



MnDOT District 2 Freight Plan Advisory Committee Kickoff



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Introductions

Andrew Andrusko	Project Manager, State Freight Planner with the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
Nancy Graham	Planning Director for District 2
James Curran	Assistant District Engineer District 2
Dan Haake	HDR Project Manager
Katie Caskey	HDR Engagement Lead

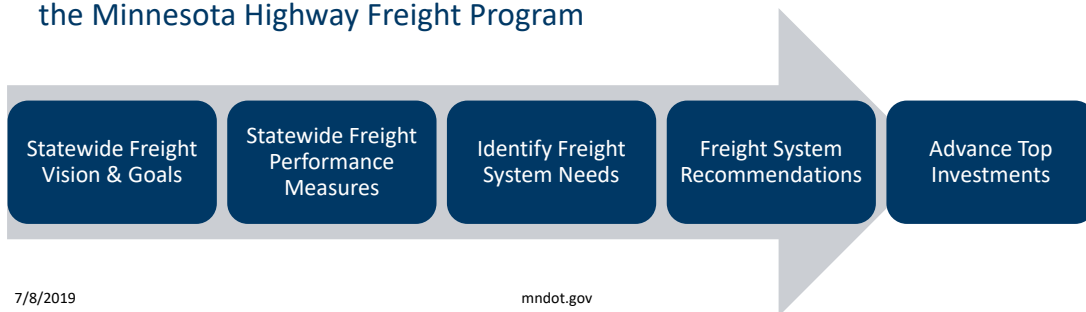
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MnDOT Freight Planning

- MnDOT has been working to implement the recently adopted statewide freight plan called the Minnesota State Freight System and Investment Plan
- One of the key recommendations was to work with each area of the state to create more detailed plans that would identify improvements to connect with the Minnesota Highway Freight Program



Purpose of this effort

The District 2 Freight Plan will:

- I. Provide an up-to-date assessment of freight needs and issues specific to the District
- II. Produce a list of strategies to improve freight mobility in the Northern and Northwest Minnesota region
- III. Roll up long-term planning and programming in the next Statewide Freight System Plan

MnDOT District 2

- MnDOT is split up operationally into regional districts
- District 2 includes 14 counties in Northwest Minnesota:
 - Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Clearwater, Norman, Hubbard, parts of Cass, Itasca, Mahanomen (Maintenance) and Koochiching
- Duration: May 2019 – July 2020



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Project Overview

Today's Goals

1. Review Project Approach/Work Plan
2. Discuss Document Synthesis Results
3. Interactive Session – District 2 Freight Trends and Needs
4. Tour of Digi-Key

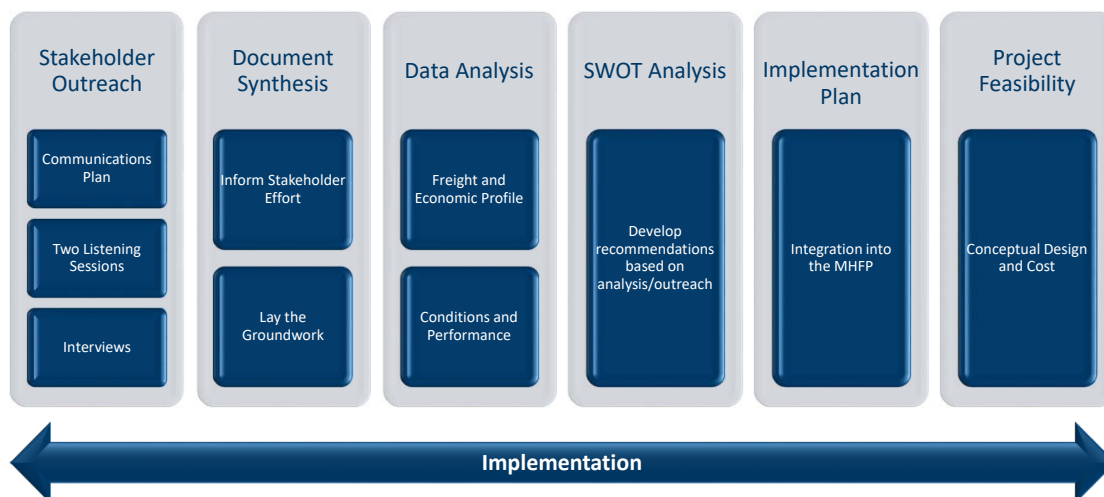


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Major Tasks

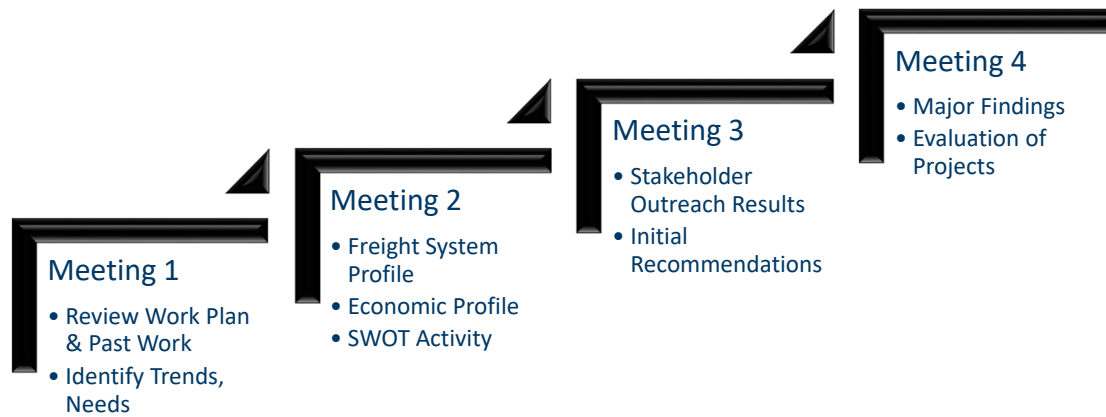


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Advisory Committee Meetings



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Who else should be included?

Artic Cat	Bagley Livestock Exchange	Beltrami County	Bemidji Chamber of Commerce
BNSF Railroad	CP Railroad	CHS Oil Seed Processing	CHS Prairie Lakes
City of Thief River Falls	Crystal Sugar	Digi-Key	Grand Forks East Grand Forks MPO
Greater Bemidji	Greg Hanson Trucking	Headwaters RDC	Marvin Windows and Doors
Minnesota Northern Railroad	Northern Plains Rail Companies	Northwest RDC	Paradis Trucking
Polaris	Richards Publishing	TEAM Industries	US 2 Manufacturers Association

- Serve on an advisory committee?
- Stakeholder interviews?
- Invitees to a listening session?
- Who are we missing?

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Feedback

1. What do you want out of this plan? How can it be useful for you?
2. How would you define the project's success or failure?
3. What challenges do you expect?

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Lessons Learned

Documents Reviewed

National/Statewide	Regional	District
Statewide Freight System & Investment Plan	Develop Minnesota 2016 - Comprehensive Development Strategy for Greater Minnesota	D2 - Manufacturers' Perspectives on Minnesota's Transportation System
State Rail Plan	Greater Minnesota Mobility Study Final Report & Scoring Sheets	D2 Capital Highway Investment Plan
Statewide Truck Parking Study	Great Northern Corridor (x6)	Grand Forks - East Grand Forks MPO 2045 LRTP & 2019 TIP
Minnesota TS&W Project	Western Minnesota Regional Freight Study	Headwaters Region 2016 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan		CEDS for Northwest Minnesota 2016 - 2021
Freight Rail Economic Development Study		Local Community Improvement Plans
Rail Grade Crossing Safety Project Selection		
FHWA Scenario Planning of Future Freight and Passenger Flows Across the US / Mexico and US / Canada Borders		

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Documents Reviewed

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Key Takeaways

- Overall understanding of the importance of freight
 - Notably, the importance of multimodal freight options
- Big picture freight analysis & policy-level recommendations
 - Key Gap – Project-level recommendations to improve freight movement
- **Good News:** This is the goal of the District 2 Freight Plan

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Minnesota Statewide Freight System Plan



Provide an integrated system of freight transportation in Minnesota – highway, rail, water, air cargo and intermodal terminals – that offers safe, reliable and competitive access to statewide, national and international markets.

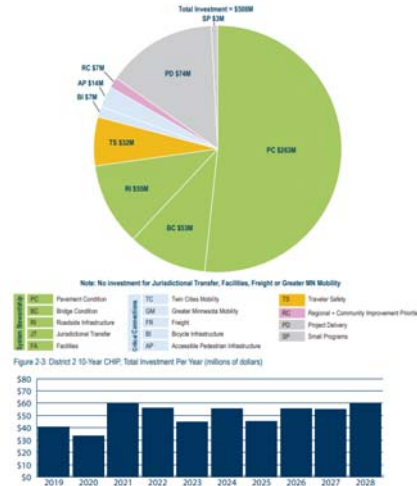
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District 2 Capital Highway Investment Plan

- Stewardship, Safety, Connections, Healthy Communities
- Key Projects
 - Pavement, fracture critical bridges
 - Intersection US 59 corridor west of Thief River Falls, US 2 corridor west of Bemidji and US 71 north of Bemidji.
 - Red River Valley flood mitigation
- Unique Attributes
 - 185 miles in tribal areas
 - 35% of District's highway have substandard shoulders
 - Non-NHS routes make up 62% of the District's responsibility



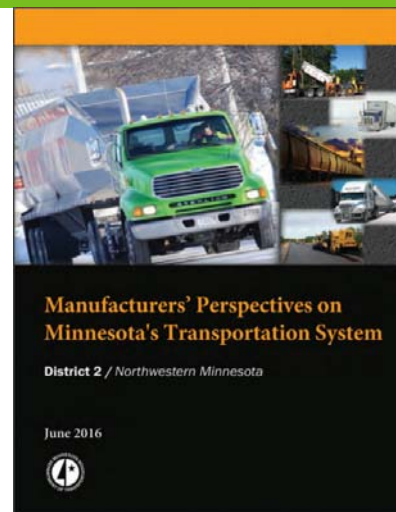
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2016 Manufacturers' Study

- Regional Cluster Analysis and Interviews
- 68 businesses interviewed
 - 54 manufacturers
 - 13 shippers and distributors
 - 1 hospitality and tourism.
- Want a freight system that focuses on....
 - Expediency and Costs Effectiveness
 - Dependability
 - Accessible Information
- Focused on operational changes **NOT** large projects



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2016 Manufacturers' Study

Safety

- Intersections, lanes, shoulders, snow removal (timing), snow control, truck parking

Expediency and Cost-Effectiveness

- TSW, deadhead miles, signage, multilane highways (no Interstates), speed

Dependability

- Carrier availability, pavement quality

Accessible Information

- 511 (24/7 – especially in the winter)

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Identified Improvements

Bridges



Intersections



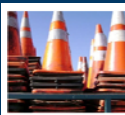
Lanes



Multilane Roads



Safety



Shoulders



Signage

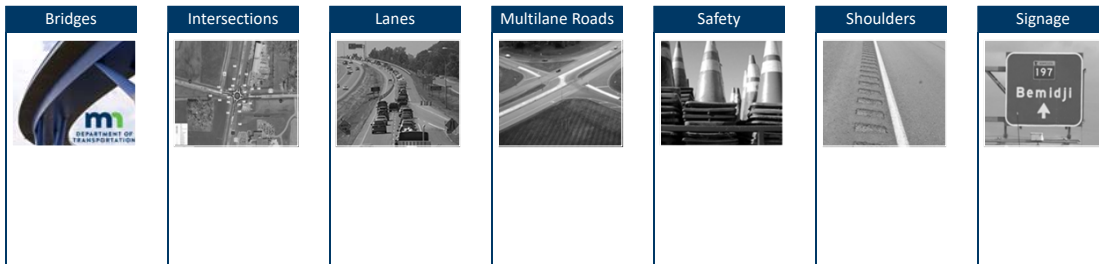


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Bridges



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Bridges

- New Bridges
 - East Grand Forks – Red River
- Timing of Construction on Bridges
 - Impact on production
 - Impact on Employees

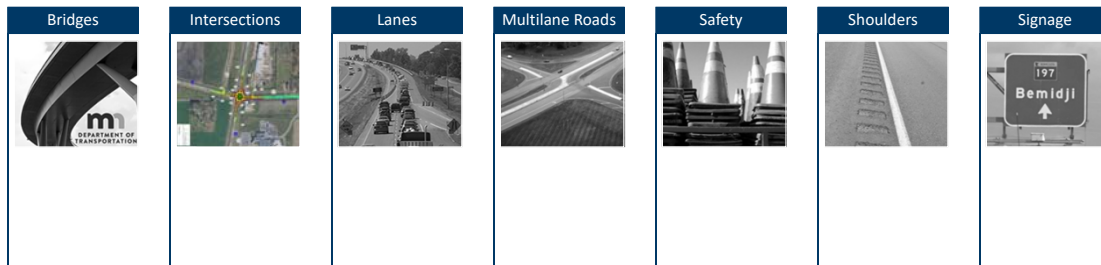


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Intersections



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Intersections

- Signaled Intersections – Important in summer and during beet harvest
 - Delay causing signals: TH 200 & 371
- Aversion to roundabouts
- Advanced warning lights for signals, flashing stop signs
- Problem Intersections
 - Moberg St/Highway 2, Highway 71/Summit Avenue (Blackduck), Highway 89/Center Street (Roseau), Highway 9/200 (Ada), Highway 89/MC Highway 54 (Grygla)



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Lanes



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Lanes

- **Acceleration Lanes**
 - Highway 2, Moberg Street (Bemidji)
 - Highway 11 and 89 w/18th Ave (Roseau)
- **Passing Lanes**
 - Highway 11 – between Greenbush and Warroad
 - Lone Pine Ridge (east of Warroad)
 - Highway 59 – between Erskine to Detroit Lakes
 - Highway 371
- **Bypass Lanes**
 - Highway 81 and Hubbard County Highway 15 (Park Rapids)
 - Highway 31 (Thief River Falls)
- **Turning Lanes**
 - Highway 11 Greenbush to Roseau, especially Lone Pine Ridge on Highway 11 west of Warroad
 - Highway 11 on the west end of International Falls to Highway 332
 - From Highway 332, turning left onto Highway 11 in International Falls
 - Highway 371 - Modifications to existing turn lanes

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Multilane Roads

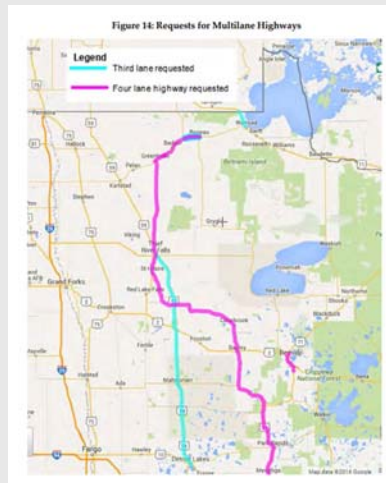


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Multilane Roads



- Lack of Interstate Highways in District
- Need for multilane facilities

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Safety



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Safety

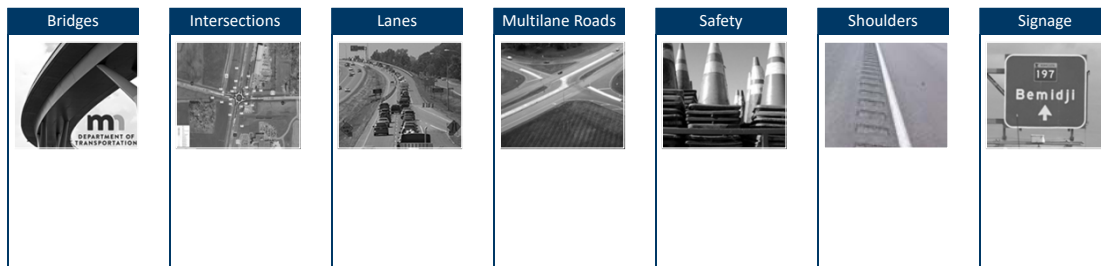
- Steep Ditches – Highway 6 and 89
- Several businesses commented on how difficult it can be to navigate Highway 6 between Big Falls and Deer River due to its hilly, curvy terrain, blind spots, and narrow shoulders.
- Highway 89 Judicial ditches are regulated by counties or district courts, which can present right-of-way issues – resulting in narrow roads and steep ditches

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Shoulders



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Shoulders

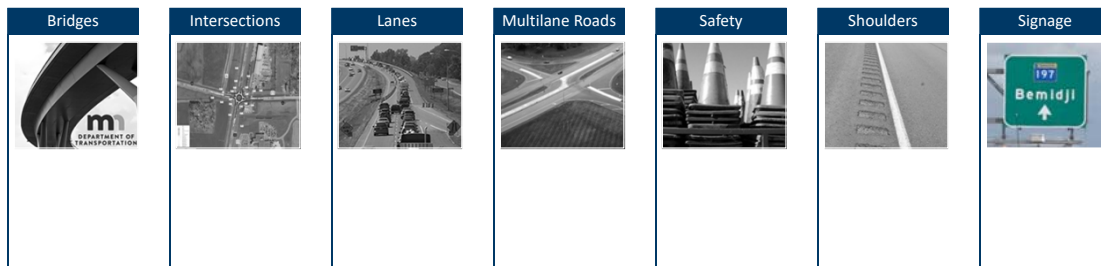
- Highway 89 from Fourtown through the Red Lake Reservation
- Highway 87 (90-degree turns present additional issues)
- Highway 59 from Lancaster to Canadian border and Detroit Lakes to Erskine
- Highway 200 east of Highway 92 (narrow shoulders add to complicated winter driving conditions)
- Highway 172 at Wheelers Point (blind curve, guardrail, and narrow shoulders make the area unsafe for pedestrians)
- Highway 6 (narrow shoulders provide little room for error in navigating hills and curves)

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Signage



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Signage

- GPS issues in District -> Signage improvements
- Truck traffic signs
 - Designate truck routes in Bagley, Baudette, and International Falls.
 - Illustrate routes that trucks are not supposed to use.
 - Use signs to direct trucks and improve traffic flow at the Bemidji airport.
- Road conditions
 - A few businesses suggested electronic message boards to communicate road conditions, especially during inclement weather.

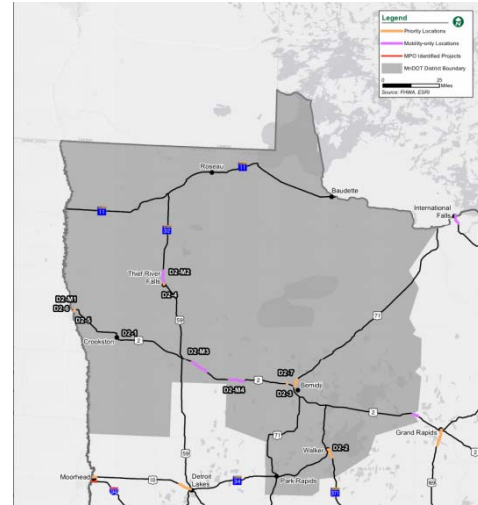
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Greater MN Mobility Study

- Scored projects across in District 2
- Scoring Criteria
 - Level of travel time reliability (LOTTR) – 20%
 - Speed index score – 20%
 - Mobility bonus – 20%
 - Fatal and serious crash rate score – 15%
 - Heavy commercial annual average daily traffic (HCAADT) – 6%
 - Railroad crossings – 1%
- US 2 B from the ND Border to 2nd St. NW
- MSAS 120 from MSAS 102 (10 St NW) to US 2.



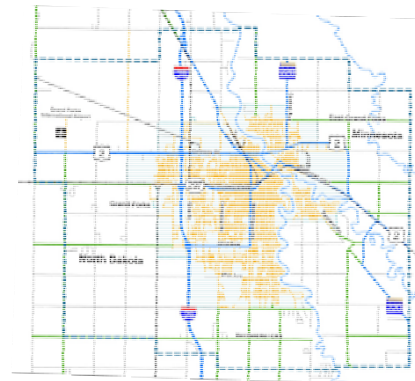
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Metropolitan Transportation Plan

- Grand Forks – East Grand Forks MPO
 - East Grand Fork/Urbanized Area of Polk County
- Existing Conditions Chapter – Freight Section
 - Identified freight and truck routes, presented truck volumes, discussed safety issues and discussed rail lines and identified major freight businesses
- TIP Factors
 - Increase in Accessibility and Mobility Options Available to People and Freight
 - Enhance the Integration and Connectivity of the Transportation System Across and Between Modes for People and Freight
- TIP Project: The replacement of the Washington St underpass of the mainline BNSF rail line will allow the roadway to be widened to better operate for the all transportation users involved.



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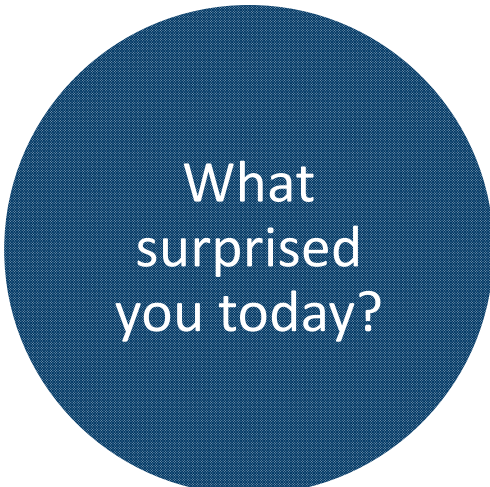
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Interactive Session

Questions

- How well is the transportation system operating today?
- What are the biggest challenges facing the District?
- Given your experience, what has changed and how have things changed over the past decade?
- What trends (related to transportation) do you see happening in the next 5-10 years? How do you think “things” will change because of those trends?
- What is the worst attribute of the District’s transportation system? The best?



What
surprised
you today?



What did we
miss?

Next Steps

- Short term:
 - 1) Development of Freight System Profile
 - 2) Stakeholder Outreach
- Long term:
 - 1) Adopt a consistent approach statewide for project ranking, selection criteria
 - 2) Explore other ways to integrate freight, railways and waterways needs into project planning and programming

Questions

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