

**Freight Advisory Council  
February 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
10:00am-2:00pm  
Courtyard Marriott  
Ankeny, IA**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Members:**

|   |                  |   |                   |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------|
| x | Joel Brinkmeyer  | x | Don McDowell      |
|   | Kevin Burke      | x | Dan Sabin         |
| x | Tom Determann    | x | Randy Draper      |
| x | Kathy Evert      |   | Devin Sires       |
| x | Murry Fitzer     | x | Scott Stabbe      |
| x | Natalie Hammer   | x | Mike Steenhoek    |
| x | Bill Horan       |   | Brent Vanderleest |
|   | Greg Jenkins     | x | Ron White         |
| x | Ron Lang         | x | Tim Woods         |
|   | Delia Moon-Meier |   |                   |

**Ex-Officio:**

|   |                 |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
|   | Todd Ashby      |   | Mike Norris     |
| x | Mike Hadley     | x | Joseph Rude     |
|   | Becky Hiatt     |   | Brett Tjepkes   |
| x | Harold Hommes   | x | Jennifer Wright |
|   | Shirley McGuire |   | Cecil Wright    |
|   | Dustin Miller   |   |                 |

**Iowa DOT:**

|   |                   |   |                  |
|---|-------------------|---|------------------|
| x | Paul Trombino III | x | David Lorenzen   |
| x | Stu Anderson      |   | Mark Lowe        |
| x | John Adam         | x | Craig Markley    |
|   | Mike Clayton      | x | Amanda Martin    |
| x | Mikel Derby       | x | Phil Meraz       |
| x | Dan Franklin      | x | Tammy Nicholson  |
|   | Tina Hargis       | x | Garrett Pedersen |
| x | Sam Hiscocks      | x | John Selmer      |
| x | Laura Hutzell     | x | Kim Snook        |
| x | Sandra Larson     | x | Lee Wilkinson    |

**Guests:**

|   |                           |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| x | Phou Baccam, Iowa DOT     | x | Rick Langer, Quetica, LLC |
| x | Bonnie Castillo, Iowa DOT | x | Diane McCauley, Iowa DOT  |
| x | Lance Evans, Iowa DOT     | x | Phil Mescher, Iowa DOT    |
| x | Alex Jansen, Iowa DOT     | x | Weiwen Xie, Quetica, LLC  |

**1) Welcome and Introductions (10:00 am):** Tammy Nicholson provided an opening safety briefing. Dan Sabin, Chair, welcomed the members of the Freight Advisory Council. The Council members introduced themselves. Each member was asked to describe the critical emerging freight issues that were on their mind. Some issues mentioned included the increasing growth in hazardous materials transport, federal regulations related to hazardous materials, the Alberta-Joliet pipeline and the termination of propane movement, propane and natural gas prices, grain transport, deteriorating transportation infrastructure, closure of secondary roads, hours of service, regulations enforcement, driver shortages, communicating transportation system information to users, transportation revenues, limited rail capacity for agricultural products, aging lock and dam infrastructure, development of a freight strategic plan, environmental issues, etc. Chair Sabin encouraged the Council to be thinking about the closing agenda item and discussion related to the role of the FAC and future meetings.

**2) River infrastructure planning discussions with US Army Corps of Engineers:** Director Trombino discussed a recent meeting with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) where potential cooperative projects were discussed, including a system that would optimize the flow of barges on the river. USACE has a lot of relevant data that they are willing to share with the Iowa DOT. Director Trombino also discussed the concept of developing some form of a river authority, with representation from USACE, Iowa DOT, IEDA, and the Governor’s office. This group could meet twice a year to examine river issues in more detail. Director Trombino mentioned that USACE was interested in having a representative on the FAC. A question was posed about the hopes for making progress towards improving river infrastructure. Director Trombino stated that the initial focus needs to be on ensuring that the existing infrastructure doesn’t close down, before issues such as capacity expansion are explored.

**3) Legislative updates:** Stu Anderson opened with a state legislative update, stating that transportation day at the capital was very productive. Mr. Anderson stated that a bill had been introduced that would increase the fuel tax by 10 cents with biofuels/ethanol exemptions. This bill would generate approximately \$200 million per year, and several other revenue generating options have been presented. Mr. Anderson then noted that the Iowa DOT's request for a \$5.5 million freight transportation fund was not included in the Governor's budget. Dan Franklin then presented a federal legislative update, noting that the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund was the most critical issue for Congress as the fund is expected to barely make it through the current federal fiscal year. Mr. Franklin stated that a short-term solution is likely to be another General Fund transfer as new revenue options are not being seriously considered. Mr. Franklin added that there have been proposals to both increase and decrease the federal fuel tax, and that there seems to be increasing momentum behind the concept of deferring the revenue issue to the states.

**4) Safety update- Iowa DOT incident management planning and response, hazardous materials:**

Tammy Nicholson introduced the issue and stated that this would likely be an ongoing discussion to explore opportunities to partner with the FAC and the groups they represent. Bonnie Castillo then provided a presentation related to the Iowa DOT's Emergency Transportation Operations (ETO). Ms. Castillo's presentation covered the ETO mission, goals, program phases, as well as the broader issues of preparedness, response, and recovery. Finally, Ms. Castillo concluded with a discussion related to ETO plan action items and performance measurement. Ms. Castillo's presentation was followed by a presentation from Major Lance Evans, Special Operations Commander from the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE). Major Evans provided a thorough presentation related to MVE's role in hazardous materials transport and incident response. Ms. Nicholson then followed these presentations by asking the Council to consider their role in relation to hazardous materials issues. Director Trombino concluded the discussion by stating that we know there is going to be a growing amount of hazardous materials transported on the system, and that the Iowa DOT and all interested parties need to be prepared to address the impact of an incident on all aspects of the transportation system.

**5) MAP-21 Primary Freight Network:** Sam Hiscocks opened by providing an overview of the Primary Freight Network (PFN), including a discussion of the MAP-21 requirements, the components that make up the broader National Freight Network, the factors used to designate the draft PFN, and possible future applications for the PFN. Mr. Hiscocks then transitioned into a discussion related to the Iowa DOT's draft comments on the PFN, outlining the five areas for comment per the Federal Register notice and why the Iowa DOT is submitting comments. Mr. Hiscocks then reviewed the Iowa DOT's comments in each of the five areas and invited feedback from the Council. Some frustrations were expressed related to the lack of a defined use and the need to designate yet another freight-related network. Mr. Hiscocks then concluded by stating that the draft comments would be submitted to the USDOT by the end of the day.

**6) Iowa Freight Strategic Plan:** Garrett Pedersen opened by highlighting some key MAP-21 provisions related to the development of state freight plans, including the need for a project to be identified in a state freight plan to be eligible for an increased federal funding share. Mr. Pedersen then discussed a revised plan document outline, the need to identify the strategic goals that will frame the plan, and the basic components that will make up the freight improvement strategy. Mr. Pedersen also highlighted the two-phased approach to the strategic plan and implementation plan development. Mr. Pedersen indicated that the Iowa DOT would like to identify three or four volunteers from the Council to serve on a plan development subcommittee. Mr. Pedersen then concluded with a summary of next steps related to this effort.

**7) Iowa Automated Permitting System (IAPS) demonstration:** Alex Jansen provided an update on the effort to develop the IAPS system. The system was developed in order to improve on an outdated oversize/overweight permitting system that was approximately 14 years old. Following the overview presentation, Mr. Jansen then provided a detailed demonstration of the web-based system. This demonstration covered much of the system's functionality from the user perspective. Several Council members commented on the appeal of the system, and expressed a desire for other states to adopt similar systems. Mr. Jansen concluded by inviting continued feedback as they move forward with implementing this new system.

**8) Future meetings- What do you want to get out of the FAC?:** Craig Markley initiated a conversation related to revisiting the role of the FAC, now 18 months removed from the initial meeting. Mr. Markley presented a variety of different discussion topics and activities that could be considered as we move forward with future meetings. Chair Sabin indicated that it was time to nominate a new chair as he has served beyond the typical one-year term. Tammy Nicholson then asked the Council to consider the format of the meetings, and Chair Sabin suggested that subcommittees based around priority issues be developed, which would help frame the meetings. These subcommittees could then be used to develop actions plans to address these issues with the legislature and other groups. Director Trombino agreed that the Council could be used to bring issues to the legislature via the Iowa DOT legislative staff. Chair Sabin also requested a brief presentation related to the organizational structure of the Iowa DOT. Other suggestions from the Council included theme-based meetings (e.g., surface transportation, rail, etc.), fieldtrips to freight-related facilities, and adding a representative for freight forwarders to the Council. A Council member suggested that the multiple-table room format was not as conducive to discussion as a “horseshoe” format. Director Trombino then concluded the discussion by suggesting that fewer items be placed on the agenda to allow for more in-depth discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.