

21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the  
**IOWA FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

March 2, 2018  
 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
 Courtyard Marriot  
 2405 SE Creekview Dr, Ankeny, IA 50021

**Members**

	Col. Craig Baumgartner	x	Calean Kokjohn
	Reilly Vaughan for Joel Brinkmeyer		Ron Lang
x	Andy Cernin for Kevin Burke		Don McDowell
x	Tom Determann	x	Bob Rafferty for Delia Moon-Meier
	Greg Dickinson	x	Joe Parsons
	Randy Draper	x	Scott Bannister for Dan Sabin
x	Sarod Dhuru	x	Scott Stabbe
x	Don Egli		Mike Steenhoek
x	Kevin Ekstrand		Kris Vander Kamp
	Bill Horan		Ron White
x	Greg Jenkins		Tim Woods

**Ex-Officio Members**

	Todd Ashby		Paul Ovrom
x	Karen Bobo		Robert Palmer
x	Mike Hadley	x	Joseph Rude
x	Sean Litteral		Brett Tjekes
x	Shirley McGuire		Cecil Wright
	Mike Norris		Jennifer Wright

**Iowa DOT**

x	Ose Akinlotan		Scott Marler
x	Stu Anderson	x	Amanda Martin
	Phou Baccam	x	Phil Meraz
	Mikel Derby	x	Phil Mescher
x	Sam Hiscocks		Tammy Nicholson
x	Laura Hutzell	x	Garrett Pedersen
	Alex Jansen		Charlie Purcell
x	Renee Jerman	x	Angel Robinson
x	David Lorenzen	x	Melissa Spiegel
	Mark Lowe	x	Tom Bruun
x	Craig Markley	x	Garry Harris

**Guests**

x	Zach James (SE Iowa RPC)	x	Denise Bulat (Bi-State Regional Commission)
x	Chandra Ravada (ECIA – Dubuque)	x	Onna Houck (Iowa Interstate Railroad)

**10:00 AM Safety Briefing**

**Amanda Martin**  
**Iowa DOT**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Tom Determann, Chair**

Council ice-breakers:

- *What things should the DOT be monitoring? What is important to the FAC? What do members want to know? (Examples: Traffic Ops, INRIX, etc.)*
- *Future meeting topics?*
- *2018 tour location ideas?*

Amanda Martin opened the meeting with a safety briefing. Tom Determann, Chair of the FAC, then led introductions and ice-breaker topics discussed by the group. Each member was asked, "What things should the DOT be monitoring? What is important to the FAC? What do members want to know? (Examples: Traffic Ops, INRIX, etc.)." Members were also asked for future meeting topics and ideas for potential 2018 tour locations.

Responses included:

- Kevin Ekstrand identified hours of service regulations as having a negative impact on containerized cargo. They are hurting business, throwing off timing, and increasing costs due to hours being used while drivers are waiting in line.
- Tom Determann echoed Mr. Ekstrand's concerns.
- Shirley McGuire explained that hours of service rules haven't changed since being updated in 2005. What has changed is the manner in which hours are being monitored. It does hurt to have drivers waiting in line when they don't have anything else to take up their time. The electronic logging devices is what has changed things.
- Don Egli noted that the Iowa Motor Truck Association is working with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration on getting some flexibility for logging and hours of service, especially relating to waiting in line.
- Tom Determann also mentioned that funding for the waterways is an issue that gets discussed a lot.

**10:20 AM Iowa DOT Updates**

**Stu Anderson**  
**Iowa DOT**

Miscellaneous updates from the Department.

- 2018 Legislative Session
- Trump Infrastructure Plan

Stu Anderson and Craig Markley provided an update on Iowa DOT activities and other freight-related initiatives taking place at the State and Federal level. Mr. Anderson began by informing the group on the five bills introduced by the Iowa DOT. The bills most related to the FAC include:

- Blue lights were added to DOT trucks as part of a pilot program to test safety impacts. This bill asked to end the pilot program and make this a permanent implementation.

- Another bill proposes that terms of Iowa Transportation Commissioners be shifted to begin in July after the Five-Year Program is approved so new members aren't beginning their term in the middle of Program development, which is the case now.
- A bill to end the sunset date on reviewing the duties of Motor Vehicle Enforcement officers.

Mr. Anderson noted that budget bills haven't been discussed yet. In addition, Iowa is expecting a national increase in the number of alternative fuel vehicles, especially electric vehicles, on the road system. This trend has really been experienced in Iowa like other states. The Iowa Legislature is looking at directing the Iowa DOT to study how to address electrically charged vehicles that don't contribute revenue through the gas tax.

Federal initiatives were covered next. Mr. Anderson provided details on the proposed Presidential Infrastructure Plan released by the Trump Administration. This is a 53-page document that lays out what the Administration would like to see in a program. It includes \$200 billion in new federal investment to leverage \$1.5 trillion in infrastructure investments. Other relevant items in the document include \$50 billion for rural infrastructure, an interest in public-private partnerships, and a desire to leverage new revenue sources. Mr. Anderson added that the document doesn't just talk about funding, it also has a focus on providing more flexibility in funding and policies which should be helpful to states like Iowa.

Craig Markley then gave an update on the Upper Mississippi River Alternative Financing Study that Iowa DOT is working on and provided an informative handout to attendees. Mr. Markley touched on the major focus areas of the study which include analysis of the lock and dam system, potential items to include in the next Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) bill, pilot scenarios, and project examples. More in depth updates will be provided at future meetings.

**10:50 AM Panel on Freight**

Presentations and discussion on freight planning in Iowa at the local and regional levels.

- **Denise Bulat**  
Bi-State Regional Commission  
Bi-State Region Freight Plan
- **Chandra Ravada**  
East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA)  
Eight County Freight Plan
- **Zach James**  
Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission  
RPA Freight Planning

**Amanda Martin**  
**Iowa DOT**

Amanda Martin moderated a panel on local and regional freight planning efforts in Iowa. Ms. Martin began by introducing each of the panelists and then each gave an overview of freight activities they are engaged in. Denise Bulat of the Bi-State Regional Commission in the Quad Cities gave an overview of freight planning in the Bi-State Region including network, commodity movement, past studies, the recently completed Bi-State Freight Study, a new modeling tool, implementation recommendations and overall lessons learned.

Chandra Ravada of the East Central Intergovernmental Association in Dubuque provided an update on the Eight County Freight Study currently underway in his area. The presentation included an overview of the study

area, the vision of the plan, goals and objectives, industry information, commodity flows, a needs assessment, modal profiles/analysis, benefit-cost analysis for different improvements, and next steps.

Zach James of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission in Burlington gave an overview of freight-related activities in his area, most of which consisted of helping secure grant awards for projects that improve the efficiency of freight movement. These grants have assisted in approving storage capacity, multimodal access, and infrastructure rehabilitation. In addition, SEIRPC is contracted to manage the Southeast Iowa Regional Economic and Port Authority, currently administering federal aid process for the Fort Madison Bridge Study, and considering putting together a regional freight roundtable.

**12:00 PM Lunch**

**12:40 PM Hours of Service (HOS) and Electronic Logging** **Tom Bruun**  
Discussion of potential flexibility and exemptions for livestock haulers **Iowa DOT**  
and other truckers.

Tom Bruun with Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Enforcement presented on regulations and exemptions relating to trucking hours of service (HOS) and electronic logging devices (ELD). Information provided included the purpose of HOS and ELD mandates which are intended to improve safety and exemptions that exist for each that depend on the distance traveled and the commodities being transported. Discussion followed the presentation relating to the goal of these mandates, the cost of ELDs, concerns from the industry (especially livestock haulers), and training availability.

**1:00 PM Human Trafficking** **David Lorenzen**  
Presentation from Motor Vehicle Enforcement on human trafficking **Iowa DOT**  
in Iowa and the U.S.

Chief David Lorenzen with Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Enforcement gave a presentation on the threat of human trafficking in the world. Trafficking is happening globally with 21 million victims, is an issue in all 50 states, and typically takes place at large events. Des Moines is ranked as a top 100 trafficking site due the number of events that attract a lot of people. Truckers, shippers, and truck stops are great partners for combatting human trafficking. Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) is a group that the Iowa DOT works that helps train truckers to be vigilant and observant allowing them to report suspicious activity. TAT has almost half a million drivers trained and is still working to continue to educate.

**2:00 PM Adjourn**

**2018 meetings:** June 8<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>