



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

FREIGHT MANAGEMENT OFFICE PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAM

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FREIGHT P2P

PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

- The Peer-to-Peer Program (P2P) puts public sector freight transportation professionals in touch with experts in the field and provides technical assistance in order to enhance overall freight skills and knowledge. The program is available to public entities, including State departments of transportation (DOTs) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).



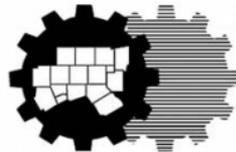
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FREIGHT P2P
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WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- The P2P Program is open to public entities, including State departments of transportation (DOTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and rural/local planning organizations.



North Central Texas
Council of Governments



WHAT ARE THE AREAS OF FOCUS?

- The P2P Program focuses on a broad range of topics, including planning, programming, project development, operations, and policy. Initial topic areas include:
 - Working with freight data
 - Developing regional freight and logistics profiles
 - Developing a Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with freight components
 - Financing freight improvements
 - Multimodal approaches and coordination
 - Freight planning outreach
 - Vehicle size and weight
 - Developing a Statewide Freight Plan
 - Conducting freight studies
 - Considering and developing freight performance measures
 - Multijurisdictional planning efforts
 - Establishing public-private partnerships
 - Intermodal freight technology
 - Regional Permitting

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM PROVIDE?

- Peer work sessions- The peer work sessions are designed for one or more technical expert(s) to work one-on-one with an agency to develop specific tools, products and skills or address particular challenges
- Peer roundtables/Workshops- Peer roundtables or workshops are discussion panels comprised of Peers convened to discuss specific issues regarding freight planning.
- Freight scans - Scans involve observing freight operations first hand, allowing for greater understanding of operations and the possibility of implementing successful solutions elsewhere.



IMPACTS OF FRACKING OPERATIONS ON STATE AND LOCAL ROADS

- The primary purpose of the peer exchange was to understand the impacts of fracking operations on state and local roads.
- Exchange of information among invited peer organizations on achievements, obstacles, and best practices learned on topics including state and local perspectives, planning for impacts, size and weight enforcement, regional coordination, and collaboration.
- For many state and local transportation agencies the primary source of information related to impacts of fracking operations has been anecdotal, this exchange provided a valuable opportunity for peers to discuss current real-world experiences and the resulting impacts to the state and local roads.

TAKEAWAYS

MPO and RPO Perspectives on the Impacts of Fracking on Local Roads

- Significant increase in traffic volumes
- Congestion and delay to travel in the region.
- Wear and tear on the roadways
- Fracking companies were very responsive in maintaining the roads.
- Limited staff at the RPO
- Trucks traveling at high speeds on rural roads
- Inspection of local bridges

TAKEAWAYS

Permitting and Administration

- Educate the industry to minimize violations due to misunderstandings of OSOW regulations
- Evaluation of your resources
- Simplify the permit application process
- Maintain permit metrics (this is especially useful if there is pushback from the industry. These metrics can show how well the permitting process is going or if it is not going well can give the agency room or areas to improve.)
- Monitor the industry for compliance

ARRANGING A PEER EXCHANGE

- The type of peer exchange used depends on participants' needs.
- Peer and expert participants are drawn from a corps of peers and experts, organized by expertise and experience.
- The peers and experts are drawn primarily from the public sector, including State departments of transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).
- All persons included in the corps of peers and experts have agreed to participate in the program and have been approved by FHWA.
- Upon receiving a request for a peer exchange, a P2P Program Coordinator will review the qualifications of the approved peers and experts to match the requesting agency with an appropriate peer and/or expert.

TRAVEL PLANNING AND REIMBURSEMENT

- The Peer-to-Peer (P2P) program strives to cover all costs associated with assistance efforts, within the limits of the program's guidelines and FHWA funding.
- The P2P program will pay for/reimburse pre-approved costs associated with travel, accommodations, meals, and similar costs incurred during on and off-site assistance. However, the P2P program will not pay for travel expenses for general meeting attendance.
- Recipients of program services are asked to economize whenever possible to help the program stretch its resources so it can assist as many agencies as possible.
- Reimbursement for travel-related expenses associated with peer exchanges will be provided in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations.
- Requesting agencies may be asked to assist in securing overnight accommodations, provide meeting rooms, and similar assistance typical for agencies receiving a visitor. Such cooperation enables the Program's resources to be maximized.

FORMS AND REPORTS LIBRARY

- This page contains forms that are needed to request a peer work session or roundtable discussion and to provide feedback to the Peer to Peer (P2P) Program Coordinator and reports of completed peer exchanges.



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FHWA Freight Peer-to-Peer Program

MDOT'S EXPERIENCE
Key Barrier To Support Performance Measures:
Determining what and how much data to collect.
Key Peer Exchange Finding:
Much of the required data was already collected.
Key Outcome:
Partnership formed to manage the freight performance measures program.

The main objective of the peer exchange was to identify and discuss issues and needs surrounding performance management systems for freight at MDOT. To accomplish this objective, the following action items were developed during the peer exchange:

- Confirm significant freight corridors network.
- Coordinate with stakeholder organizations to obtain more in-depth freight reliability related insights.
- Make a commitment to defining data needs and performance measures.
- Establish a process to allow for a flexible and sustainable freight performance measurement system.
- Lay a foundation for ongoing, sustained outreach and education around Maryland's freight network, its contributions, and needs.

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PEER TO PEER PROGRAM

FINAL REPORT

Twin Cities Freight Peer Exchange
Minnesota Department of Transportation and
Metropolitan Council
St. Paul, Minnesota – 1 December 2010

7 March 2011



ARRANGING A PEER EXCHANGE

- Contact us at any time to learn more about the P2P program services or to discuss a potential peer exchange.
- **Email:**
FreightPeerExchange@dot.gov
- **Call Toll Free:**
1-866-727-3492, select option 6
- <http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/p2p/forms.htm>