



Minnesota Department of Transportation
Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations

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Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee Fall Meeting Notes

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee met October 9, 2003, for its fall quarterly meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. New MFAC chair Ron Lifson, of LDI Fibres, Inc., succeeded Tim Penny, chair since the committee's inception in 1996.

Minnesota Department of Transportation deputy commissioner Doug Differt affirmed Mn/DOT's commitment to continuing the dialogue between the public and private sector on freight issues. Differt also reported that projects aimed at relieving congestion around the state are being pursued through an accelerated project development process as well as the use of design/build for projects such as Trunk Highway 52 in Rochester and the TH-212 project. A total of \$450 million has been appropriated to complete the projects.

Next, Differt responded to concerns about proposed new federal hours-of-service regulations for truck drivers. Though the proposal is a federal action, he encouraged MFAC to track the issue and inform Mn/DOT of action needed at the state level.

Dan Krom, Mn/DOT director of federal relations, said that the federal transportation funding reauthorization (SAFETEA) is not likely to be passed until the recently enacted five-month continuing resolution expires in February.

Finally, Bill Gardner, Mn/DOT director of freight planning and development, briefed the committee on Mn/DOT's statewide freight transportation plan currently under development. At future meetings, the committee will provide input regarding freight needs and potential solutions for improving freight movement. Other anticipated agenda items include development of funding and research proposals.

MFAC is a partnership between government and business to exchange ideas and recommend policy and actions that promote safe, productive, and sustainable freight transportation in Minnesota. For more information, contact Bill Gardner with the Mn/DOT Office of Freight & Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-406-4806.