

MAP 21 Law and U.S. DOT Interim Guidance on State Freight Advisory Committees (and National Freight Advisory Committee)

Law

SEC. 1117. STATE FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

(a)

In General.

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The Secretary shall encourage each State to establish a freight advisory committee consisting of a representative cross-section of public and private sector freight stakeholders, including representatives of ports, shippers, carriers, freight-related associations, the freight industry workforce, the transportation department of the State, and local governments.

(b)

Role of Committee.

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A freight advisory committee of a State described in subsection (a) shall--

(1) advise the State on freight-related priorities, issues, projects, and funding needs;

(2) serve as a forum for discussion for State transportation decisions affecting freight mobility;

(3) communicate and coordinate regional priorities with other organizations;

(4) promote the sharing of information between the private and public sectors on freight issues; and

(4) participate in the development of the freight plan of the State described in section 1118.

Interim Guidance

The Department recommends that States use a collaborative process for freight planning that involves all of the relevant stakeholders affected by the freight transportation system. These stakeholders would include owners of freight transportation infrastructure (both public and private); carriers operating on publicly-owned freight infrastructure; shippers and freight forwarders; representatives of employees of these stakeholders; State, local, and tribal

governments; and the general public. Stakeholders might be domiciled both inside the State and outside of the State.

States are strongly encouraged to establish State Freight Advisory Committees to facilitate this collaborative process. As specified in section 1117 of MAP-21, State Freight Advisory Committees should include representatives of a cross-section of public and private sector experts and stakeholders. These might include representatives of:

- The transportation department of the State;
- Metropolitan planning organizations, councils of government, regional councils, and other regional and planning organizations;
- Local and tribal governments;
- Independent transportation authorities, such as seaport and airport authorities, toll highway authorities, and bridge and tunnel authorities;
- Private infrastructure owners, such as railroads and pipelines;
- Carriers, including carriers operating on their own infrastructure and carriers operating on publicly-owned infrastructure;
- Shippers and freight forwarders;
- Freight-related associations;
- Organizations representing the freight industry workforce;
- Environmental, safety, and community organizations; and
- Independent transportation experts, including academic specialists and consultants.

State Freight Advisory Committees should be charged with

- Advising the State on freight-related priorities, issues, projects, and funding needs;
- Serving as a forum for discussion of State decisions affecting freight transportation;
- Communicating and coordinating regional priorities with other organizations;
- Promoting the sharing of information between the private and public sectors on freight issues; and
- Participating in the development of the State's Freight Plan.

National Freight Advisory Committee

To help the U.S. Department of Transportation promote a safe, economically efficient, and environmentally sustainable freight transportation system, the Department's National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC) will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on matters related to freight transportation in the United States including:

- implementation of the freight transportation requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141);
- establishment of the National Freight Network;
- development of a National Freight Strategic Plan;
- development of strategies to help States implement State Freight Advisory Committees and State Freight Plans;
- development of measures of conditions and performance in freight transportation;
- development of freight transportation investment, data, and planning tools; and
- legislative recommendations.