

MINNESOTA FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPRING/SUMMER 2008 MEETING

Meeting Summary

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) met May 30, 2008, for its Spring/Summer quarterly meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota.

Following is a summary/recap of the meeting:

Mn/DOT – Future Directions

Tom Sorel – Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT)

Commissioner Sorel shared his philosophies, plans for the department's direction and priority issues to be addressed. These included the following:

- Work to regain public trust and confidence in the department and the transportation community.
- Encourage and regenerate the spirit of innovation and that has been a hallmark of the department.
- Leverage the opportunities available in public/private partnerships for expanded financial resources.
- Respect public values and insure they are integrated into our investment decisions.
- Be responsive to and make timely follow-up to the needs identified by the public, legislature and others.
- Emphasize the partnership approach for working with the business/freight community.
- Management philosophy based on the servant leadership concept.

Q&A Followed Commissioner's remarks.

Transportation Legislation - 2008 Session

Betsy Parker - Government Affairs Director, Mn/DOT

Betsy provided an overview of the transportation legislation that was passed and signed into law by the Governor from the 2008 State Legislative Session. There were numerous provisions that will impact freight transportation in the state and information on these was handed out at the meeting. Of particular interest were the provisions contained in HF 3486: "*Transportation policy provisions modified, and money appropriated*" which contained a number of changes related to truck size & weight and related matters. Link to legislative web site for this bill:

https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/getbill.php?session=ls85&number=HF3486&session_number=0&session_year=2007&version=list

For more information on other legislation refer to the State of Minnesota Legislative web site: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp>

Renewable Fuel Transportation and Terminal Infrastructure

Bruce Heine – Director Government & Media Affairs, Magellan Midstream Partners, LP

Bruce provided an overview of the liquid pipeline system in Minnesota, of which Magellan facilities make up 1050 miles of refined products pipelines, five distribution terminals and two tank farms. An overview of ethanol and biodiesel blending facilities was also provided. Issues surrounding the movement of straight ethanol in pipelines were identified along with possibilities of an expanded pipeline system to the east coast which could handle ethanol. For an electronic copy of Bruce's PPT presentation, contact Bob Gale at: robert.gale@dot.state.mn.us Phone: 651-366-3664.

Statewide Transportation Plan – Freight Elements Discussion & Survey

Cecil Selness – Director Office of Freight & Commercial Vehicle Operations, Mn/DOT

Cecil presented an overview of the freight aspects of the Statewide Transportation Plan (STP) currently being developed by Mn/DOT. The plan will contain significant references to freight issues and needs. In support of this effort, Cecil provided a survey document to the meeting attendees on freight transportation issues and priorities. Attendees were asked to complete the survey and turn it in at the end of the meeting.

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. MFAC, consists of representatives from Minnesota's shipper and carrier communities, as well as a variety of other interested organizations, and provides advice to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT) and the Metropolitan Council regarding freight issues and investments. For more information refer to the MFAC web site,

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/mfac.html> , or contact Bob Gale, MN/DOT Office of Freight & Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-366-3664 e-mail: robert.gale@dot.state.mn.us .