Regional Freight Plan

presented to
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

presented by
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with
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Overview

- Welcome and introductions
- Why is freight planning important?
- What is the role of the MPO?
- What are the key elements of an effective freight plan?
- What are the key components of your freight system?
- How can you engage in the regional freight plan?
- Wrap up discussion and next steps
Introductions

- Name
- Title and affiliation

Why Is Freight Planning Important?
Why is Freight Planning Important?

- Federal guidance relating to freight transportation to states and MPOs continues to strengthen
  - Importance of freight at national level began in 1991 with ISTEA; each subsequent bill has strengthened this message
  - National freight policy designed to drive U.S. global competitiveness
- Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) signed December 4, 2015 further increased the focus and funding available for freight

**National Freight Policy**
- Focus on improving condition and performance of the national freight network to provide foundation for the U.S. to compete in the global economy
- Sets goals related to:
  - Functional improvements
  - Operational improvements
  - Housing capacity improvements
  - Improving rate of good roads
  - Expanding use of advanced technology to increase safety and efficiency
  - Incorporating concepts of performance, innovation, competition, and accountability into operation and maintenance of the national freight network
  - Improving economic efficiency
  - Reducing environmental impacts of freight movement

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Why is Freight Planning Important?

**Key FAST Act Freight provisions:**

- National Freight Strategic Plan to implement National Multimodal Freight Policy
- $4.5 billion in freight-focused Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) discretionary grant program
- $6.3 billion in National Highway Freight Program formula funding
- Encourages innovative finance and project delivery
- Requires Bureau of Transportation Statistics to collect and report port performance measures
FAST Act Funding Programs Help Address Ongoing Challenges

- Safe, efficient, and reliable movement of freight and people
- Global, national and regional economic competitiveness
- Congested highways
- Efficient intermodal connections and "first/last" mile
- International border operations
- Modernization of seaports and their landside connections
- Infrastructure resiliency and environmental protection
- Rail grade crossing conflicts

Why is Freight Planning Important?

- Nationally, freight volumes are expected to grow 40% by 2045, fueled, in part, by:
  - 21% population growth
  - Projected doubling of U.S. GDP
  - International trade
  - Domestic energy production

Source: U.S. DOT, National Freight Strategic Plan; Draft for Public Comment, October 15, 2015.
Looking at the Birmingham Region’s Place in the National Freight System

- What is nationally and regionally significant?
- What key gateways exist?
- How strong are the connections?
- How can the region position itself competitively?
- How can region position for available funding?

Consistency with the Statewide Freight Plan is Critical
Why is Freight Planning Important?

- Freight operations have different needs than passenger movements
  - Linked and complex supply chains
  - Regional, national and global perspective
  - Value of time considerations
  - Shipper/receiver service requirements
  - Infrastructure capacity and dimensions
  - Length of planning horizons
  - Infrastructure ownership

Why is Freight Planning Important?

- Freight mobility supports economic prosperity and opportunity
  - Used by economic development professionals to attract and retain businesses
  - Reliable system performance creates cost savings throughout supply chain
  - Last mile considerations provide access to freight activity centers and streamlined deliveries to retail and consumer locations
Why is Freight Planning Important?

- Interaction of freight with other system users can create conflicts
  - Safety impacts associated with the mixing of non-motorized transportation and trucks
  - Congestion caused by lane blockages during unloading/loading activities
  - Truck route restrictions, complete streets and smart growth strategies can limit available routes
  - Land use and zoning does not always incorporate freight and developer needs

Key Last-Mile Freight Conflicts/Issues

- Land Use Conflicts
  - Encroachment of seemingly incompatible uses
  - “Good neighbor” issues

- Changing Demand/Travel Patterns
  - Customer demands time-certain delivery
  - Apparent need to optimize deliveries to reduce impacts

- Design/Streetscape Conflicts
  - Complete streets must include trucks
  - 53’ trailer vs. smaller delivery vehicle

- Transportation Operations Conflicts
  - Time-of-day conflicts
  - Loading zone/parking availability
The World is Changing…

- Shifting global trade patterns
  - Panama Canal expansion
  - Shifting global manufacturing centers
  - Domestic and international infrastructure investments
- Technology advancements
- Consumption patterns shifting away from retail

Source: [http://micanaldepanama.com/expansion/photos/#prettyPhoto](http://micanaldepanama.com/expansion/photos/#prettyPhoto)

Traditional Retail Supply Chain

1. Retailer Distribution Center
2. Manufacturer’s Distribution Center
3. Retail Store
4. Consumer’s Home
E-Commerce Supply Chain

Reverse Logistics Chain
Rise of E-Commerce

Estimated Quarterly U.S. Retail E-commerce Sales as a Percent of Total Quarterly Retail Sales: 1st Quarter 2006 – 2nd Quarter 2016

Source: U.S. Census Quarterly E-Commerce Sales 2nd Quarter 2016 Report

Last Mile Freight Issues Impact Urban Communities

- Difficult roadway navigation
  - Turning radii
  - Drainage and flooding
  - Narrow roadways
  - Congestion
- Long term parking availability
- Short term parking for delivery
What Is the Role of the MPO?

- Establish regional transportation policies
- Identify transportation needs
- Prioritize and fund needs
- Conduct stakeholder outreach and engagement activities
- Educate community leaders and public
- Support partner investment programs
- Develop and maintain regional plans
What is the Role of the MPO?

2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

What is the Role of the MPO?

Strategy 6: Strategically Plan and Invest in Freight Facilities and Networks - As discussed in the Regional Freight Plan, ensuring freight mobility is integrated into the Birmingham region’s RTP is critical, and the existing freight strategy should be incorporated into the planning process. To further this goal, the TIP selection process should incorporate freight into project prioritization and selection. The importance of freight operations in support of economic activity should be evaluated and weighted appropriately for each roadway facility considered for funding in the TIP.
What are the Key Elements of an Effective Freight Program?

- Freight-specific goals and policies
- Consistency/compatibility with State and federal guidance
- Freight system profile and narrative
- Land use/development opportunities
- Stakeholder involvement/engagement
- Identification, prioritization and funding of needs
- Freight performance measures/metrics
- Strategies for growth
Key Considerations in Freight Planning

What are the Key Components of Your Freight System?
What are the Key Components of Your Freight System?

- Interstates, key freight highways, and intermodal connectors
- Railroads and rail yards/terminals
- Airports
- Waterways, marine terminals, and barge operators
- Pipelines
- Trucking terminals
- Warehouse/distribution centers
- Industrial operations/mining/manufacturing
- Major institutions/receivers

A Comprehensive Freight Profile Drives a Region’s Freight Program

An effective freight profile summarizes and presents data in a way that tells the region’s “freight story”
Identification of Key Freight Issues

- Insufficient capacity
- Operational constraints
- Incompatible land use and development
- Effectiveness of economic incentives
- Workforce skills and availability
- Policy direction
- Support from elected officials

Freight Plan Recommendations/Strategic Framework

- Provide MPO with the tools to successfully incorporate freight into its 2045 Regional Transportation Plan
  - Identify, prioritize and fund freight projects
  - Position region to take advantage of existing and emerging funding programs
- Recommendations and strategies will address
  - Policy enhancements
  - Process and programming improvements
  - Emphasis areas for ongoing freight planning efforts
  - Improving economic competitiveness
  - Improving quality of life
  - Ongoing stakeholder engagement
Ability to Evaluate Freight System Performance is Important

- Performance measures have become a critical part of all transportation programs driven by:
  - Federal guidance and requirements
  - Desire to measure the impact of investments and progress towards long-range goals
- Freight transportation planning is no different from any other program element
- Truck-specific performance measurement is a focus at the Federal level via the FAST Act:
  - Average Truck Speed
  - Truck Travel Time Reliability

How can You Engage in the Regional Freight Plan?
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- Participate in freight educational luncheon
- Participate in stakeholder input activities
- Serve as part of the Freight Transportation Advisory Committee (FTAC)
- Advocate for freight interests in your everyday life

Collecting Stakeholder Input

- Identify mix of industry representatives
- Provide multiple options for input
- Develop win/win proposal
- Minimize level of effort
- Engage in final plan review
Freight Advisory Committee

- Identify the right mix of stakeholders
- Clearly define a win/win scenario
- Ensure meetings have actionable agenda
- Engage members in “telling the region’s freight story”
- Provide voice for committee to make formal recommendations

What Does Participating in the FTAC Mean?

- Attend 3 meetings over next year
- Education in freight planning best practices
- Review draft findings and draft report
- Provide ongoing input on direction of project
- Please indicate on survey if interested!
Wrap Up Discussion and Next Steps

- Do you have any questions?
- Has this discussion been educational/helpful?
- Are you interested in being interviewed?
- Are you interested in serving on the FTAC?
- Are you interested in additional best practice information?
- Are there stakeholders you recommend we reach out to?
- What are your priorities for this Plan? What would make it a success?
### Project Schedule

**Task**

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Data Compilation
- Freight Profile
- Needs Identification and Prioritization
- Plan Recommendations
- Freight Training
- Draft Performance Measures Matrix
- Final Performance Measures Matrix

**Month**

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**Questions?**