

MEETING MINUTES

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Freight Roundtable (FRT)
3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Des Moines Area MPO Large Conference Room**

The MPO Freight Roundtable (FRT) held a meeting at 3:00 p.m., on January 17, 2018, at the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Burnham Conference Room. Before the meeting, the MPO staff sent agenda packets to the MPO FRT representatives and posted the agenda at the MPO office on January 12, 2018.

Representatives Present:

Andy Laurent, Iowa Interstate Railroad
Ryan Carroll, Greater Des Moines Partnership
Peggy Kerr, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Jack Sawyer, Des Moines Transportation
Rita Conner, City of Des Moines
Katie Gieszler, City of Urbandale
Dave Kolbe, Ruan Transport
Tim Woods, Des Moines Transload
Amanda Martin, Iowa Department of Transportation
Laura Hutzell, Iowa Department of Transportation
Ted Brackett, Neuman Brothers
John Wahlert, Bridgestone
Steve Braithwaite, Des Moines Transload

Staff Present:

Andrew Collings, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the January 17, 2018, meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The group introduced themselves to one another.

3. Approval of Agenda

No issues were reported with the January 17, 2018 agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

No issues were reported with the October 9, 2017 meeting minutes.

5. Des Moines Transload Facility

Steve Braithwaite from Des Moines Transload was present to give a presentation on the proposed transload facility.

6. Container Locator Project Update

Staff and the chair gave an update on the Container Locator project.

7. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday March 21, 3:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The FRT meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

July 2018
Item No. 5

ISSUE: Des Moines Transload Facility

REPORT: Update from Steve Braithwaite on the planned transload facility in Des Moines.

BACKGROUND:

Des Moines Transload President and CEO Steve Braithwaite will be here to provide an update on the status of the planned transload facility on the SE side of Des Moines and answer questions from FRT members.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075.

July 2018
Item No. 6

ISSUE: Container Locator Website

REPORT: Report on the Containerlocator.com website.

BACKGROUND:

Staff will update the committee on work completed to date on the Containerlocator.com website.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075.

July 2018
Item No. 7

ISSUE: Review of Freight Impediments Report

REPORT: Report and review of the existing Freight Impediments report.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the market analysis completed by ISG for the transload facility a report was created that identified the top 10 freight impediments in the Des Moines metro area. The MPO routinely utilizes this document as part of our planning processes for freight related projects. The report was completed in 2014 and several of the projects identified in the plan have either been fixed or nearby projects have minimized their impacts.

Staff would like the FRT to review the document and discuss any changes that should be made and if an update should be prepared.

[Click here for a link to the Freight Impediments Report.](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Andrew Collings, acollings@dmampo.org;
(515) 334-0075.

July 2018
Item No. 8

ISSUE: Driver Shortage Discussion

REPORT: Report on the current driver shortage affecting the Des Moines metro.

BACKGROUND:

The truck driver shortage has been discussed many times nationally in recent years and a report released by the American Trucking Associations (ATA) estimated that there was a 50,000 shortage at the end of 2017. By the end of 2018 that number could increase to over 60,000. One key finding in the full report indicated that the “truck driver shortage probably seems much worse to motor carriers than the current figures suggest because of a **quality versus quantity** issue.”

A recent article by City Lab about full employment talks about Des Moines’ labor market and mentions the trucking industry specifically. Overall “businesses have not yet shown much willingness to cut hours, boost pay, and improve conditions to lure workers in”, the article argues.

More recently, Congress is attempting to tackle the driver shortage with new legislation that would open up driving positions to 18-year-olds through the introduction of the DRIVE-Safe Act.

[Click here for a link to the ATA Truck Driver article.](#)

[Click here for a link to the City Lab article.](#)

[Click here for a link to the Congress article.](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. Report and discussion only.

STAFF CONTACTS:

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