

34th meeting of the
IOWA FREIGHT ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 10, 2021
 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center
 5000 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, Iowa 50322

Members

	Tom Determann, Clinton Regional Development		Joe Parsons, Iowa Interstate Railroad
x	Greg Dickinson, Ten D/Merchants Distribution	x	Dan Sabin, Iowa Northern Rail.
	Gary Handley, Iowa Motor Truck Association		Jody Sandy, Hy-Vee
	Calean Kokjohn, Cryotech	x	Mike Steenhoek, Soy Transportation Coalition
	Ron Lang	x	Reilly Vaughan, Agribusiness Assoc. of Iowa
x	Don McDowell, Iowa Farm Bureau		Jillian Walsh, Traverro
	Delia Moon-Meier, Iowa 80 Group	x	Ron White, Artco Fleeting Service
	James Niffenegger, Landus Cooperative	x	Tim Woods, Woods Development
x	Kelli O'Brien, Union Pacific Railroad		

Ex-Officio Members

	Todd Ashby, Des Moines Area MPO		Mike Norris, Southeast Iowa RPC
x	Mike Hadley, Keokuk County	x	Paul Ovrom, IDALS
x	Michael Kober, Iowa Dept. of Public Safety	x	Joseph Rude, Iowa Economic Dev. Authority
x	Sean Litteral, FHWA Iowa Div.		Col. Steven Sattinger, USACE Rock Island District
	Scott Marler, Iowa DOT		Louis Vander Streek, Iowa Utilities Board
	Tim Marshall, FHWA Iowa Division	x	Jennifer Wright, Iowa DNR
x	Shirley McGuire, FMCSA		

Iowa DOT

x	Stu Anderson	x	Tammy Nicholson
	Zac Bitting		Garrett Pedersen
	Mikel Derby	x	Charlie Purcell
	Brenda Freshour-Johnston		Ryan Ridout
x	Sam Hiscocks		Angel Robinson
	Troy Jerman		Melissa Spiegel
x	David Lorenzen		Jeff von Brown
	Craig Markley	x	Susan Wallace
x	Amanda Martin		Andrea White
x	Justin Meade		Lee Wilkinson
	David Miller		

Guests

x	Gabe Claypool, Des Moines Industrial		
x	Paul Cownie, Des Moines Industrial		

Meeting input objectives

1. Discuss regional, national, and international freight trends and opportunities.
2. Provide input on multimodal freight improvements and priority locations in the state freight plan.

10:00 AM Safety Briefing

Amanda Martin
Iowa DOT

Welcome & Introductions

Ice breaker: Provide any comments, updates, notable items, etc. on your business since the last time we met in-person.

Mike Steenhoek, Chair
Soy Transportation
Coalition

Chair Mike Steenhoek opened the meeting by thanking the group for attending the first in-person meeting of the Freight Advisory Council since December 2019. Each attendee introduced themselves and provided recent updates in their industry. Items included:

- Western wildfires and Hurricane Ida have impacted supply chains and commodity flows
- Infrastructure bill discussions are encouraging
- Iowa's international intermodal footprint is growing
- Highway fatalities are up in the state again
- Increased interest in renewable diesel, especially in California
- Labor shortages are impacting agriculture and other industries

Chair Steenhoek also provided an overview of the impact of Hurricane Ida on the Lower Mississippi River in Louisiana. The category four storm damaged grain facilities that will likely take weeks to repair. Although overall damage wasn't as serious as Hurricane Katrina, there are concerns that the facilities won't be ready for this year's harvest.

10:30 AM Iowa DOT Update

Overview of the DOT's perspective on the Federal infrastructure bill, summary of the State legislative session, and other agency updates.

Stu Anderson
Iowa DOT

Stu Anderson provided an update from Iowa DOT, including COVID-19 impacts, funding overviews, and the status of the five-year program. The Iowa Moody index score is now 100 percent of the pre-COVID level, while the national average is 93 percent. Rail numbers and passenger enplanements continue to improve. Several funding items were also covered. Additionally, Iowa DOT is involved a carbon sequestration task force and a truck driver shortage workshop, both of which will be covered at future meetings.

10:50 AM Federal Infrastructure Bill and Funding

Update on discussions/debates for a new transportation bill.

Susan Wallace
Iowa DOT

Susan Wallace provided an in-depth overview of current federal infrastructure bill discussions. The current bipartisan infrastructure bill is the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Ms. Wallace covered the

status of the bill and provided examples of changes to policy and new or significantly altered programs of interest. These include:

- Bill covers transportation, energy, drinking water, wastewater, broadband, climate, cybersecurity, etc.
- Emphasis on greenhouse gas reduction, automated vehicles, multimodalism, equity, innovation, planning, etc.
- Senate passed on 8/10/2021 and the House plans to vote 9/27/2021
- Five-year surface transportation reauthorization (\$383.3 billion)
- Adds to recommended representatives, roles, and qualifications for state freight advisory committees
- Creates Office of Multimodal Infrastructure and Freight
- Adds new multimodal transportation programs and proposes changes to others

11:10 AM Des Moines Transload

Status of the new multimodal freight facility being constructed in Des Moines.

Gabe Claypool

Des Moines Industrial

Gabe Claypool with Des Moines Industrial provided an update on the Des Moines Transload Facility that is currently under construction. The facility is being built on approximately 40 acres close to interstates 35 and 80 with access to four railroads. Phase 1 includes 115,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space, 15,500 feet of track, and 350,000 sq. ft. of incremental cold storage. Phase 2 will include 115,000 sq. ft. warehouse expansion and 100,000 sq. ft. of additional cold storage. The facility will be capable of transloading dry bulk materials, building materials, intermodal containers, waste/recyclables, heavy equipment, and consumer products.

The facility is expected to open by January 2022.

11:40 AM Mooring Cell Project Update

Update on Iowa DOT's work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a mooring cell on the Mississippi River.

Sam Hiscocks

Iowa DOT

Sam Hiscocks provided an update on the ongoing partnership between Iowa DOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a mooring cell at Lock 14 on the Mississippi River. Building a mooring cell was the top recommendation of the 2019 Alternative Financing Study. The contributed funds agreement is currently being finalized and has been reviewed by the legal teams of each agency. Construction is still targeted for 2022 but could be delayed until 2023.

11:50 AM State Freight Plan: Improvements

Presentation of the multimodal improvements and priority locations to be included in the plan.

Sam Hiscocks

Iowa DOT

Sam Hiscocks presented on the status of the State Freight Plan update. The presentation included a recap of plan development and input from the Freight Advisory Council up to this point. Input exercises and the results were overviewed for freight trends, issues, goals, performance measures, networks, and bottlenecks.

Attendees were then asked for input on the identification of freight improvements. These were compiled for air, highway, railroad, and inland waterways. Des Moines International Airport and the Eastern Iowa Airport were consulted for air cargo projects, INRIX traffic data and truck counts were used to identify highway improvements, railroad companies were consulted for rail projects, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided priority projects on the inland waterways.

12:20 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Adjourn

Future meetings:

- Friday, December 10th
- 2022 meetings TBD