

# Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, August 24, 2017 from 10 AM - noon

Wisconsin DOT Lake Superior conference room

## PARTICIPANTS:

Bryan Anderson (MN DOT)

Ron Chicka (MIC)

Brian Johnson (Sappi North America)

Vic Lund (St. Louis County)

Leo Naumann (Jeff Foster Trucking)

Mike Wenzholz (MIC) - facilitator

**PURPOSE:** Regroup the Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Study (TRS) advisory committee and reassess how best to function and move the TRS forward. Address several necessary data collection issues.

## AGENDA:

1. **Introductions**
2. **Truck Route Study Update**
  - Reassess How Best to Function and Move Forward
  - Timeline Adjustments
  - Restate Goal & Objectives
  - Restate Role of Advisory Committee
3. **Truck Route Regulation Information By Jurisdiction (Handout)**
4. **Truck Counts Update**
5. **Truck Route Study Survey (Handout)**
6. **Next Steps / Action Items**
7. **Next Meeting**

## SUMMARY:

Each agenda item was discussed during the meeting.

### **Truck Route Study Update**

- The group discussed the best way to function moving forward, after MW explained that the original idea of having just a few meetings with email requests and responses in between the meetings did not seem to be working well. MW received limited responses from AC members to several email requests. BJ and LN agreed that relying on responses via email is not a preferred way to function, and instead believe meeting more regularly for short (1-2 hour) meetings will be much more productive. All participants agree, and believe that there is much better and useful exchange of ideas and dialogue in meetings that is lost via email responses to me. Moving forward the AC will

meet more regularly, as needed, and will have few requests via email. BJ and LN also stated the relatively slow time of the year is between October and December.

- An obviously needed adjustment of the TRS timeline was discussed. The goal is now to complete the TRS sometime in the spring of 2018.
- MW restated the goal of the TRS and role of the AC as a reminder.

#### **Truck Route Regulation Information By Jurisdiction (Handout)**

- MW explained the handout was for each state, county, city, and village in the MIC area to complete in regard to the truck routes in their jurisdictions.
- MW also explained this data is not easy to find. While there are base level truck route regulations in each state that are applied by ore local jurisdictions, these do not cover anomalies such as low bridges or roads with weight restrictions. The MIC wants to capture all of this data, include it within a database and GIS, and make it available to all to use. The MC believes this will be a useful resource, and the other participants agreed.
- VL suggested MW contact Dave Conkel with MN DOT to gather data on structure and roadway conditions on truck routes. This asset management-like data could be added to the database the MIC wants to prepare.
- VL shared an idea of how the end product of the TRS could be used and implemented. Specifically VL suggested noting the conditions of truck routes and structures along truck routes (as much data as we can obtain). This can lead to a listing of specific work to be completed, organized by jurisdiction, which would greatly aid in implementing recommendations of the final TRS.
- A goal is to not only list these regulations, but map them to visually note consistencies, as well as potential existing conflicts across jurisdictions.

#### **Truck Counts Update**

- MW provided an update on truck counts received – including location and who (what entity) provided them.
- VL expects to have the final truck counts in St Louis County completed soon and data compiled and submitted in September.
- BA will look into what truck count data MN DOT has available and provide any that exists along highways I35, I535, 61, 53, 2, etc.
- The group continues to believe it would be helpful to include truck count data from Carlton County outside the MIC area, in particular along highways 210, 4, 1, and 33. The group also believes it would be good to have a truck count on highway 61 between Knife River and Two Harbors. The data from these additional locations is expected to be useful in determining how much truck traffic is avoiding Duluth and using smaller roadways.

#### **Truck Route Study Survey (Handout)**

- The group continues to believe a survey would provide useful information, especially from truck drivers and local highway maintenance crews.

- The group believes the survey is the right length, and includes appropriate questions, but recommended three minor revisions. The revisions will be made and the survey provided to the appropriate people.
- BJ and LN indicated the best way to distribute the survey is through meetings or interactions with truckers.
- VL believes county highway maintenance crews can provide useful information via this survey, as well.
- LN suggested contacting the Duluth-Superior Transportation Association and seeing if there is a way to distribute the survey through them, or following a presentation.
- BJ suggested including a map of the MIC area for survey respondents to use in pinpointing locations of problems. MW will look into and consider this.

#### **Next Steps / Action Items**

- MW will finalize the survey with the requested revisions, and send to AC members to complete and share with others. MW will also attempt to include a basic map that could be useful to some in completing the survey.
- MW will get a complete set of truck route regulations from the state.
- MW will attempt to get truck route regulations from all jurisdictions.
- BA will provide truck route data they have on state and US roads (35, 535, 61, 53, 2) to MW.
- MW will work with Douglas County to get truck count data on highways C, W, and Z.
- MW will work with Carlton County to get truck count data on highways 210, 33, 1, 4.
- VL will get final truck count data in St Louis County to MW.
- MW will reach out to Duluth-Superior Transportation Association.
- MW will attempt to obtain TRS area crash data.

#### **Next Meeting**

- The next AC meeting will likely be in one or two months, as needed. MW will send out a Doodle Poll to set a date.