



Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee: Strategic Planning

**MNDOT OFFICE OF FREIGHT AND
COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OPERATIONS
CENTER FOR TRANSPORTATION STUDIES
LEO PENNE CONSULTING**

Background



- **MFAC established in 1998**
- **Strategic Planning initiated by MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations**
 - In conjunction with the Center for Transportation Studies and Leo Penne Consulting

Why now?



- Minnesota's industries are more and more dependent on efficient transportation.
- Minnesota must be connected as seamlessly as possible with the region, the nation, and the world to maintain its economic competitiveness.
- Transportation must adapt to meet the needs of Minnesota's traditional industries and develop to support the emerging industries.
- The freight industry is more complicated, fully developed and sophisticated.
- Safety and environmental issues related to freight transportation have become more prominent.
- The future of Minnesota's economy must be incorporated into today's decisions.

Process



- **Ad Hoc Working Group**
 - Bruce Abbe, Midwest Shippers Association
 - Ron Dvorak, Lake Superior Warehousing
 - Bill Gardner, MnDOT
 - Bill Goins, FedEx
 - Jon Huseby, MnDOT
 - Connie Kozlak, Metropolitan Council
 - Chip Smith, Bay and Bay Transportation
 - Neal Young, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
 - John Tompkins, Laurie Ryan, and Donna Koren – MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations Staff

Process



- **Interviews with other state freight advisory groups**
 - Iowa Freight Advisory Council
 - Kansas Freight Advisory Committee
 - Missouri Freight Advisory Committee
 - Oregon Freight Advisory Committee
- **Development of recommendations**

Recommendations



- **Current Mission and Objectives Statement:**

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and addressing of issues between MnDOT and the private sector to develop and promote a safe, reliable, and efficient freight transportation system. MFAC is designed to be a partnership between government and business to exchange ideas, recommend policy and actions that promote safety, productivity and sustainable freight transportation systems in Minnesota.

Minnesota's freight planning activities, including the establishment of the Freight Advisory Committee, are driven by MnDOT's desire to better understand freight flows within the State and their relationship to economic competitiveness.

The Committee was established in 1998 specifically to:

- *Ensure freight transportation needs are taken into account in the planning, research, investment and operation of Minnesota's transportation system.*
- *Establish guidelines to measure and manage the state's freight transportation needs.*
- *Provide input and direction to MnDOT on freight transportation policies, needs, and issues.*
- *Give support and input to program and research areas for MnDOT and Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) follow-up.*
- *Represent the needs of freight transportation to the public, elected officials, and other public agencies and organizations.*

*The Committee consists of representatives from private sector shippers, receivers and carriers; industry associations; academia; and economic development agencies. **Participation is open to any persons or entities from these freight stakeholder groups.***

Recommendations



- **New Mission and Objectives:**

Advise MnDOT and other public agencies and officials on the performance and importance of Minnesota's freight transportation system to support the state's economic competitiveness.

- *Support the development of the Statewide Freight Plan and other plans, policies and action to improve the performance of the freight transportation system.*
- *Provide a forum for the discussion of freight industry trends, issues, and needs.*
- *Provide input on recommended actions, strategies and resources to improve the state's freight transportation system.*

Recommendations



- **Leadership**
 - Chair and Vice-Chair
 - Executive Committee

- **Membership**
 - Members
 - Ex Officio Members
 - Friends

Recommendations



- **Strategies to Carry Out the Mission and Objectives:**
 - Facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders
 - Monitor and report on Statewide Freight Plan and its Action Agenda
 - Creation of an Annual Report
 - Review significant MnDOT initiatives and activities
 - Identify research initiatives
 - Direct the preparation and dissemination of “white papers”

Recommendations



- **Communication:**
 - New website
 - ✦ Central location for information about MFAC meetings and initiatives
 - ✦ Hub for information about other freight-significant organizations, activities, and events
 - ✦ Information about the Statewide Freight Plan



Questions or Comments?