



Statewide Freight System Plan

How is the Freight System Plan being developed?

The Minnesota Statewide Freight System Plan, or Freight Plan, will provide the policy framework and strategies to guide investment in Minnesota’s freight system. The Freight Plan affects a diverse array of transportation modes – air, water, highway, rail, pipeline – and is influenced by a number of other factors such as economics, logistics patterns, traffic flows, system capacity, condition of infrastructure, and the organizational structure and relationships that will make it all happen. Recommendations will be developed that MnDOT can act on and implement, called the Freight Action Agenda. This Freight Action Agenda will drive freight system improvements for the next 5-10 years. To ensure that these recommendations are not only important to MnDOT, but in sync with industry operations and needs, during Freight Plan development a diverse array of stakeholders have been engaged in a variety of ways, including via committees.

What are the Project Committees?

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE
<p>Project Management Team (PMT) Representatives from various functional and modal groups within MnDOT</p>	<p>Guides development of the Freight Plan and coordinates with Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee.</p>
<p>PMT Representation: MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations; MnDOT Customer Relations; MnDOT Office of Multimodal Planning; University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies; consultant team</p>	
<p>Advisory Committee (AC) Policy leaders and directors at the federal, state, regional, and local levels.</p>	<p>“Big picture thinkers” who provide high-level policy guidance on issues and strategies as well as feedback on major findings and documents.</p>
<p>AC Representation: MnDOT - Modal Division Director, Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations, District Resources, and Planning Management Group; Hennepin and Marshall counties; District Minnesota Freight Action Committee Chair; Metropolitan Council; Federal Highway Administration; Department of Employment and Economic Development; Bay & Bay Transportation; Minnesota Trucking Association; St. Paul Port Authority; Port of Duluth; Regional Rail Authority; BNSF; Upper River Services; Minnesota Shipping Association; Minnesota Grain & Feed Association; Minnesota Office of Trade; Minnesota State Patrol; Mid-America Freight Coalition; Regional Development Commission; and Minnesota Transportation Alliance.</p>	
<p>Technical Team (TT) Members have specific technical expertise related to freight.</p>	<p>The “implementers” who will facilitate coordination and partnership in implementing future freight projects. They provide input into how the elements of the plan can be followed through and what is needed to be successful.</p>
<p>TT Representation: MnDOT - District 6, District 7, Freight Planning, Multimodal Statewide Planning, Performance Management, Highway Safety, Metro Planning, Permitting, Geometrics, and Research Development; Metropolitan Council Planning; Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee; and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission.</p>	

How Are Other Stakeholders Being Engaged?

<p>DYNAMIC WORKING GROUPS Members have specific technical expertise related to working group topics of freight infrastructure, performance measures, and freight policy, and represent a variety of public sector agencies across Minnesota.</p>	<p>Each work group reviews current research and reports relevant to the topic, identifies data or policy gaps/deficiencies, and develops recommendations to forward to the Technical Team for action.</p>
<p>INDUSTRY INTERVIEWS Executives from some of Minnesota’s key freight industries.</p>	<p>One-on-one “interviews” with business leaders across the state to help understand the specific freight needs of industry, and the cost of “doing nothing.” These interviews compliment the extensive interviews conducted in some MnDOT districts.</p>
<p>MNDOT DISTRICT MEETINGS Planners and engineers in each of the MnDOT Districts</p>	<p>MnDOT Freight Office staff is engaging the districts to identify projects and help build the partnership between Central Office and the Districts that will be important for plan implementation.</p>
<p>NEIGHBOR STATE INTERVIEWS States and Canadian Provinces that share borders with Minnesota</p>	<p>Freight doesn’t stop at Minnesota’s borders. Interviews with Minnesota neighbors explored chokepoints to goods movement in these States and identified opportunities to work together for a common goal – a freight system that works for business.</p>
<p>FREIGHT SUMMIT Public and private sector freight industry leaders</p>	<p>Held December 5, 2014 with the objective to foster executive-level engagement between government and industry in development of a freight action plan that supports an efficient and competitive freight transportation network in Minnesota. Attendees helped shape the development of a statewide freight action agenda through sessions focused on identifying needs, issues, and opportunities, and translating into actions.</p>
<p>ONLINE ENGAGEMENT Two rounds of an interactive online tool</p>	<p>Round 1 garnered more than 600 responses from specific freight stakeholders and the general public on their freight system priorities, needs, and issues. Round 2, which focused on receiving feedback on preliminary Freight Plan recommendations, had more than 250 responses.</p>
<p>PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS General public</p>	<p>Early in plan development, information on the Freight Plan was included in a series of State Rail Plan meetings held across Minnesota and in bordering cities in North Dakota and Wisconsin. At the end of the project, the MnDOT Freight Office will hold an open house to share the plan findings and recommendations.</p>

If you would like to provide input into development of the Freight Plan, please contact John Tompkins at 651-366-3724 or John.Tompkins@state.mn.us.