

**Freight Advisory Council**  
**March 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes**  
**10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**  
**Adventureland Inn**  
**Altoona, IA**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:**

X	Terry Bailey	X	Ron Lang
X	Reilly Vaughan for Joel Brinkmeyer	X	Don McDowell
X	Cory Hoffman for Kevin Burke	X	Delia Moon-Meier
X	Tom Heinold for Col. Mark Deschenes	X	Dan Sabin
X	Tom Determann	X	Scott Stabbe
	Kathy Evert	X	Mike Steenhoek
X	Murry Fitzer		Brent Vanderleest
	Natalie Hammer	X	Ron White
X	Bill Horan		Tim Woods
X	Greg Jenkins		

**Ex-Officio:**

X	Andrew Collings for Todd Ashby	X	Robert Palmer
	Mike Hadley		Joseph Rude
X	Mark Johnson		Brett Tjepkes
X	Harold Hommes	X	Jennifer Wright
	Shirley McGuire		Cecil Wright
X	Mike Norris		

**Iowa DOT:**

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

**Guests:**


- 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 what critical freight issues have come to their attention since the last FAC meeting in June 2014. Responses included the barge fuel tax being increase, passage of the WRRDA bill by Congress, and Public-Private Partnership (P3) efforts on the waterways. One member mentioned the increase in the state fuel tax was a very positive step for the transportation network. Other issues mentioned included the considerable drop in the sand business, as well as a decrease in the oil business. This has resulted in more capacity being available on rail than there was last June and the trend is expected to continue through the end of the year. The capacity of oil is limited and a new pipeline won't make much difference. The oil industry sees rail as a valuable option in the future due to the flexibility of where it can take the oil as opposed to a pipeline. Another member mentioned that \$50 per barrel oil is crushing to the biofuels industry.
  
- 2) Freight activities update (10:50 am):** Craig Markley gave an overview and update of the Departments freight-related activities. The update included the Freight Network Optimization Study that is expected to be completed in the next few months. Mr. Markley explained to the Council members that the TIGER VI application (Upper Mississippi River Navigation System Planning Study) was not funded but the Department does plan on moving forward with this effort to some degree in the future. One member raised a question on how the increase in recreational traffic on the Mississippi River affects barge traffic. The representative from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers responded that the recreational traffic does not have priority and the barge companies haven't raised concerns yet. The only time this becomes an issue is during harvest when grain is being exported by barge.
  
- 3) Federal Legislative update and State Legislative update (11:00 am):** Dan Franklin provided an update on Legislative activity at the federal level. This update included program authorizations, stable federal funding, budget status, and appropriations status. The

uncertainty surrounding each of these items was highlighted. The State Legislative update followed with a brief update on the Iowa DOT Omnibus Bill and other freight-related bills. Tammy Nicholson gave an overview of the recently-approved Linking Iowa's Transportation Infrastructure Fund. Craig Markley then gave an update on the state increases in fuel tax and permitting fees.

- 4) Iowa DOT propane optimization study discussion (11:40 am):** Craig Markley gave an update on the progress of the Department's propane optimization study. Mr. Markley provided an overview of the origin and purpose of the study and explained that the Department is beginning to review recommendations and draft sections of the report. One member expressed an interest in the tool and mentioned the advantage it will provide to all involved in the propane industry.
- 5) State Freight Plan and Rail System Plan (12:30 pm):** Following lunch, Sam Hiscocks and Amanda Martin provided a status report of two plans the Department is currently working on: State Freight Plan and Rail System Plan. Mr. Hiscocks gave an overview of the joint development timeline both plans are following, a status update on major tasks involved with the State Freight Plan, a follow-up on the June freight mobility exercise, and an introduction to a highway project prioritization matrix. Following these updates, Mrs. Martin gave an update on the Rail System Plan, including the status of the Request for Proposals, major tasks involved with the Rail System Plan, and a summary of the types of input the Department hopes to get from the Council on both plans in the future.
- 6) Crude/ethanol transport discussion (1:00 pm):** Tammy Nicholson gave a presentation on crude-by-rail in the state and nation. Mrs. Nicholson provided an overview on a study the Department is completing on crude and ethanol transport. This includes information on safety, total tonnages being transported, locations where it is being transported, and preparation/training that is involved with this trend that is expected to continue.

**7) Hours of service changes discussion (1:30 pm):** Major David Lorenzen and Mark Lowe provided an update and overview on trucking hours of service changes and new regulations on the CDL learner's permit. This was followed by a discussion with the council.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.