

Wisconsin Freight Advisory Committee (FAC)
Meeting Minutes from Thursday April 23, 2015
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Madison, Wisconsin

FAC members present: George Bichanich, Tom Bressner, Ron Chicka, John Cornell, Jason Culotta, Brian Doudna, Anthony Driessen, Aaron Dunlop, John Easter, Brian Elliott, Wade Goodsell, Dean Haen, Jack Heinemann, Steve Illich, Dan Johnson, Peter Kammer, Wayne Kokta, Mike Koles, Jeff Lyon, Scott Mosley, Mark O'Connell, Mark Oesterle, Ernie Perry, Kyle Pitsor, George Poirier, Henry Schienebeck, Richard Stewart, Alan Sweeney, Jason Tedrow, Craig Thompson, Steven Todd, Ken Yunker, Paul Zimmerman

WisDOT members present: Brad Basten, Donna Brown-Martin, Stephen Fitzgerald, Mark Gottlieb, Dan Grasser, Don Gutkowski, Paul Hammer, Don Miller, Joe Olson, Dave Pabst, Rose Phetteplace, Rory Rhinesmith, Aileen Switzer

- **Secretary's Welcome and Opening Remarks (9:45 a.m.)**
 - WisDOT Secretary Mark Gottlieb

Mark Gottlieb, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), welcomed members of the Wisconsin Freight Advisory Committee (FAC). Secretary Gottlieb then stated that the safe and efficient movement of freight in and through Wisconsin is a top priority for WisDOT. The efforts by the Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission and the outcomes of the Governor's Freight Industry Summits underscore the importance of freight in Wisconsin. The FAC will further assist WisDOT by providing advice on various freight-related issues to support a safe and efficient transportation system.

- **Overview of the Freight Advisory Committee (9:55 a.m.)**
 - WisDOT Deputy Secretary Paul Hammer and DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer

WisDOT Deputy Secretary Paul Hammer expanded on Secretary Gottlieb's welcome by highlighting the mission of the FAC, which is to provide a broad-based forum consisting of representatives from the freight and logistics sectors, key state economic sectors, and the public sector to review critical freight issues; to provide input and advice to WisDOT on priorities and policies that impact freight mobility; to advocate the importance of a sound freight transportation system to Wisconsin's economy; and to expand Wisconsin's role in national and world freight movements. Deputy Secretary Hammer reviewed the Charter with the FAC and highlighted the FAC's purpose, goals, roles and responsibilities. Deputy Secretary Hammer stated the FAC is sponsored by Secretary Gottlieb, but by delegation, the FAC will be chaired by the Administrator of the Division of Transportation Investment Management (DTIM), Aileen Switzer. DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer then highlighted the FAC website and the Wisconsin open meetings law.

- **Freight Advisory Committee Introductions (10:10 a.m.)**
 - Freight Advisory Committee and WisDOT's Freight Policy Administrators Group

Following the welcome by Secretary Gottlieb and the overview of the FAC by Deputy Secretary Hammer and DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer, the members of the FAC and WisDOT's Freight

Policy Administrators Group (FPA) – the WisDOT attendees at the FAC meeting – introduced themselves.

- **Review of Pre-Meeting Survey (10:30 a.m.)**
 - DTSD Deputy Administrator of Statewide Bureaus Rory Rhinesmith

The Division of Transportation System Development (DTSD) Deputy Administrator of Bureaus Rory Rhinesmith reviewed the pre-meeting survey results with the FAC. The questions developed for the pre-meeting survey were based on key themes identified at the most recent Governor’s Freight Industry Summit (August 2014). The responses to the questions assisted in prioritizing the various transportation themes that the FAC wanted to examine further and provide advice on. The four broad categories of topics for the FAC included: truck weight limits, coordination/partnerships, freight rail, and supply chain. The results of the pre-meeting survey can be found by reviewing the results of the “FAC Membership Issue Prioritization Tool.”

- **WisDOT Overview of Freight Activities (11:00 a.m.)**
 - BTLRRH Director Donna Brown-Martin, BTO Director Dewayne Johnson, BTS Director Dave Pabst, and BHM Director Rose Phetteplace

DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer introduced the panel of WisDOT Bureau Directors (also FPA members) to provide a brief overview of various freight activities within WisDOT. Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Rails and Harbors (BTLRRH) Director Donna Brown-Martin highlighted the Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) grant program, WisDOT’s Multimodal Freight Network (MFN), the Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP), the Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP), the Harbor Assistance Program (HAP), and the Local Roads Program. Bureau of Highway Maintenance (BHM) Director Rose Phetteplace reviewed WisDOT’s Oversize/Overweight (OSOW) permitting functions as well as some of the various freight operations efforts. Bureau of Transportation Safety (BTS) Director Dave Pabst highlighted the Division of State Patrol’s Motor Carrier Enforcement Section which oversees size and weight enforcement as well as safety inspections at the 13 Safety and Weight Enforcement Facilities (SWEFs). Bureau of Traffic Operations (BTO) Director Dewayne Johnson highlighted WisDOT’s State Traffic Operations Center (STOC), Emergency Traffic Operations (ETO), and Traffic Incident Management (TIM).

- **Wisconsin State Freight Plan (11:25 a.m.)**
 - BPED Director Don Gutkowski

Bureau of Planning and Economic Development Director Don Gutkowski provided an overview of the *Wisconsin State Freight Plan* (SFP). The SFP will provide a vision for multimodal freight transportation and will position the state to be competitive in the global marketplace by ensuring critical connections to national freight systems remain, or become, more efficient. Many adjacent states have already begun or have their own SFPs. SFPs are recommended by the 2012 federal regulation “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century” or MAP-21. The establishment of a SFP may assist in enhanced funding opportunities. Some of the many expected results of the Wisconsin SFP include, but are not limited to: (1) creation of a framework for harmonizing freight policy and goals; (2) identification of infrastructure characteristics that are ideal for site selectors to draw new markets, enhance the business climate and potentially increase job development in Wisconsin; (3) establish a high priority

freight network and establish an investment strategy. The FAC will assist by offering guidance and feedback on the Wisconsin SFP and other freight-related topics that impact freight mobility.

- **Membership Feedback Tool (11:55 a.m.)**
 - DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer

DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer highlighted the Membership Feedback Tool and the Membership Issue Prioritization Tool. These tools will assist in prioritizing content for future FAC meetings, enhancing the structure of the FAC, shaping policy development at WisDOT, developing the SFP, and meeting the expectations of the FAC membership. The results of these tools will be further highlighted in the *Summary Report of the Inaugural FAC Meeting*.

- **Review of the Governor’s Freight Industry Summits (1:00 p.m.)**
 - BHM Director Rose Phetteplace

BHM Director Rose Phetteplace reviewed the history and attendance of the four annual Governor’s Freight Industry Summits held from 2011 through 2014. In 2005, Wisconsin Act 167 mandated the creation of a Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on highway weight limits. The recommendation by the Committee required a comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study (which was then included in the 2007 state budget). Concluded in 2009, the Truck Size and Weight Study laid the groundwork for the “Freight Reform Initiative,” which included: (1) industry participation in annual freight summits; (2) “freight friendly” regulations; and (3) development of a multimodal freight network. Through these efforts, WisDOT was able to align actions to industry needs, respond to and create growth opportunities, forge partnerships with industry, and take proactive steps regarding regulations that impact businesses. Overall, the Freight Summits provided a forum where WisDOT could identify issues of greatest importance to industry, strengthen relationships with industry, and develop a foundation for WisDOT actions and initiatives.

- **Tabletop Discussion (1:20 p.m.)**
 - Freight Advisory Committee and WisDOT’s Freight Policy Administrators Group

The topic of the tabletop discussion was intermodal facilities. The discussion served as a forum for WisDOT and the FAC to discuss WisDOT’s role relative to intermodal facilities. The tabletop results were summarized and included in the *Summary Report of the Inaugural FAC Meeting*.

- **Tabletop Discussion Report Out by FAC Members (2:15 p.m.)**
 - Freight Advisory Committee

The tabletop discussion report out provided an opportunity for FAC members to identify and share their responses to the tabletop discussion questions. These results were summarized and included in the *Summary Report of the Inaugural FAC Meeting*.

- **FAC Membership Feedback and Focus for Future Meetings (2:45 p.m.)**
 - DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer

DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer reviewed some of the preliminary results of the Membership Feedback Tool introduced earlier in the meeting. Some responses to the question “what

additional information and/or resources would strengthen your understanding of WisDOT” include (but are not limited to): data availability, urban choke points, and examples of projects funded by FRIPP, FRPP, TEA, etc. Responses to the question “identify individuals/organizations that are not currently represented on the FAC, but would bring strength to the committee” include (but are not limited to): air cargo/freight, public utilities, and scrap metal industry. Responses to the question “what is your (as a FAC member) ultimate goal(s) or expectations of FAC participation” include (but are not limited to): local system (first/last mile), multimodal, and industry interests addressed in the state freight plan. Responses to the last question “capture ideas, or issues, that the FAC should explore further” included (but not limited to): maritime, funding, and rail service. The full results from the Membership Feedback Tool can be found in the *Summary Report of the Inaugural FAC Meeting*.

- **Closing Remarks (3:15 p.m.)**

- WisDOT Deputy Secretary Paul Hammer and DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer

Deputy Secretary Hammer thanked the FAC for their participation at the inaugural FAC meeting. Based on the feedback from the Membership Feedback Tool, the Membership Prioritization Tool, and the results of the Intermodal Facility Tabletop Discussion will further assist WisDOT by providing advice on various freight-related issues. A *Summary Report of the Inaugural FAC Meeting* will be issued capturing the results of the FAC’s input from the first FAC meeting. Deputy Secretary Hammer reiterated the FAC’s advice will assist in supporting safe and efficient freight transportation in Wisconsin. DTIM Administrator Aileen Switzer indicated the next meeting will take place in the Fall of 2015 and most likely in early September 2015. The FAC Planning Team will send an electronic survey to the FAC in order to capture an evaluation of the first FAC meeting. The FAC Planning Team will then send a follow-up to the FAC informing them of the next meeting date and location.