

Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Committee Meeting Summary

Thursday, August 2, 2018 from 10 AM - noon

Wisconsin DOT Lake Superior conference room

PARTICIPANTS:

Bryan Anderson (Minnesota DOT)
Ron Chicka (MIC)
Jeff Emerson (Wisconsin DOT)
David Gibbs (Ulland Brothers)
Vic Lund (St. Louis County)

Jenn Moses (City of Duluth)
Leo Naumann (Jeff Foster Trucking)
Cari Pedersen (City of Duluth)
Dena Ryan (Wisconsin DOT)
Mike Wenholz (MIC) - facilitator

PURPOSE: Regroup the Duluth-Superior Area Truck Route Study (TRS) committee to share and discuss the TRS survey results, share ideas on what topics should be included in the final TRS report, and provide updates on numerous other issues.

AGENDA:

1. **Introductions**
2. **Update on Truck Counts**
 - What Data We Have to Date
 - Moving Forward – Additional Data?
3. **Truck Route Study Survey Results**
4. **Final Study Report Topics**
5. **Next Steps / Action Items**
6. **Roundtable**
7. **Next Meeting**

SUMMARY:

MW started the meeting by showing a slide reminding the group what the goal of the TRS is.

Each agenda item was discussed during the meeting.

Update on Truck Counts

- MW provided an update on truck count data to be used in the TRS.
 - Data from 67 locations in or adjacent to the MIC area. The locations of the counts in Carlton County were identified.
 - All data has been from 2016, 2017, and 2018.

- Hoping to get additional data from Douglas County (County highways W, C, and Z). Jason Jackman of Douglas County has offered to get data.
- Will try to download existing truck count data along highways I35, I535, 61, 53, 2, etc., on the Minnesota DOT website, including a truck count on highway 61 between Knife River and Two Harbors.
- MW is continuing to attempt to get truck accident data from Minnesota DOT. After numerous attempts, he has not received any.
- All the data is not of identical type or collected in the same manner, but is similar enough to be useful for TRS purposes.
- MW showed a screen shot of the truck count database, explaining what type of data was in it.
- MW showed slides of GIS screen shots to demonstrate some of the ways the truck count data can be displayed and used, such as overlaying number of trucks vs percent trucks at each count location.

Truck Route Study Survey Results

- See the email this summary was attached to see the full presentation from the meeting that includes much of the information mentioned below.
- MW reminded the Committee the purpose of the survey:
 - To seek input from those in the trucking industry or maintaining truck route roadways.
 - Use the information gathered to provide the most useful study recommendations possible.
- MW gave a few summary comments regarding the survey. One key factor is that only 42 people submitted a survey, and many did not complete the entire survey.
- MW walked through the responses to each survey question and discussed primary findings of interest.
- The summary of survey results included the following:
 - The majority of respondents have no problem with regulations or enforcement.
 - No change to truck route signage is needed.
 - The majority see no need for changes to traffic signals.
 - There are two primary widespread and common infrastructure-related issues: resurfacing is needed and turning lanes are needed.
 - Sixteen site-specific suggestions were provided.
- LN said there is a need for better signage at the roundabouts in Superior. There have been several accidents between trucks and cars there recently. JE said they could place “trucks use both lanes” signs at these locations.
- LN believes some of the results are not representative of how drivers feel. MW stated he made numerous attempts to reach out to trucking companies, including through the Duluth-Superior Transportation Association (DSTA). He believes other than Ulland Brothers and St Louis County employees, few others from Committee member companies submitted surveys. It was a missed opportunity for drivers to provide input.

Final Study Report Topics

- See the email this summary was attached to see the full presentation from the meeting that includes a list of some topics to be considered in the final report. MW discussed these topics.
- Identify road condition of truck routes, especially in light of survey results indicating road resurfacing being needed.
- Include industry experts' thoughts and concerns. MW noted that has been the goal of this effort from the beginning. However, few industry representatives have participated in the Committee meetings, and less took the survey. It is important that they participate now to have their voice heard.
- A traffic volume map of major route roads. Distinguish volume by segment line size in the GIS.
- Define what a truck route is. For example, all State Aid Routes are automatically a truck route by law.
- The map of proposed truck routes should continue to include those in the 2001 TRS. LN noted that "alternate truck routes" are often not designed or able to handle trucks – both from an infrastructure standpoint, or in regard to common use conflicts (e.g. too narrow, on-street parking, etc).
- Distinguish through-routes (national network) versus local pick-up and delivery routes.
- Recommend installing temporary truck use or truck route signs for 1-6 month projects.
- List recommendations as individual "project-style" sheets, but focus only on big picture basics (what, where, etc.), not on design details. Work with Chris Belden to include upcoming TIP projects with implications for trucks or trucking.
- Host a Truck Route Workshop to work through the recommendations and get final recommendations from the trucking industry. This would be their final primary opportunity to be involved in this update process. VL said the agencies could use the Workshop to brainstorm which recommendations are legit and establish who's responsibility, general timelines, prioritize, etc.
 - Need three maps for the Workshop: showing truck accident locations, the existing truck route network, and truck count/use segments.
 - Invite law enforcement to the Workshop.
 - VL and BA will help organize the Workshop.

Next Steps / Action Items

- MW will prepare a meeting summary and email it to the Committee members.
- An email will be sent that contains the meeting presentation, a spreadsheet with all the survey responses/results, and a map of the existing and proposed truck routes.
- MW will send out a Doodle Poll to set a date for the Truck Route Workshop – likely to be in mid-September.
- MW, VL, and BA will organize the Truck Route Workshop.
- MW will prepare maps showing truck accident locations, the existing truck route network, and truck count/use segments.

- MW will prepare a list of recommendations to date in a simple “project” document style. He will share this list with the Committee and ask for industry representatives to provide additional recommendations.
- LN will prepare a list of recommendations to address known problems and concerns, and will reach out to others to do the same.
- MW will continue to follow-up with his requests to Minnesota DOT to obtain TRS area crash data.

Roundtable

- VL gave an update on Midway Road – Maple Grove Road roundabout project. It is on-schedule, more than half completed. It is anticipated to be completed August 31.
- VL reminded the Committee he is a member of a group trying to develop a one-stop shop for all permitting, regulations, etc. for trucking in northeast Minnesota. The idea is to have a portal/website that houses all the area’s individual jurisdictional permits and regulations, and more.
- VL mentioned a potential project in the future: reconstructing and expanding Rice Lake Road north of Arrowhead Road until approximately 1500 feet north of Technology Drive. This will be a full closure project. MW asked if the traffic count data supported an expansion, and VL said it did, and that people have complained about problems there.
- LN spoke of the significant need for and shortage of over the road truckers across the country. He and DG shared a number of reasons for this shortage. LN also believes autonomous trucking will not be in place in the near future.
- JE and DR shared photos, stories, and updates of the June 2018 storm/flood damage to roadway infrastructure.

Next Meeting

- The next AC meeting will likely be the workshop mentioned above. MW will send out a Doodle Poll to set a date.