specifically has recovered better than other states. COVID-19 will most likely have an impact on transportation funding, but not as significant as originally feared. Figures were provided for the current status of modal appropriations.

Mr. Anderson also provided details of the federal reauthorization extending the FAST Act through September 30, 2021 and other details related to fiscal year 2021 appropriations and COVID-19 relief. Additionally, Troy Jerman was introduced to the group as the new Chief Operating Officer of Iowa DOT.

10:15 AM State Freight Plan: Freight Goals

Input on National and Iowa freight goals to be included in the updated document.

**Sam Hiscocks
Iowa DOT**

Sam Hiscocks led the FAC members and ex-officio members through an input exercise via a mentimeter online survey. Participants were asked to provide input on freight-specific goals to be used in the State Freight Plan. This included a background presentation on each of the three overarching goals (safety, infrastructure, innovation) and the associated objectives of each. Participants were then asked to comment on each item, sharing things related to how their industry would measure each goal, what performance measures would be attributed to each, and how important each is.

Results will be combined, summarized, and shared with the FAC prior to the next meeting.

10:30 AM Update from Iowa Northern Railway
An overview of current projects and initiatives.

Dan Sabin
IANR

Dan Sabin of Iowa Northern Railway presented on current projects and initiatives the company is involved with. Iowa Northern is a shortline railroad in Iowa with multiple connections to other railroads. The company has been very involved in the ethanol revolution and continues to add new commodities/customers to their operations, including a new soybean crushing facility. In addition, Iowa Northern has two major industrial parks – Manly Logistics Park and Butler Logistical Park. The facilities are involved with double-stack container traffic, switching capabilities, transloading capabilities, wind component distribution, ethanol, etc. There are many moving parts to the operations of Iowa Northern including capacity, training employees, timing, and other things.

11:00 AM Adjourn

2020 meetings:

- Friday, March 27 (*cancelled*)
- Friday, June 19 (*virtual*)
- Friday, September 18 (*virtual*)
- Friday, December 18 (*virtual*)