

## **MINNESOTA FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FALL 2006 MEETING**

The Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) met September 28, 2006, for its Fall quarterly meeting in Bloomington, Minnesota.

### **Panel on Education, Training and Safety Programs and Issues for Freight Transportation Professionals/Operators**

Panel Moderator – Ron Have – MFAC Chair

John Hausladen of the Minnesota Trucking Association (MTA) gave an overview of the driver shortage and its impact on the trucking industry and outlined strategies to recruit new drivers in the areas of: Driver Education; Member Outreach; GetTrucking.com; and specific MTA programs.

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Gary Volkman, Dart Transit, outlined the extensive involvement and commitment necessary for an effective and safe driver program. Dart and the trucking industry as a whole have high standards for their drivers with regard to driver qualifications, certification and continuing driver-focused safety programs.

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Larry Raddatz, Dakota County Technical College (DCTC), provided information regarding the growing demand for qualified rail workers, especially in the area of railroad conductors, and the training/certification program provided by DCTC in cooperation with rail companies.

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Jim Daly, Daly Agency/Great Western Insurance, spoke from an insurer's perspective regarding trucking industry driver recruitment, management, etc.. He emphasized the importance for the trucking industry to maintain their standards for drivers in light of the current driver shortage.

Question & Answer Session followed panel presentations.

### **Chairman's Forum**

Ron Have, MFAC Chair, spoke in support of the Transportation Amendment (Minnesota Vehicle Sales Tax Ballot Proposal) on this year's ballot and urged members to vote "yes". For more information on this initiative, visit: <http://www.voteyesmn.org>.

Dick Lambert, Mn/DOT, spoke briefly about the Transportation Education Academy held for teachers in all disciplines and grade level on June 19-23 and June 26-29. The Transportation Education Academy is an eight-day workshop for Minnesota teachers in all disciplines and at all grade levels offered by St. Cloud State University and Mn/DOT.

Bill Gardner, Mn/DOT, provided an update on the Minnesota Rail Service Program (MRSI) Program. Funds are used for improving, extending and moving rail sidings, construction of grain storage bins, fertilizer storage, building warehouses along the rail

siding, and improving the speed of loading into rail cars. For questions about the program or the application process contact [Janelle Collier](#) (651) 215-6230 at Mn/DOT.

### **Shipper panel reports on experiences and strategies dealing with freight transportation system capacity issues**

Panel Moderator – Ron Have – Mn/DOT Chair

Dave Olsen, Regional Transportation Manager - Target, provided information about Target's supply chain and transportation programs.

**Partners:** Intermodal; contracts; collaborative relationship

**Technology:** GPS; Routing; DC Process

**Network:** Upstream Warehouses; Future growth

**Supply Chain Network:** 25 Regional DCs; 3 Import Warehouses; 1 Dotcom Warehouse

**Stores:** 1,494 stores; 68 stores in MN; 47 states represented

**Transportation:** Approx 1 million IB loads; 80+% Truckload; 40 –45% intermodal; 600,000 store deliveries

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Mark Sellner, Manager Corporate Transportation - Malt 'O Meal, gave an overview of Malt 'O Meal's supply chain and transportation systems. Key information on Malt 'O Meal: Largest producer of bag cereals (28 varieties); Leader in high quality private label cereals; Privately Owned; Fourth largest cereal producer in U.S.

**Plants:** MN and UT; **DCs:** MN, UT, TN and PA

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*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, contact John Tompkins, Mn/DOT Office of Freight & Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-215-6321 or [john.tompkins@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:john.tompkins@dot.state.mn.us).*