

**Freight Advisory Council
September 11, 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
	Reilly Vaughan for Joel Brinkmeyer	x	Don McDowell
	Kevin Burke	x	Delia Moon-Meier
	Col. Craig Baumgartner	x	Dan Sabin
x	Tom Determann	x	Scott Stabbe
x	Kevin Ekstrand	x	Mike Steenhoek
x	Murry Fitzer		Brent Vanderleest
x	Natalie Hammer	x	Ron White
	Bill Horan		Tim Woods
	Greg Jenkins		

Ex-Officio:

x	Todd Ashby	x	Erin Mullenix for Robert Palmer
	Mike Hadley	x	Joseph Rude
x	Mark Johnson	x	Brett Tjepkes
x	Harold Hommes	x	Jennifer Wright
x	Jeremy Dugger for Shirley McGuire		Cecil Wright
x	Zach James for Mike Norris		

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
	Mikel Derby	x	Phil Meraz
	Lance Evans		Tammy Nicholson
x	Dan Franklin	x	Garrett Pedersen
x	Phou Baccam for Tina Hargis		Denise Said
x	Sam Hiscocks		John Selmer
	Laura Hutzell	x	Kim Snook
x	Sandra Larson		Lee Wilkinson
x	Phil Mescher	x	Diane McCauley
x	Kyle Barichello		

Guests:

X	Sean Litteral		

- 1) Welcome and Introductions (10:00 am):** Amanda Martin 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, “In your opinion, what should be the most important criteria or criterion for identifying freight priorities?” Responses included safety, security, efficiency, conditions of all freight infrastructure, congestion, customer needs, capacity, costs for shippers, service levels, connectivity to other modes, jobs, overall economy, capital income, access, education of drivers, and mobility. This discussion was followed by a quick overview by Scott Stabbe of a letter recently sent to Congress by multiple agriculture groups highlighting a number of transportation issues.

- 2) Federal Legislative update (10:30 am):** Dan Franklin provided an update on Legislative activity at the federal level. This update included budget and appropriations statuses. In addition, Dan mentioned that the extension of MAP-21 is expiring on October 29th. He also gave an overview of a new amendment to the DRIVE Act, the transportation bill introduced by the Senate. This is a six-year, \$278 billion highway bill that would include a dedicated freight program with formula-based funding allocations. There was also discussion on the national freight initiatives currently underway from MAP-21.

- 3) Linking Iowa’s Freight Transportation System Program update (10:50 am):** Stu Anderson provided an overview of Iowa DOT’s Linking Iowa’s Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) Program. This is a one-time funding opportunity through grants for projects in the state that contribute to effective and efficient freight transportation. It is not limited to one mode and these projects could include a new transload facility, capacity improvements at a barge terminal, ramps or docks for air cargo handling, rail yard improvements, etc. A side benefit of this round of applications is to show the high demand for freight funding in Iowa.

- 4) State Freight Plan and Rail System Plan (12:30 pm):** Sam Hiscocks and Amanda Martin provided a status report of two plans the Department is currently working on: State Freight Plan and State Rail Plan. This included a general overview of material and an input

opportunity. Sam gave an update on the input process and introduced the freight improvement strategy and freight project list development processes. Example strategies were listed and a description of the analysis used for identifying freight highway projects was given. This analysis uses the Value, Condition, and Performance (VCAP) matrix. Following this overview, the FAC was given an opportunity to provide feedback on the approach. Amanda gave an update on the State Rail Plan, including an overview of the plan's objectives and goals as well as major tasks involved with the plan. She also gave an in-depth description of the stakeholder engagement strategies and opportunities that will be utilized. Following these updates, Amanda reminded the FAC of the Issues-Based Workshop coming up on September 27th which will be to provide input on the development of both plans.

5) Infrastructure Condition Evaluation tool and Traffic operations efforts (12:30 pm):

Following lunch, Kyle Barichello gave an overview of the Infrastructure Condition Evaluation (ICE) tool that was developed at Iowa DOT. This tool uses seven criteria (Pavement Condition Index (PCI), International Roughness Index (IRI), structure sufficiency rating, passenger traffic, single unit truck traffic, combination truck traffic, and congestion) to rate road segments on the primary highway system in the state. The overview included a description of the criteria and normalization/weighting process, as well as a demonstration of the online web tool. Following Kyle's presentation, Scott Marler discussed Iowa's traffic operations efforts and how they are actively managing traffic. This included a description of the tools and methods that are used to keep Iowa passenger and freight traffic moving safely and efficiently.

6) iTRAM Freight Commodity Modeling (1:00 PM): Phil Mescher described the Iowa Travel Analysis Model (iTRAM). This tool is used to model and forecast Iowa traffic presently and in the future. Recently, the tool was upgraded to include a commodity flow tool and a rail modeling tool. Each was highlighted and examples were given about what the tools can do and how they can help freight movement in the state.

7) International logistics (1:30 PM): Kevin Ekstrand of Scarbrough International provided an overview of the company and the work they do. The company is an international freight forwarder and customs broker that manages freight movement for businesses. The company has an office in Iowa and ships product all over the world.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.