

30th meeting of the
IOWA FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 18, 2020
 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM
 Online - Microsoft Teams

Members

	Andy Cernin	x	Delia Moon-Meier
x	Tom Determann	x	James Niffenegger
x	Greg Dickinson	x	Kelli O'Brien
x	Don Egli		Joe Parsons
			Dan Sabin
X	Calean Kokjohn	x	Mike Steenhoek
	Ron Lang	x	Hobart Stutt for Reilly Vaughan
	Jody Sandy	x	Ron White
x	Don McDowell		Tim Woods

Ex-Officio Members

x	Todd Ashby		Mike Norris
	Mike Hadley		Paul Ovrom
	Tim Marshall		Robert Palmer
	Michael Kober	x	Joseph Rude
x	Sean Litteral		Col. Steven Sattinger
	Scott Marler		Louis Vander Streek
x	Shirley McGuire	x	Jennifer Wright

Iowa DOT

x	Stu Anderson	x	Justin Meade
		x	Phil Meraz
	Mikel Derby	x	Tammy Nicholson
x	Sam Hiscocks	x	Garrett Pedersen
x	Laura Hutzell		Charlie Purcell
x	Alex Jansen		Angel Robinson
x	Renee Jerman		John Selmer
x	David Lorenzen		Melissa Spiegel
x	Craig Markley	x	Jeff von Brown
			Andrea Henry
x	Amanda Martin		Susan Fenton

Guests

x	Susan Wallace (Iowa DOT)	x	Andrea White (Iowa DOT)
x	Zac Bitting (Iowa DOT)	x	Brenda Freshour-Johnston (Iowa DOT)
x	David Miller (Iowa DOT)	x	Bob Rafferty (Truck Stops of Iowa)

Meeting input objectives

1. Provide input on trends, issues, and opportunities to be included in the State Freight Plan.
2. Notify FAC members of multiple initiatives taking place.

10:00 AM Welcome

**Mike Steenhoek, Chair
Soy Transportation
Coalition**

Chair Mike Steenhoek opened the meeting by thanking the group members for attending the second 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 introducing the first speaker.

10:05 AM COVID-19 and Legislative Updates

A brief update of COVID-19 impacts on traffic, revenues, etc. followed by an overview of current transportation-related legislative activities.

**Stu Anderson
& Susan Wallace
Iowa DOT**

Stu Anderson provided an update on COVID-19 impacts to transportation. COVID-19 has had significant impacts on transportation. This includes declines in rail carloads, passenger air enplanements, and vehicle traffic. However, traffic has begun to increase again. COVID-19 will most likely have a significant impact on transportation funding. Figures were provided for the current status of the Aviation Improvement Program, Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF), and the Road Use Tax Fund. Iowa DOT will continue to track and work to minimize impacts.

Susan Wallace provided an update on federal legislative issues and activities. Although Congress is in a bit of a holding pattern until the presidential election, there are several items up for action. An extension is likely for the current surface transportation bill rather than anything new. The current bill expires September 30, 2020. A continuing resolution is likely for fiscal year 2021 appropriations as this bill also expires September 30, 2020. There are also discussions taking place relating to COVID-19 relief.

10:20 AM State Freight Plan Update and Input

A discussion of freight-related trends, issues, and opportunities to be included in the State Freight Plan.

**Sam Hiscocks
Iowa DOT**

Sam Hiscocks led the FAC members and ex-officio members through an input exercise via a mentimeter online survey. Participants were asked to provide input on freight-related trends, issues, and opportunities by rating statements/topics by level of importance (1 to 5 or Not a priority to Essential). Participants were also asked to provide any additional items to consider.

Topics included agriculture, automation, biorenewables, e-commerce, economics, energy, first mile/last mile, fuel, funding, industry, infrastructure design, intermodalism, land use, manufacturing, multimodal, regulations, resiliency, trade, and others. Results will be combined, summarized, and shared with the FAC prior to the next meeting.

10:35 AM Innovative and Economical Ways to Repair and Replace Rural Bridges

Overview of a current effort by the Soy Transportation Coalition to identify and document the top 20 approaches to repair and replace rural bridges.

**Mike Steenhoek, Chair
Soy Transportation
Coalition**

Chair Mike Steenhoek provided a brief overview of a current initiative being led by the Soy Transportation Coalition aimed at identifying best practices in rural bridge repair and replacement. This project looks to strengthen infrastructure in rural America by documenting 10 innovative concepts for rural bridge repair and 10 innovative concepts for rural bridge replacement. A group of 13 engineers selected the concepts to be included in the study. Requirements for the final selections were:

1. Must be valid from an engineering perspective, having been affirmed by credible entities, such as FHWA, AASHTO, Universities, etc.;
2. Must provide notable cost savings compared to the prevailing method (leaning towards at least 25% savings or greater); and
3. Must accessible or applicable in a large degree of rural America (not concepts that are only viable on one location).

The primary purpose is to create awareness, understanding, and willingness to further implement innovative practices that will help stretch already diminishing resources (funding) further in the long run. The intended audiences of this study are county elected officials, staff from Governor's office, the general public, etc. - those that can provide motivation for greater implementation of these practices. The study is expected to be complete in fall 2020.

10:45 AM Inland Waterway Navigation Update

Update on Iowa DOT's work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to explore the construction of a mooring cell on the Mississippi River and update on a new barge terminal being developed by NEW Cooperative on the Missouri River near Blencoe, Iowa.

**Craig Markley
Iowa DOT**

Craig Markley gave an update on two current inland waterway topics. The first is an ongoing initiative between Iowa DOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a mooring cell on the Mississippi River near lock & Dam 14. This new facility would allow barge tows to tie off closer to the lock saving time and fuel, decreasing the environmental impact, and improving safety. Iowa DOT is currently working with the FHWA to determine funding eligibility.

The second topic was an update on a new barge terminal being constructed on the Missouri River at Blencoe, Iowa. A ground-breaking ceremony was held recently and attended by stakeholders including Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa Economic Development Authority Director Debbie Durham, and FAC Chair Mike Steenhoek. This is the first new facility being built on the northern Missouri River in quite some time and should create momentum for waterway shipments, help connect supply and demand in the region, and create greater access for shippers. Expected commodities moving through the facility include fertilizer, aggregate, salt, and potentially wind turbine blades. The new facility, which is being built by KEY Cooperative, is currently under construction with an intended completion date this fall.

11:00 AM Adjourn

2020 meetings:

- Friday, March 27 (*cancelled*)
- Friday, June 19 (*virtual*)
- Friday, September 18 (*virtual*)
- Friday, December 18