



MINNESOTA FREIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 6, 2019

12:00 – 2:00 P.M.

Appreciation for Outgoing Chair & Incoming Chair Platform – Jason Craig

- Jason thanked Ron Dvorak for his service as MFAC chair and the positive impacts of his leadership over that period. He highlighted his desire to bring focus on regional cooperation and solutions on freight issues during his new tenure as MFAC chair. He additionally emphasized a renewed focus on MFAC serving a true advisory role to both the legislature, and public and private industry.

MFAC Member Update Highlights –

- Jason Craig mentioned that the city of Minneapolis and truck parking issue is moving forward and asked members to reach out if they are interested in being involved in the discussion.
- Jon Huseby reminded members of 511 and the importance of knowing road closures.
- Andrew Andrusko announced re-appointment and appointment letters for MFAC membership will be going out soon. MFAC is looking for 2 year commitment for members.

Remarks from MN Department of Agriculture Commissioner, Thom Peterson

- It has been difficult year for farmers. 2018 was the lowest income ever for farmers. Trade has also had huge impacts on the industry. 2019 has been the wettest year on record for farmers.
- Aside from challenges, there are highlights. CHS is expanding and the protein industry is growing (particularly pea and hemp). At the Department of Ag, they host many international visitors and are looking to expand into new markets.
- Mark Berndt is on TRB committee on transportation and agriculture and encouraged members to reach out to him with research problems on these topics.

Industrial & Manufacturing Land Use Trends – Todd Graham, Metropolitan Council

- Thrive MSP 2040 plan recognizes economic competitiveness and prosperity as regional concerns.
- Strategies for the plan include:
 - Pursuing increased funding to create a multimodal system.
 - Pursuing investments that strengthen connections between MN and other regions.
 - Working with partners to identify the impacts of highway congestion on freight and identify cost-effective mitigation.
- Industrial land inventory provides site attributes to:

- Assess industrial suitability, prioritize the most viable future industrial sites, identify where industrial preservation should be prioritized, and, identify challenges.
- Members raised concerns about thinking about details of industrial land use that will have unintended consequences for freight specifically.

MnDOT District 1 Freight Plan Update – Andrew Andrusko, MnDOT

- Last plan was completed in 2016 and updated in 2018.
- Next state freight plan will be updated by calendar year 2023.
- MnDOT is soliciting future installments for MN Highway Freight Program as money comes in.
- There will also be regional District Freight Plans in each of the MnDOT Districts to integrate freight into construction planning.