

An Agenda for Regional Freight

Draft for Discussion

Assumptions

- The region will provide adequate capacity to keep industry competitive.
- The region will embrace an intermodal approach to transportation, using the best of each mode.
- The region will embrace technologies to make the greatest use of available facilities.
- We will do these things while protecting our environment.

Technology

- Encourage involvement of multiple states, private freight companies, and Federal government in technology projects
- Pursue a regionally strategic approach to technology deployment
- Use CVISN components as a platform for regional electronic credentialing
- Share information from traffic monitoring systems across borders
- Promote regional perspective on security technologies
- Implement a regional vehicle-based traveler information system

Maritime--Federal

- Support modernization of lake and river locks.
- Modify harbor maintenance tax to make scheduled service viable.
- Modify Jones Act to make short-sea shipping more possible.
- Support research on year-round lake shipping.
- Ensure that transportation concerns are considered in any discussion of river water levels.

Rail--Regional

- Define critical regional rail network.
- Take a regional approach to locating intermodal facilities.
- Facilitate shipper groups to make better use of rail.

Rail--Federal

- Advocate for the creation of a national rail policy for freight and passenger.
 - Vision
 - Meaningful service resolution process
 - Funding
- Support CREATE funding.
- Support broader solutions to “Chicago”

Rail--Federal

- Support national efforts to standardize intermodal technology.
- Support national and regional approaches to expanded rail capacity.
- Support national approaches to freight taxation.
 - Surcharge
 - VAT

Highway Capacity--Federal

- Support inclusion of freight specific materials in the reports to Congress on the Interstate.
 - Truck lanes, including standards and warrants and vehicle configurations.
 - Tolls and concessions, including public-private partnerships.
- Seek identification of I-80/90/94 in the corridors program.

Highway Capacity--Regional

- Initiate regional dialog on size and weight rules.
- Initiate regional feasibility study of truck lanes on 80/90/94.
- Initiate research on the safety and environmental impact and design criteria of truck lanes and alternative vehicle configurations.

Commercial Vehicle Efficiency

- Initiate regional dialog with shippers and carriers.
- Consider a demonstration project within the region on driver hours of service.
- Take regional view of truck parking needs.

Planning and Research

- Develop regional analytic tools
- Develop regional planning frameworks
- Support research on modal diversion and interaction
- Support research on alternative freight strategies.