

## ***Highlights of 18th Annual Freight & Logistics Symposium:***

### ***Thinking Globally, Acting Locally – Leveraging Minnesota’s Strengths to Confront Future Freight and Logistics Challenges*** – Laurie Ryan

The ability to successfully compete on a global scale requires having the transportation services, infrastructure and policies to support such activities in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. Moreover, having a local understanding / state perspective of the global impact is most important. Along that line, the 2015 Freight & Logistics Symposium, held in Minneapolis on December 4, addressed how we can leverage our defining strengths as a state today to ensure we can meet tomorrow’s freight and logistics challenges.



MnDOT Assistant Commissioner Tim Henkel answers a question from the audience as (L to R) John Hausladen, Bill Goins and Bill Gardner intently listen.  
*Photo by Sue Roe*

Adie Tomer, a fellow at the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program and a member of the Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative, gave the keynote presentation on economic competitiveness and freight’s metropolitan future. Tomer used economic trends across the local and global scale to raise important questions that statewide and metropolitan leaders should be thinking about as they map their freight-related future. View Tomer’s presentation [here](#).

Following Tomer’s presentation, a panel discussion with representatives from the business community and the public sector offered local perspectives on major global economic challenges and changes. The panelists included:

- Executive Director Vanta Coda II, Duluth Seaway Port Authority
- Research Analyst Emily Jerve, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Sr. Vice President Lorrie Louder, St. Paul Port Authority
- President Adam Redlin, Midwest Global Trade Association

The second portion of the symposium featured a presentation by OFCVO Office Director Bill Gardner and a panel discussion about the implementation of the new statewide freight plan and action agenda. The panelists included Minnesota Senator Scott Dibble, Minnesota Trucking Association President & CEO John Hausladen, MnDOT’s Tim Henkel and Bill Gardner, and Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) Chairman Bill Goins of FedEx.