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 it 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.