

Freight Planning under SAFETEA-LU

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Background

- Under TEA-21, freight was included among the planning factors
- Freight issues are addressed in State and MPO long range plans
- Some develop stand alone, integrated, multimodal freight plans
- Others even develop freight performance measures to help guide freight policy and transportation investment decisions

Challenges of yesterday



Challenges of today

- Incorporating freight into their transportation planning programs
- Emphasizing freight issues into long range planning activities
- Engaging the private sector freight industry into the transportation planning process
- Identifying and utilizing freight data and analytical tools to facilitate freight planning

Facilitating Freight Planning

- Issues:
 - MPOs tend not to communicate and plan cross-modes
 - Coordination of freight projects are rather cumbersome between agencies
 - Need for multijurisdictional coalitions to raise regional issues and problems
 - Challenges with estimating and allocating costs and benefits among regional entities

Facilitating Freight Planning

- Proactive actions:
 - Review and analyze the new Federal surface transportation legislation
 - Develop methods and tools to quantify public benefits of freight improvement projects
 - Develop a regional approach to financing freight improvements

Long-Range Planning

- Issues:
 - MPOs unclear as to what constitutes a "freight planning program."
 - Difficult to find "champions" for freight planning within the MPO
 - Public support for freight planning can be limited

Long-Range Planning

- Proactive actions:
 - Define core freight planning requirements
 - Create a freight education initiative
 - Collaborate among each other and within organizations like AMPO and AASHTO

Engaging the Private Sector Freight Community

- Issues:
 - Mismatch in planning horizons
 - Difficulty engaging the private sector in the planning process

Engaging the Private Sector Freight Community

- Proactive actions:
 - Conduct targeted outreach to the private sector freight community
 - Engage the private sector freight community through task forces

Use of Data and Analytical Tools

- Issues:
 - Limitations of affordable, disaggregate, commodity flow data
- Proactive actions:
 - Continue to develop data and analytical tools to support statewide and metropolitan freight planning activities

SAFETEA-LU and Freight

- Funding increased to an average of \$49 billion per year (\$244 billion over 5 years) from an average of \$33 billion per year in TEA-21 (\$198 billion over 6 years)
- Contains many programs aimed at improving global connectivity, freight mobility and economic productivity
- Encourages creativity and finding new ways to solve existing problems

Freight Provisions (Programmatic)

- Section 1306: Freight Intermodal Distribution Pilot Grant Program
- Section 1305: Truck Parking Facilities
- Section 5204: Training and Education
 - (h) Freight Planning and Capacity Building Program
- Section 5209: National Cooperative Freight Transportation Research Program

Freight Provisions (Finance)

- Section 1601: Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)
- Section 1602: State Infrastructure Banks (SIB)
- Section 11-1143 Tax-exempt Financing of Highway Projects and Rail Truck Transfer Facilities (Private Activity Bonds)
- Section 9002: Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation Projects
- Section 9003: Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing

Projects

- Section 1301: Projects of National and Regional Significance
- Section 1302: National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program
- Section 1934: Transportation Improvements
- Section 1701: High Priority Projects Program
- Section 1303: Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program

Commissions / Studies

- Section 1909: National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission
- Section 11-1142: National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission
- Section 9007: Study of Rail Transportation and Regulation
- Section 4149: Office of Intermodalism – National Intermodal System Improvement Plan
- Section 5503: Motor Carrier Efficiency Study
- Section 1925: Community Enhancement Study

Related Activities

- Section 6001: Transportation Planning
- Section 5512: TRANSIMS
- Section 4118: Roadability
- Section 4101/4126: CVISN
- S&W Technical Amendments
- Real-Time Systems Management Information Program
- Other

Questions?

