

Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Committee Meeting Summary

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 from 10 AM - noon

Wisconsin DOT Lake Superior conference room

PARTICIPANTS:

Ron Chicka (MIC)	Leo Naumann (Jeff Foster Trucking)
David Gibbs (Ulland Brothers)	Cari Pederson (City of Duluth)
Brian Johnson (Sappi North America)	Dena Ryan (Wisconsin DOT)
Scott Kyrola (Northland Constructors)	Mike Wenholz (MIC) - facilitator
Vic Lund (St. Louis County)	

PURPOSE: Regroup the Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Study (TRS) committee to finalize and prepare for launching the TRS survey, and provide updates on numerous other issues.

AGENDA:

1. **Introductions**
2. **Truck Route Study Survey**
 - Status
 - Final Preparations
 - How to Distribute?
3. **Update on Truck Counts**
 - What Data We Have to Date
 - Moving Forward – Additional Data?
4. **Update on the Truck Route Study GIS**
5. **Next Steps / Action Items**
6. **Roundtable**
7. **Next Meeting**

SUMMARY:

MW started the meeting by showing a slide reminding the group what the goal of the TRS is.

Each agenda item was discussed during the meeting.

Truck Route Study Survey

- MW provided a brief reminder of the TRS survey and an explanation of its role in the study. The primary audience to take the survey includes truck drivers and county or municipal highway workers that use or maintain truck routes in the Duluth-Superior area.

- The group walked through each question to finalize the survey. One revision was suggested, and will be made.
- MW provided a handout and showed some slides to walk through the geo-locating map option of the survey. This will allow respondents the opportunity to zoom into and mark specific locations, providing detailed explanations of concerns or praise related to that specific location.
- MW mentioned that there will also be an all-online version of the survey via Survey Monkey.
- The group decided the survey, once the one revision is made, is ready to be launched. The goal is to do so within 2 weeks. The group felt it should run open through at least the middle of April. MW said he will leave it live through the end of April.
- The group discussed how to distribute the survey. LN and BJ shared how they plan to distribute it to truck drivers they work with. MW shared that he will send the survey out to the full TRS email list, and post it on the MIC TRS website. MW is also awaiting response from the Duluth-Superior Transportation Association (DSTA) to give a presentation regarding and announcing the survey and/or providing a short article about the survey in their newsletter.

Update on Truck Counts

- MW provided an update on truck count data to be used in the TRS.
 - Data from 63 locations in or adjacent to the MIC area.
 - Hoping to get additional data from Douglas County (County highways W, C, and Z) and Carlton County (Highways 4, 1, 3, 210, 33). Discussions have been made to attempt to get data from each.
 - Will follow-up with Bryan Anderson (Minnesota DOT) regarding obtaining existing truck count data along highways I35, I535, 61, 53, 2, etc., including a truck count on highway 61 between Knife River and Two Harbors.
 - All data has been from 2016 and 2017.
 - All the data is not of identical type or collected in the same manner, but is similar enough to be useful for TRS purposes.
- MW showed a screen shot of the truck count database, explaining what type of data was in it.
- MW showed slides of GIS screen shots to demonstrate some of the ways the truck count data can be displayed and used, such as overlaying number of trucks vs percent trucks at each count location. LN, VL, and others suggested displaying total traffic on primary truck route segments. MW will display the data in numerous ways for the group to review at a later date.

Update on the Truck Route Study GIS

- MW provided an update on what has been included in the TRS GIS to date, and showed some screen shots of different GIS layers.
- MW explained he is continuing to try to get truck crash data from Minnesota DOT.
- MW explained that he is hopeful to include various data collected from the survey.

- MW reminded the group that the GIS is intended to be one of the final products of the TRS that will be made available to others, and perhaps added as a link on other websites. The group continues to believe this will be a useful tool.

Next Steps / Action Items

- MW will make final revisions to the survey, and send to AC members to complete and share with others. An email will be sent that contains some basic instructions, a PDF of the survey, a link to a Survey Monkey online version of the survey, and link to the geo-locating map option of the survey.
- MW will follow-up with his request to the Duluth-Superior Transportation Association to talk to their group about the survey, and to ask them to distribute the survey to appropriate members.
- MW will follow-up with his request to Minnesota DOT to obtain TRS area crash data.
- VL will continue to work with Carlton County to try to gather additional truck count data.
- MW will continue to follow-up with action items not fulfilled or completed from previous meetings.

Roundtable

- MW noted the slight name change of this group from the TRS Advisory Committee to the TRS Committee. The reason for this is that the MIC has only three specific advisory committee, and this is not one of them.
- MW discussed his involvement with the Duluth-Superior Transportation Association (DSTA).
- VL discussed the upcoming Midway Road – Maple Grove Road roundabout project. He discussed many aspects of the project, including timeline, being a full road closure project, an included dedicated right turn lane, and detours. DG is concerned that the oversize/large load detour will be inhibited by a bridge along that route.
- VL said he is a member of a group trying to develop a one-stop shop for all permitting, regulations, etc. for trucking in northeast Minnesota. The idea is to have a portal/website that houses all the area's individual jurisdictional permits and regulations, and more. A link to the final product TRS GIS could be included on this, as well. DR has a limited version of this.
- LN believes there should be more blinking yellow lights warning a traffic light change is coming. He said they are a significant safety factor, and are very useful for loaded trucks, especially in bad weather. It was noted that Wisconsin does not have any of these, while the Minnesota portion of the MIC area has a couple of them. RC noted that one potential problem with installing more is that there are likely regulatory restrictions where they can be installed.

Next Meeting

- The next AC meeting will likely be in May, after the results of the survey are summarized. MW will send out a Doodle Poll to set a date.