

33rd meeting of the
IOWA FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL

June 25, 2021
 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
 Online - Microsoft Teams

Members

	Tom Determann, Clinton Regional Development		Joe Parsons, Iowa Interstate Railroad
	Greg Dickinson, Ten D/Merchants Distribution	x	Amy Homan for Dan Sabin, Iowa Northern Rail.
x	Don Egli, Iowa Motor Truck Association		Jody Sandy, Hy-Vee
	Calean Kokjohn, Cryotech	x	Mike Steenhoek, Soy Transportation Coalition
	Ron Lang	x	Reilly Vaughan, Agribusiness Assoc. of Iowa
x	Don McDowell, Iowa Farm Bureau	x	Jillian Walsh, Traverro
x	Delia Moon-Meier, Iowa 80 Group	x	Ron White, Artco Fleeting Service
x	James Niffenegger, Landus Cooperative	x	Tim Woods, Woods Development
x	Kelli O'Brien, Union Pacific Railroad		

Ex-Officio Members

x	Todd Ashby, Des Moines Area MPO		Mike Norris, Southeast Iowa RPC
	Mike Hadley, Keokuk County	x	Paul Ovrom, IDALS
x	Michael Kober, Iowa Dept. of Public Safety	x	Joseph Rude, Iowa Economic Dev. Authority
x	Johnnie Gibson for Sean Litteral, FHWA Iowa Div.		Col. Steven Sattinger, USACE Rock Island District
	Scott Marler, Iowa DOT		Louis Vander Streek, Iowa Utilities Board
x	Tim Marshall, FHWA Iowa Division	x	Jennifer Wright, Iowa DNR
x	Shirley McGuire, FMCSA		

Iowa DOT

x	Stu Anderson		David Miller
x	Zac Bitting	x	Tammy Nicholson
	Mikel Derby	x	Garrett Pedersen
	Brenda Freshour-Johnston		Charlie Purcell
	Sam Hiscocks	x	Ryan Ridout
x	Laura Hutzell		Angel Robinson
	Troy Jerman		Melissa Spiegel
	David Lorenzen		Jeff von Brown
x	Craig Markley	x	Susan Wallace
x	Amanda Martin	x	Andrea White
x	Justin Meade		Lee Wilkinson

Guests

Meeting input objectives

1. Provide input and recommendations of multimodal freight bottlenecks to be addressed in the state freight plan update.
2. Discuss growing momentum for commodity movement on the Missouri River and opportunities for this underutilized navigable waterway to further complement the multimodal freight network.

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 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 moving to the first presentation.

10:10 AM Iowa DOT Update

Overview of the DOT's perspective on the Federal infrastructure bill, summary of the State legislative session, and other agency updates.

**Stu Anderson
Iowa DOT**

Stu Anderson provided an update from Iowa DOT, including COVID-19 impacts, funding overviews, and the status of the five-year program. The Iowa Moody index score is now 98 percent of the pre-COVID level while the national average is 93 percent. Rail numbers and passenger enplanements continue to improve. Several funding items were covered, including:

- The 2022-2026 Highway Program was approved earlier this month. This is a \$3.6 billion program that increases funding for pavement maintenance, rehab, and safety.
- The 2021 Road Use Tax Fund Study update is being developed. This will discuss roadway and bridge needs, revenue, and possible shortfalls for the state roadway network and make recommendations for action.
- The next federal infrastructure bill is still being developed. A framework was agreed on, but everything is still subject to change.
- Modal appropriations at the state-level were funded at the same level as FY2020.

Mr. Anderson also provided an update on Iowa DOT reorganization, as several bureaus were combined to form the new Modal Transportation Bureau.

10:25 AM State Freight Plan: Multimodal Freight Bottlenecks

Presentation of the multimodal freight bottlenecks identified by Iowa DOT, followed by an input exercise where members will be asked to provide feedback on these air, highway, rail, and waterway locations.

**Garrett Pedersen &
Justin Meade
Iowa DOT**

Garrett Pedersen and Justin Meade provided an update on the State Freight Plan and introduced an upcoming exercise that will be used to gather input on freight bottlenecks from the FAC members. Mr. Pedersen

reviewed the state freight plan timeline and provided an overview of identification methodology for multimodal freight bottlenecks. To summarize:

- The Iowa DOT Aviation Team, Des Moines International Airport, and Eastern Iowa Airport were consulted with and it was ultimately determined that no air cargo bottlenecks exist in the state.
- INRIX traffic data and Iowa DOT traffic count data were utilized to identify 24 bottleneck locations experiencing regular traffic slow-downs and heavy truck traffic.
- Railroad companies operating in Iowa were surveyed multiple times and provided a total of 38 rail chokepoints across the system.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided updated information on the Mississippi River locks. It was ultimately determined to identify each of the locks and swing-span bridges bordering Iowa as bottlenecks.

Mr. Meade then demoed an interactive online map that allows FAC members to provide input on draft locations, as well as add any missing locations. An email will be sent with a link to access and provide feedback.

10:35 AM Missouri River Navigation

Discussion of recent and ongoing initiatives related to growing commodity traffic on the Missouri River, including updates on the New Cooperative Barge Facility at Blencoe and the Soy Transportation Coalition Missouri River Navigation Study.

**Craig Markley
Iowa DOT**

Craig Markley gave an overview of the recent ribbon-cutting for the Port of Blencoe, a New Cooperative barge facility on the Missouri River. The facility includes a storage building that can hold 20,000 tons, a semi unloading area, mobile conveyor system for loading and unloading, and will include commodity buildings in the future. There is a great deal of interest in utilizing this new facility that is situated roughly halfway between Sioux City and Council Bluffs.

Mike Steenhoek provided an overview of the Soy Transportation Coalition Missouri River Navigation Study that will be released soon. This study will highlight the Missouri River as an underutilized asset, as the reputation of the river overshadows its potential. The report highlights the performance of the river, what investments would make it more reliable and predictable, and investigates how agriculture and other industries would benefit if investments are made.

10:55 AM Future Meetings Discussion

Discuss member preferences to return to in-person meetings.

**Mike Steenhoek, Chair
Soy Transportation
Coalition**

The next FAC meetings are scheduled for September 10 and December 10. FAC Chair Mike Steenhoek and Iowa DOT staff will be discussing whether to return to in-person meetings or continue to meet virtually.

11:00 AM Adjourn

Future meetings:

- Friday, September 10th
- Friday, December 10th