

2017 Duluth-Superior Truck Route Study

Scope of Work

October 2016

Study Objective

To determine the most efficient, safest, least disruptive truck routes to and through the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area for freight moved by trucks.

Background

The MIC's most recent Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Study was completed in 2001, as an update to the 1990 Truck Route Study and the 1997 Freight Movement Study. Since then, changes in the Duluth-Superior area roadway network, traffic patterns, and locations of freight-generating businesses, as well as federal and state laws and plans regarding truck routing have influenced truck movements.

This study will examine current truck routes and the factors that influence truck movements in the Duluth-Superior area and update the 2001 recommendations.

Planned Work Activities

A. Initiate Study

- Form study advisory group representing a comprehensive group of stakeholders (*see Section C, Public Input*) and meet at key points during the course of the study (initial kickoff, midway data review, final recommendations review at a minimum).
- Develop goals and objectives for the truck route system.
- Identify issues that should be addressed in the study, (for example, whether there is a need to standardize truck route policies among jurisdictions).
- Identify current truck routes in the MIC area.
- Examine current truck route policies and ordinances from all MIC area jurisdictions, including Trunk Highways (TH), County State Aid Highways (CSAH), County Roads, and Municipal State Aid System (MSAS), as well as state and federal regulations.
- Examine and incorporate guidance from recent State Freight Plans from MnDOT and WisDOT.
- Analyze truck route signage and its effectiveness in the metropolitan area.

B. Data Collection

- Identify and locate freight generators that utilize trucks to move their products and provide their inputs.
- Survey trucking firms and companies with high amounts of trucks delivering goods to determine problem areas and deficiencies in the truck route system.
- Gather existing and historic truck count information.
- Examine need to conduct additional truck counts.
- Gather truck accident location information.

- Examine the amount of hazardous cargo moving by truck through the area.
- Identify truck terminal locations.
- Consider first-mile and last-mile needs.
- Identify truck scale locations.
- Examine roadway characteristics such as pavement type, width, grade/slope, acceleration lanes, and road restrictions (winter restrictions).
- Consider oversize & overweight truck routing.
- Identify changes to the roadway system since the last truck route study that may have an effect on truck movements.
- Examine current and future land use along truck routes and identify areas where growth could occur
- Examine roadway functional class and roadway designation.
- Utilize information from prior MIC studies such as the Truck Route Study, Freight Movement Study, Landside Port Access Study, Duluth Thoroughfare Plan, and the Superior Thoroughfare Plan.
- Identify railroad crossings.
- Identify bridges with height and weight restrictions

C. Public Input

- Plan and conduct public input activities in accordance with techniques from MIC Public Involvement Plan with a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives from the trucking industry, local units of government as well as businesses and underserved and low income populations impacted by current and future truck routes.

D. Data Analysis

- Connect all collected truck route data to the existing GIS road network information and conduct geographic analysis.
- Identify areas of significant change in truck traffic.
- Identify areas of high truck accidents.
- Analyze land use and truck routes to identify conflicts or potential conflicts.
- Identify any missing links in the truck route system.
- Analyze impacts of current and proposed truck routes on underserved and low income populations.
- Incorporate the above points into actionable short- and long-term recommendations for the final study.

Deliverables

- Final study (PDF and print versions)
- Truck Route Map for the Duluth-Superior area

Timeline: November 2016 – July 2017

Budget: \$44,000