

**Freight Advisory Council**  
**May 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes**  
**10:00am-2:00pm**  
**Iowa DOT, Ankeny Complex**  
**Ankeny, IA**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:**

X Zach Bader	Bill Phelan
Kevin Burke	X Dan Sabin
Larry Daily	Kelly Sanders
X Tom Determann	Jeff Schnell
Kathy Evert	X Devin Sires
Murry Fitzer	X Scott Stabbe
X Natalie Hammer	X Mike Steenhoek
Bill Horan	Brent Vanderleest
X Ron Lang	Tim Woods
Delia Moon-Meier	

**Ex-Officio:**

Todd Ashby	Shirley McGuire
Kate Carlucci	X Mike Norris
X Mike Hadley	X Brett Tjepkes
X Becky Hiatt	X Jennifer Wright
Joseph Rude	Cecil Wright
X Harold Hommes	

**Iowa DOT:**

X Paul Trombino III	X David Lorenzen
Stu Anderson	Mark Lowe
X John Adam	X Craig Markley
X Phou Baccam	X Amanda Martin
X Mike Clayton	X Tammy Nicholson
X Dan Franklin	X Craig O'Riley
Tina Hargis	X John Selmer
X Laura Hutzell	Kim Snook
X Sandra Larson	Lee Wilkinson
X Phil Meraz	X Anne Turcotte

- 1) Welcome and Introductions (10:00am):** Dan Sabin, Chair, welcomed the members of the Freight Advisory Council. The Council members introduced themselves; a sign in sheet was made available.
- 2) White Paper Status Report and Discussion:** Phil Meraz and Laura Hutzell of Iowa DOT presented on the status of the issue papers that are being developed by the Council. The seven identified issues include: infrastructure challenges, transloading – intermodal, operations, regulation, financial, labor and driver shortage, and other/research/education. A handout was provided that reflected some of the input received to this point. There was then discussion on next steps and time frame. Iowa DOT Staff will continue researching some of the controlling entities involved in the identified issues, followed by a third round of conference calls with the Council to begin generating ideas for solving issues. It was emphasized that the white papers will be used as input to the Iowa DOT’s Freight Plan. There was then some general input and questions regarding the papers, including the impacts of the new hours of service regulations, transload facilities, how changes in one mode impacts another, and general discussion on economic impacts.
- 3) Waterway Transportation Issues:** Mike Steenhoek of the Soy Transportation Coalition presented on waterway transportation issues. He discussed the importance of the inland waterway system to agriculture, and emphasized that the reason the United States is most competitive economically with soybean exports is because of transportation costs, not production costs. Brazil, our largest competitor in the international marketplace for soybeans, realizes this and is heavily investing in infrastructure. Steenhoek also discussed the potential impacts of the Panama Canal expansion, and how the increased capacity shifts the bottleneck from Panama to our ports and inland waterway system.
- 4) Legislative Updates:** Dan Franklin of the Iowa DOT provided a legislative update. The State session is winding down, and a summary of the major bills of interest was discussed. On the Federal side, the need to identify issues with MAP-21 this year was emphasized as major action for the reauthorization of MAP-21 will begin next year. With a national transportation focus on freight, interest in water transportation, the Inland Waterway System, harbors and ports, and the Great Lakes is increasing. Current legislation pending before Congress is the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) – the bill which authorizes waterway projects and funding. The Senate is expected to pass their WRDA bill today (S.601). The House has yet to introduce a comprehensive WRDA bill but there is hope for action by Congress yet this year.
- 5) International Freight Transport:** Tom Rial of International Freight Transport presented to the Council on freight forwarding. It was explained that a freight forwarder does not own assets (planes, vessels, etc.), but provide intermediary organizing and import/export logistics services. He discussed challenges for freight movement in the Midwest, including the distance to container ports and rail access, the availability of transload facilities, and the availability of containers.
- 6) Florida Freight Plan and MAP-21 Freight Plan Requirements:** Craig O’Riley of the Iowa DOT presented on Florida’s draft Freight Policy Plan and MAP-21 Freight Plan requirements. He also discussed some initial thoughts for Iowa’s Freight Plan development as well as an overview of current freight planning activities at the Iowa DOT. The next steps for the development of the Freight Plan include continuing the development of the Council’s white papers, developing the freight plan purpose

and objectives, identifying the Primary Freight Network in Iowa, developing an inventory of the Iowa freight network (infrastructure, facilities, users, and providers), and identifying key freight trends.

**7) Next Meeting Date:** It was discussed that the next meeting of the Iowa Freight Advisory Council would take place sometime during the month of August, possibly at Iowa Northern Railroad's intermodal facility in Manly, IA. Iowa DOT staff will send out a meeting notice to Council Members within the next several weeks with confirmed date and location.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.