

Next Steps for Midwest Freight Study
Ideas and Recommendations (that may not reflect those of ODOT)
prepared by Suzann Rhodes, ODOT
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1. ***Take the necessary actions to get the corridor designated as a “Corridor of National Significance” - this is needed to get us into the money game.***
 - a. Find out what the “application process” is or what actions are needed.
 - b. Use the data and other findings from this study to complete the application/request.
 - c. Prepare a letter with documentation for all the state DOT secretaries/directors and legislators to jointly sign and submit. If all we need is a signature, that is easier than each of us putting together reports - plus we become a strong front. All the data needed should have been compiled based on the last year’s research.

2. ***Offer FHWA - Freight Office our support to use the Corridor as a “new initiatives corridor” or “test case studies corridor”***
 - a. Ex.: Diversion studies and “toll impact studies” are of current national interest. Given part of the corridor is tolled, part not we’d be a great test case.

3. ***Reauthorization***
 - a. Review the various versions of reauthorization, identify the provisions that would benefit the corridor, provide a “white paper” with advice and reasoning that we can pass on to our state’s AASTHO reps as to what they should advocate supporting relative to freight.
 - b. Talk with FHWA Freight Office to try to find out what will most likely be the freight provisions in the new bill. Prepare the background research so the states along the corridor can hit the ground running. (Ex. Sources tell me there will probably be a 2% set-aside requirement for making needed improvements to NHS segments that are Intermodal connectors. (Unless states can prove there is no need.) This study should tell us what are the corridor’s NHS Intermodal connectors needs.)

4. ***With State DOTs it is all about money and projects***
 - a. Find out & tell us out what money is available.
 - b. Identify / give us a list of **specific** choke points and problem locations that we need to address that will help the overall flow. Tell us what projects are needed that would benefit the entire corridor. (synergy)
 - c. Give us a list / make recommendations for **specific** policy or administrative changes that we can take and advance in our state that would help the corridor - this needs to be coupled with marketing materials - so we can sell the ideas and advance the corridor cooperation.

5. ***Marketing Materials***
 - a. Prepare a brochure (colorful, short, easy to read) that all states & interested stakeholders (freight haulers, rail companies, etc) can take and use as an education piece on the importance of the corridor and working together to improve it. (ex. - that we are each others biggest trading partners and this represents \$xxx billion & % of GSP.)

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6. ***Regional Issues and Practice Workshops***

- a. Sponsor a one day workshop that invites the each state's ITS, Weight and Permits, State Highway Patrol, etc. representatives to get together.
 - b. The workshop agenda should include: an opening session that presents summary of the corridor and how it links all the states both by traffic patterns and economically; and break-out sessions in which each sub group is presented with a set of specific recommendations - encouragement to brainstorm about others - and asked them for recommendation on what joint programs for their area can be advanced that would benefit the entire corridor.
7. ***Seek AASHTO and FHWA Freight Office's support & co-sponsorship of the corridor and the recommendations from this study.***
- a. Present them with findings from the study.
 - b. Ask for their advice and directions for next steps.