



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

**Joint Meeting**  
**Commission for Logistics & Supply Collaboration**  
**Governor's Port Advisory Committee**

**Final Meeting Minutes**  
**September 28, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Peter Anastor *for Jamie Clover Adams*  
Robert Boehm  
Matthew Chasnis *for Jeff Mason*  
Dr. David Closs  
Tim Hoeffner *for Kirk Steudle*  
Dr. Pasi Lautala  
Fred Schlemmer

Technical Advisors  
Paul LaMarre  
Thomas Rayburn  
Oliver Turner

**Members Absent:**

Les Brand  
Roger Huff  
Janice Walsh

**Port Advisory Committee**

Paul LaMarre  
Erin Kuhn  
Gave Schneider  
Chuck Squires  
Paul Strpko  
Kyle T. Burleson  
Paul Rogers  
Stacy Bowerman

**Members Absent:**

Bill Vajda  
Rodney Stokes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Tim Hoeffner, MDOT Office of Rail Director welcomed Commissioners for the Logistics & Supply Chain Collaboration and Port Advisory Committee members, guests and staff to the joint meeting held at the International Bridge Administration's Office in Sault Ste. Marie. Tim thanked the International Bridge Administration for graciously hosting the joint meeting in their beautiful board room and their generosity. He mentioned that this meeting will provide a unique opportunity to bring together two task forces serving Governor Snyder with complementary objectives. Tim also said he was looking forward to the meeting discussions and observing the

dynamics of these two groups working together collaboratively to further the State of Michigan's logistics, supply chain, maritime, and multi-modal goals.

A Public Comment period will be at the end of the meeting.

Draft minutes from July 28, 2017 were approved with no changes.

Sault Ste. Marie City Manager Oliver Turner presented on behalf of Sault Ste. Marie and provided detailed information on the Carbide Dock. According to Turner, the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Lake Carrier's Association completed a position paper in 2013 that established the Carbide Dock as being critical to Great Lakes shipping interests. Turner explained that the Carbide Dock includes a 1,155 foot dock wall that is comprised of a concrete cap on wooden timber piles. The wooden timber piles have failed in certain areas requiring the City to close the Dock to the public and much of the shipping industry. Turner emphasized that it may be critical to future Soo Locks improvement projects for the Carbide Dock to serve as a staging area. Currently, the City of Sault Ste. Marie plans to submit a TIGER grant application for the reconstruction and restoration of the Carbide Dock. Turner requested letters of support for the TIGER grant application. Turner noted that without substantial outside funding the City of Sault Ste. Marie may have no choice but to solicit proposals for the property and sell it, thus returning it to private ownership. Turner explained this may have an impact on the ability of the property to be used for the Soo Locks project or other improvement projects. Discussion was held.

Roger Huff, President at HGLC Consulting had an emergency family issue and could not attend the meeting as planned. However, he asked that the following update on autonomous vehicles be presented to the group.

- The initial scoping meeting was completed in July 2017 in San Francisco. The forum will bring together organizational partners to identify and facilitate fact based research needed to deploy automated vehicles and shared mobility services in a manner and timeframe that informs policy to best meet long term goals which include increasing safety,

reducing congestion, enhancing accessibility, increasing sustainability, and encouraging economic development.

- The TRB Forum (preparing for Automated Vehicles and Shared Mobility Services) was approved by the National Academies GBEC (Governing Board Executive Committee) last month. Three co-Chairs for the Forum were selected: Kirk Steudle (Michigan DOT Director), Greg Winfree (Texas A&M Transportation Institute Director), and Peter Sweatman (CAVita Principal). Two of the three have Michigan roots.

Below is an updated list of Forum sponsors that have been added since our last meeting.

- U.S. Department of Transportation
- State & Local DOTs
- CalTrans and California DMV
- Florida DOT
- Michigan DOT
- Ohio DOT
- Virginia DOT
- Washington State
- Transportation Commission
- New York City DOT
- Maricopa County DOT

Troy Hagon, Government Affairs Liaison at MDOT provided the following information on recent legislative activity related to freight and logistics.

- Restore Detroit Wayne Port Authority - \$268,000 cut
- SB 120 Stinger steer and tow-away trailer transporter lengths (Sen. Casperson)
- SB 580 Sentencing Guidelines for use of a wireless communication device (Sen. Knezek)
- SB 581 Banning of a computer, tablet device, camera, or other internet-based communication device while driving (Sen. Knezek)
- HB 4644 Oversize Annual Trip Permits (Rep. Cole)
- HB 4698 Ship Fuel (Rep. Wentworth)
- HB 4846 Off-Road Vehicles on Trunklines (Rep. Roberts)

- HB 4921 Farm Plates (Rep. Barrett) Farm and log-truck plates
- HB 4945 Golf Carts on Trunklines (Rep. Miller)
- HB 4956 Michigan Vehicle Code amendment (Rep. Cole)
- The state of the autonomous vehicle and electric vehicle industry in Michigan
- Public Acts 445 – 449 of 2016
- GHIB Neighborhood Impact
- Replace Ambassador Bridge
- STC approves Five-Year Plan
- AV Demonstration

Elisha DeFrain, Transportation Planner, Asset Management and Policy Division at MDOT spoke about the draft freight plan public comment period that ends on September 29<sup>th</sup> (began on August 28<sup>th</sup>). Comments received from the LSC members so far included updates to freight institutions, replacement of maps, expand on topic of funding, added emphasis on trade, added detail on Soo Locks and update Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) write-up. Revisions will be made through October to address comments and the final Plan will be submitted to FHWA in November. She mentioned that she will share how comments were incorporated into the plan at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Paul LaMarre, Port Director-Port of Monroe and Port Advisory Committee Chair discussed several major priorities of the Port Advisory Group, including:

1. U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Detroit office of CBP interprets federal regulations more restrictively than CBP offices in other Great Lakes states. The CBP refuses to clear imported containers or palletized cargoes at any Michigan port, resulting in that traffic being handled by ports in other states or provinces.
2. Soo Locks. Because of the reliance on the 50-year-old Poe Lock to handle nearly 90% of the cargo passing through the Soo Locks, the nation's steel industry and economy in general are at great risk in case of mechanical failure or other causes of closure of the lock. A second large lock is urgently needed to provide the necessary redundancy and needed rehabilitation to the Poe.

3. Regulatory Harmonization. Harmonization of federal and state maritime regulations is needed to ensure a level playing field among ports across the Great Lakes. Michigan's unique and restrictive ballast water regulations are one example.

The next LSC Commission meeting is scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Aeronautics Commission Room in Lansing. Following the November meeting, it is recommended that quarterly meetings schedule be adopted rather than every two months. The proposed dates are as follows:

- February 8, 2018 – Lansing, Michigan
- May 10, 2018 – Location TBD
- August 9, 2018 – Location TBD
- November 8, 2018 – Lansing, Michigan

A motion to schedule of quarterly meetings was approved.

Peter Petainen, General Manager of the International Bridge presented an operational overview of the International Bridge, as well as some insight on how commercial traffic impacts the bridge. Members of the Commission and the Port Advisory Committee along with guests were invited to tour of the bridge and Peter reminded the group that in order to cross the bridge and view its new facilities, a passport, passport card, or enhanced driver's license is required to participate in the tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Members of the LSC Commission and Port Advisory Committee visited the Soo Locks. The Army Corps of Engineers presented a briefing on the operation of the locks and the need for an additional large lock. The group was also able to board the Interlake Steamship Company's 806 foot long vessel, the Hon. James L. Oberstar. Interlake President Mark Barker led a tour of the newly updated engine room and pilot house, followed by a discussion with the vessel's Captain, and a short cruise into the Poe Lock.