

Freight Advisory Council
March 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Ramada Tropics Resort & Conference Center
5000 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines

ATTENDANCE:

Members:

	Terry Bailey	x	Ron Lang
x	Reilly Vaughan for Joel Brinkmeyer	x	Don McDowell
x	Andy Cernin for Kevin Burke		Delia Moon-Meier
	Col. Craig Baumgartner		Dan Sabin
x	Tom Determann		Scott Stabbe
x	Kevin Ekstrand		Mike Steenhoek
x	Murry Fitzer		Brent Vanderleest
	Natalie Hammer		Ron White
	Bill Horan		Tim Woods
	Greg Jenkins		

Ex-Officio:

x	Todd Ashby		Robert Palmer
	Mike Hadley	x	Joseph Rude
x	Sean Litteral	x	Brett Tjepkes
	Harold Hommes	x	Jennifer Wright
	Shirley McGuire		Cecil Wright
	Mike Norris		

Iowa DOT:

x	Paul Trombino III		David Lorenzen
	Stu Anderson		Mark Lowe
	John Adam	x	Craig Markley
	Mike Clayton	x	Amanda Martin
	Mikel Derby	x	Phil Meraz
	Lance Evans	x	Tammy Nicholson
x	Dan Franklin	x	Garrett Pedersen
x	Tina Hargis		Denise Said
x	Sam Hiscocks		John Selmer
x	Laura Hutzell		Kim Snook
x	Sandra Larson		Lee Wilkinson
	Phil Mescher	x	Diane McCauley
x	Kyle Barichello	x	Bonnie Castillo

Guests:

X	Karen Bobo (FHWA)		

1) Welcome and Introductions (10:00 am): Tammy Nicholson provided an opening safety briefing. Ron Lang, Chair, welcomed the members of the Freight Advisory Council. The Council members introduced themselves and were asked the question, “How does winter weather impact your business or sector? Does the DOT provide enough weather and road condition information?” Responses included:

- Important to know road conditions as goods are still being moved
- Appreciate DOT for road conditions and digital messaging to assist in goods movement all year round
- Rely on DOT website for weather updates and implications
- Rely on Iowa 511 and the camera views that are available on the website
- Disappointed in amount of county information
- Snow plow cameras are great for immediate assessments

2) FAC representative for Moving Iowa Forward Conference: Tammy Nicholson gave an update on the upcoming Moving Iowa Forward Conference that will be held sometime between August and October of 2016. Mrs. Nicholson asked for a volunteer from the FAC to serve on the planning committee. Todd Ashby with Des Moines Area MPO volunteered.

3) State Freight Plan input exercises (10:30 am): Sam Hiscocks introduced and carried out two input exercises for the State Freight Plan related to future freight improvements identified in the document. For the first exercise, Mr. Hiscocks explained the process for identifying air and waterways improvements. After the introduction, members were asked to identify any fatal flaws with the process and/or changes to the lists of improvements. There were no flaws identified. Discussion followed related to funding and improving the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi River. For the second exercise, Mr. Hiscocks gave an overview of the Value, Condition, and Performance (VCAP) Matrix used to identify highway improvements. Members were asked to review the handout material. Maps of each Iowa transportation district were placed around the room. Technical experts were stationed at each map to provide background and answer questions. Facilitators asked participants to review all maps and identify any fatal flaws with the process and/or changes to the list of

improvements. No flaws were identified and a few locations were identified for further investigation.

4) State Rail Plan input exercises (11:15 am): Amanda Martin led the members in two input exercises for the State Rail Plan. In the first exercise, Mrs. Martin provided an overview of railroad capital investments and projects that have been identified for the following categories:

- **Capacity and mitigation of chokepoints**
- **Safety**
- **Economic development**
- **Modal connectivity**

Following the overview, members were asked to make additions of their organizations' internal rail priorities to each of the lists. Members then used voting stickers to prioritize each of the items on the lists. For the second exercise, members were asked to review freight service and passenger service rail maps that were placed around the room. After review, members were asked to identify (if necessary) any changes or additions to each of the two systems. This included new transload facilities, passenger rail terminals, additional rail lines, etc.

5) Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (12:30 am): Tammy Nicholson provided an update on the LIFTS program and introduced the six applicants that were awarded funding. Following the presentation, members were asked to provide feedback on the criteria and help to prioritize which areas should be focused on when reviewing applications in the future.

6) Federal legislative update/FAST Act update (1:00 pm): Dan Franklin provided an overview of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) act. This was signed into law in December 2015 and has a number of implications for freight in the country. Mr. Franklin highlighted those provisions and gave an overview of federal funding that will be available to commit toward the freight transportation system.

7) Traffic information – CARS, 511, etc. (1:30 pm): Bonnie Castillo presented on the traffic information available through Iowa DOT. This included information such as maps and applications that provide information to road users on conditions, traffic speeds, etc. Mrs. Castillo also provided an overview on future applications that are being discussed and answered questions from the members.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.