



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PAUL C. AJEGBA
DIRECTOR

Commission for Logistics & Supply Collaboration

FINAL Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2019

Members Present:

Peter Anastor *for Gary McDowell*
Tim Hoeffner *for Paul Ajegba*
Matthew Chasnis *for Jeff Mason*
Dr. David Closs (via phone)
Roger Huff (via phone)
Dr. Pasi Lautala (via phone)
Fred Schlemmer
Joe Gurskis, WSP *(via phone)*
James Fults, Workforce Development Agency

Members Absent:

Robert Boehm
Les Brand
Janice Walsh

The meeting was called to order at around 9:10 a.m.

Tim Hoeffner, MDOT Office of Rail Director welcomed commission members and MDOT support staff.

Draft minutes from November 18, 2018 were approved.

Legislative – State Update

Troy Hagon, Office of Governmental Affairs Liaison at MDOT provided a brief update. The 100th Legislature convened on January 9, 2019. In the new Senate, Republicans hold 22 seats and the Democrats have 16. The House has a 58-52 Republican majority. Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that Paul Ajegba is the new MDOT director as of January 1, 2019. Director Ajegba made

his first legislative appearance before the Senate Advice and Consent Committee on February 5th. He told committee members that as the new MDOT director his top areas of focus are enhancing transparency, increasing efficiency by doing more with less, finding innovative solutions to design and build roads, and building partnerships with local governments. Governor Whitmer's first State of the State address will be held February 12th and the First Budget Recommendation Presentation to the Legislature will be held in March.

Legislative – Federal Update

Zach Rable, Transportation Planner, Asset Management and Policy Division provided the following updates:

- The partial government shutdown ended on January 25th when the President Trump signed into law a short-term funding bill. The continuing resolution funds departments that were previously shutdown, such as the U.S. Department of Transportation, at FY 2018 funding levels until February 15th.
 - Lawmakers and the President need to come to a compromise in funding, mostly over border security (specifically \$5.7 billion in wall funding), prior to midnight on February 15th in order to avoid another partial government shutdown.
 - Some federal railroad safety inspectors at FRA are among the government employees who have yet to be fully compensated for the pay missed during the shutdown
- The President used his State of the Union address to call for greater investment in transportation infrastructure – a rare issue that has bipartisan support.
 - Partisan disagreement on funding remains the largest impediment to an infrastructure funding package.
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is holding its first hearing on February 7, 2019 (today) to examine the cost of inaction on rebuilding efforts.
 - New T&I Chairman, Peter DeFazio (D-OR), has mentioned that he wants to continue to focus on, among other things, freight systems innovation.
- U.S. DOT announced a notice of funding opportunity for the FY 2019 INFRA Grants program in December.

- MDOT is working to submit grant applications for two projects by the March 4th application deadline:
 1. Blue Water Bridge plaza expansion (St. Clair County) for \$50 million in grant funds to help with the total project cost of \$307 million
 2. I-96 at Fruit Ridge Avenue Interchange improvement (Kent County) for \$9.7 million in grant funds to help with the total project cost of \$16.2 million.

Workforce Development Agency (WDA) Update

James Fults is the Talent Development Liaison Responsible for talent development at the state level for the entire Mobility Sector (Planes, Trains and Automobiles). His main focus is developing truck driver talent. Current truck driver shortage is 60,000 and may triple in the next eight years. A possible solution is using a structured process called Talent Pipeline Management. Video Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMR85Q7oqq0> Website Link <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/talent-pipeline-management>. James is working to develop an employer collaborative of trucking companies. Any commission members or companies that are interested can contact James at fultsj@michigan.gov or 517-282-6457.

US31 Relocation from Napier Road to I-94

Amy Lipset, Southwest Region Planning Manager, provided the following information on US-31 located in Berrien County Michigan.

- US-31 have been in development for 50 years.
 - 1979-2003 segments were built from Indiana State Line to Napier Road in Benton.
- Charter Township; currently all vehicles traveling must leave the limited access freeway and travel along a county road with traffic signals.
- Latest freight data shows \$29 billion in commodities and 21 million tons of commodities travel on US-31 between Indiana and I-94.
- Top commodities include (by value) transportation equipment, food products, primary metal products; (by weight) nonmetallic ores, farm and food products
- Predicted employment in the area is stagnant.
- MDOT applied for and received \$20 million in funding from the USDOT BUILD grant process (better utilizing investments to leverage development)

- 851 applications worth over \$10.9 billion
- 91 projects selected for a total spend of \$1.5 billion
- Maximum award \$25 million

State Long-Range Plan Freight Engagement

Joe Gurskis (WSP), Brad Sharlow, Supervisor, MDOT Urban Travel Analysis Unit and Elisha DeFrain, Transportation Planner, Asset Management and Policy Division discussed the public and stakeholder involvement and visioning process for Phase 1 of the Michigan Long-Range Transportation Plan, Michigan Mobility 2045 (MM45). Joe Gurskis walked the LSC commissioners through an exercise to gain input on the incorporation of freight into the transportation vision for the state. The LSC discussed several freight performance factors and their importance to the future of freight movement and logistics in Michigan.

Open Discussion

Tim reminded LSC commissioners that they serve at the pleasure of the Governor and that LSC meetings will continue to move forward until told otherwise. Quarterly meeting dates were adopted in November. MDOT team is working to secure locations for the May and August meetings. The tentative meetings are as follows:

- May 9, 2019, Grayling Michigan. The team is working to secure the details for a site visit to Camp Grayling and Arauco North America. More details to come.
- August 8, 2019, Muskegon, Michigan. Joint meeting with the Port Advisory Group. This meeting will include a site visit and tour of the Port of Muskegon facilities.
- November 7, 2019, Lansing.

As a follow-up to an initiative the LSC Commission learned at the meeting in Wayne, the Truck Parking Information and Management System (TPIMS) went live in January 2019 for the eight Midwest states that received federal TIGER grant funds. Many early successes have been reported in the media. Many of the positive news articles on this initiative can be viewed at website: www.trucksparkhere.com.

Meeting was adjourned at around 10:45 a.m.

