

Stakeholder Outreach Results

Public Survey

- » The State Rail Plan and State Freight Plan survey was available online from October 23, 2015 to November 11, 2015.
- » Outreach included email, LinkedIn, blog and Yammer.
- » 227 people responded to the survey.
- » Economic Workforce and Development and Safety and Security were two highest selected categories.

-- Note that these items are just summaries of initial survey results and does not reflect an exhaustive list.

- » Responses included:
 - » The overall transportation system is moderately efficient in Iowa.
 - » The transportation modes are competitive in Iowa.
 - » Infrastructure is the top hurdle that may block economic development in Iowa.
 - » Funding should be targeted at increasing access and the number of intermodal/transloading facilities.
 - » Iowa DOT should develop, facilitate and fund freight, marine and rail improvements.
 - » Intermodal access is not sufficient and additional locations/lanes are required.
 - » There is not enough information for companies to assess the cost and benefits of intermodal/transloading facilities. The Iowa DOT should both target increasing access/number of those facilities and target logistic parks to encourage transport growth.
 - » Respondents are likely to use passenger rail for business and leisure.
 - » Passenger rail should be coordinated with other multi-modal transportation options, completely integrated into every transportation option and connect with other cities.
 - » Vehicular accidents are the highest safety concern for highways.
 - » Infrastructure improvements would increase safety in communities but would have a neutral effect on the quality of life.

Select Shipper Interviews

- » Twelve shipper interviews were completed between October and November of 2015. These interviews included large manufactures, rural agriculture producers, retailers and Third Party Logistics providers.
- » Shippers interviewed used Class 1 and Short Line railroads, a trucking company and logistics service providers were asked about 9 aspects of freight service and perceptions. The nine areas included 3-5 questions each, for a total of 39 inquiries.
- » Summary:
 - » The vast majority of freight in Iowa moves by truck, infrastructure is rated at a B-C level on an A-F scale.
 - » Performance measures are highly correlated with cost and on-time performance.
 - » Communication in Iowa could be improved with the development of push emails or APPs and more customized for users.
 - » Several users indicated the importance of empty equipment visibility to help reduce repositioning costs and improve equipment availability.
 - » Multimodal access is absolutely essential to the freight network.
 - » Priority projects include maintaining the current highway/bridge network and improving rail and freight routes.
 - » Increased terminal access and an increase in truck parking was a common theme, concern over grade crossing safety was noted in some areas.
 - » Cost benefit analysis and public private partnership development seemed to be the best way to prioritize projects.
 - » Concern over driver shortages, industry regulation and overall transportation funding levels were mentioned.