Vermont Freight Forum 2

Supporting the Vermont Freight Plan Update

- August 11, 2021
Vermont Freight Forum 2 Agenda

First Vermont Freight Forum Re-Cap (May 6, 2021) → Refined Freight Needs Assessment → Potential Initiatives → Implementation Plan → Wrap-up and next steps
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We will be using interactive polling during this meeting.

You can use a smartphone, tablet, or a separate browser tab to view and respond to the questions.
What is your affiliation?

- Public: 1
- Freight Carrier: 0
- Freight Shipper: 0
- Regional Planning Commission: 12
- State Government: 1
- Economic Development: 1
- Community Organization: 1
- Other: 1
First Vermont Freight Forum Re-Cap
What is Freight?

Freight transportation is the movement of goods, for example:

- Raw materials moved to manufacturing facilities
- Manufactured products moved to warehouses and retailers
- Agricultural products delivered to farm stands, retail stores, food product manufacturers, and institutions
- E-commerce orders delivered to your door
- Medical supplies delivered to hospitals
- Home heating oil delivered
- Construction materials delivered to job sites
- Waste picked up and moved to recycling or disposal facilities
Vermont Freight Plan

Background

- Good planning and follow-through makes for an efficient freight system for Vermont
- FHWA requires a State Freight Plan every five years in order to obligate Freight Formula funds
- State Freight Plans must include:
  - Freight trends, needs, and issues
  - Freight policies, strategies and performance measures
  - How innovative technologies are being considered
  - Congestion, delay, mobility, and deterioration issues (if applicable);
  - Freight Investment Plan;
  - Engage stakeholders and Freight Plan Advisory Committee
Freight Plan Elements

- **Existing Conditions**
  - State of the multi-modal Freight System
  - Economic and commodity flows

- **Vision and Goals**
  - Review vision and specific goals for the multi-modal freight system

- **Trends Analysis**
  - Overall socio-economic conditions
  - Commodity flows
  - Technological and logistics trends

- **Initiative Ideas**
  - Outstanding from 2017 Freight Plan
  - New initiatives

- **Implementation**
  - Investment Plan: How will Vermont leverage state and federal funds?
  - Implementation roles, timeframes, etc.

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VERMONT FREIGHT PLAN UPDATE – Vermont Freight Forum 2

8/11/2021
Freight Needs Assessment Review
What will the Ongoing COVID-19 Recovery Look Like?

Near-Term:
- Higher freight transportation costs
- More demand and higher costs for some commodities and goods
- Less reliability in parcel delivery times
- COVID-related population growth in some parts of the state

Longer-Term:
- More e-commerce fulfillment and last-mile delivery centers
- Potential reduction in costs (if supply chain risk is mitigated)
- More attention to environmental and community effects
- Will the population growth continue or subside?
Key & Emerging Trends and Issues

- Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery
- E-Commerce and Last-Mile Delivery
- Cross-Border Issues
- Technological Innovation
- Truck Size and Weight Permitting and Harmonization
- Freight Workforce
- Climate Change and Resiliency
- Freight as a “Good Neighbor”
- Asset Management
- Broadband Access
# Needs Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Need</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Performance Measures</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>System Performance</td>
<td>Help shippers find freight solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Performance</td>
<td>Continue funding State of Good Repair projects</td>
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<td>Travel Time, Border Delays</td>
<td>Manage weather response and Support US and Canadian efforts to improve border operations</td>
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<td>Safety (HAZMAT &amp; Truck-Involved Crashes)</td>
<td>Advance safety improvements, particularly on state highways with truck-involved or HAZMAT crashes</td>
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<td>Technological Innovation</td>
<td>Anticipate the development and deployment of technological innovations, &amp; partner with innovators</td>
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<td>Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery</td>
<td>Monitor trends and develop more advanced modeling and forecasting capabilities in order to anticipate the potential effects of various future scenarios on freight demand in the state</td>
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<td>E-Commerce and Last-Mile Delivery</td>
<td>Acquire data and estimate the potential effects of deliveries on highways, emissions, and the economy</td>
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<td>Cross-Border Issues</td>
<td>Continue coordinating activities among stakeholders, and undertake mitigating actions, if/as needed</td>
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<td>Truck Size and Weight Permitting and Harmonization</td>
<td>Consider talks with New York to join NETC or otherwise streamline permitting for trips between VT and NY</td>
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<td>Freight Workforce</td>
<td>Support the development of workforce capabilities that improve freight system performance</td>
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<td>Climate Change and Resiliency</td>
<td>Support initiatives to reduce GHG emissions, and identify/harden vulnerable freight infrastructure</td>
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<td>Freight as a “Good Neighbor”</td>
<td>Coordinate stakeholder discussions around “good neighbor” strategies and practices</td>
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<td>Asset Management</td>
<td>Continue VAMIS implementation</td>
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<td>Broadband Access</td>
<td>Expand the reach of broadband internet access statewide</td>
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**VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION**

VERMONT FREIGHT PLAN UPDATE – Vermont Freight Forum 2

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Vermont Freight Plan Goals

- National Freight Strategic Plan Goals
- Vermont 2040 LRTP Goals
- 2017 Vermont Freight Plan Goals

2021 Vermont Freight Plan goals
Vermont Freight Plan Goals

1. **Improve the safety, security, and resilience** of the freight system;
2. **Modernize freight infrastructure and operations** to grow the economy, increase competitiveness, and improve quality of life;
3. Prepare for the future by **supporting the development of data, technologies, and workforce capabilities** that improve freight system performance.
4. **Ensure reliable truck travel times** between Vermont and its major regional markets such Boston, New York City, Albany, and Montreal;
5. Keep highway, rail, aviation, and water transportation infrastructure in a **state of good repair**; and
6. **Increase freight rail usage** by expanding capacity, improving intermodal connectivity, and acting on opportunities for ancillary economic development.
Potential Initiatives
Potential Initiatives

- Assemble a list of initiatives that could address the needs
- List includes 37 initiatives in 7 packages
  - (note: some initiatives list capital projects that support the initiative)
Packages of Initiatives

Freight Planning and Policy
- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Climate Change and Resiliency
- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure for freight
- Adapting to climate change impacts

Technological Innovation
- Expanding information and ITS deployment
- Supporting innovation in Vermont

Trade Corridors and Economic Development
- Streamlining cross-border and inter-state trade

Highway Operations
- Maintaining and improving highways (safety, resilience)

Rail Development
- Maintaining and upgrading rail infrastructure
- Multi-state rail planning

Air Freight
- Maintaining infrastructure
- Upgrading (if/when necessary)
Freight Planning and Policy

Objectives:
- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Initiatives:
3. Ensure that freight impacts are considered in VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2).
4. Engage in equity and "good neighbor" elements of freight planning.
50. Identify up to two freight performance measures per mode to incorporate into VTrans dashboards.
11. Monitor the evolving freight rail corporate landscape and weigh in on industry activities.
51. Study the effects of inclement weather and poor road conditions on freight movement.
52. Determine potential traffic impacts of programmed construction projects on the movement of oversize shipments.
8. Improve data and analysis tools to quantify impacts of trends (i.e., COVID-19, e-commerce, etc.).
Do these thematic packages capture the issues that matter most to you?

- Yes: 15
- No: 1
- Somewhat: 0
- Not sure: 0
Breakout Discussion
Breakout Discussion

- We will divide participants into smaller “discussion groups”
- Each discussion group will review 1-2 packages of initiatives
- Key discussion questions for each group/package:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Breakout Groups: Packages to Review/Discuss

Breakout Group 1
Freight Planning and Policy
- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Breakout Group 2
Climate Change and Resiliency
- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure for freight
- Adapting to climate change impacts

Breakout Group 3
Trade Corridors and Economic Development
- Streamlining cross-border and inter-state trade

Breakout Group 4
Technological Innovation
- Expanding information and ITS deployment
- Supporting innovation in Vermont

Rail Development
- Maintaining and upgrading rail infrastructure
- Multi-state rail planning

Air Freight
- Maintaining infrastructure
- Upgrading (if/when necessary)
Breakout Group 1

- Freight Planning and Policy Package
Freight Planning and Policy

Objectives:

- Integrate freight with other activities
- Gather information and monitor trends

Initiatives:

3. Ensure that freight impacts are considered in VTrans Project Selection and Prioritization Process (VPSP2).
4. Engage in equity and "good neighbor" elements of freight planning.
50. Identify up to two freight performance measures per mode to incorporate into VTrans dashboards.
11. Monitor the evolving freight rail corporate landscape and weigh in on industry activities.
51. Study the effects of inclement weather and poor road conditions on freight movement.
52. Determine potential traffic impacts of programmed construction projects on the movement of oversize shipments.
8. Improve data and analysis tools to quantify impacts of trends (i.e., COVID-19, e-commerce, etc.).
Breakout Discussion

- Key discussion questions for **Freight Planning and Policy Package**:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Breakout Group 2

- Climate Change and Resiliency Package
- Technological Innovation Package
Climate Change and Resiliency

Objectives:

- Expanding alternative fuel infrastructure for freight
- Adapting to climate change impacts

Initiatives:

12. Pursue grant opportunities to fund low- and zero-carbon fuel/propulsion technologies for all modes.
13. Plan for freight sector alternative fueling capacity/access.
15. Educate consumers about e-commerce purchasing behaviors that improve efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
Breakout Discussion

- Key discussion questions for the **Climate Change and Resiliency** Package:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Technological Innovation

Objectives:

- Expanding information and ITS deployment
- Supporting innovation in Vermont

Initiatives:

16. Support technological innovation in freight transportation and supply chain logistics.
17. Implement virtual weigh stations (VWS)/ weigh-in-motion (WIM) system.
53. Evaluate portable Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) locations statewide for potential permanent installations.
18. Develop more robust trucking information for New England 511.
19. Work regionally to harmonize regulations related to the deployment of new transportation technologies.
54. Develop and enhance the DMV online permit portal to support planning, enforcement, and safety.
Breakout Discussion

- Key discussion questions for the Technological Innovation Package:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Breakout Group 3

- Trade Corridors and Economic Development Package
- Highway Operations Package
Trade Corridors and Economic Development

Objectives:

- Streamlining cross-border and inter-state trade

Initiatives:

20. Provide full domestic doublestack railcar clearances on New England Central Railroad (NECR) and Western Corridor.
21. Continue planning for Quebec Autoroute 35 completion and associated impacts.
22. Coordinate Oversized/Overweight truck permitting throughout the northeastern US.
24. Promote coordination between industry and education stakeholders to develop workforce.
Breakout Discussion

- Key discussion questions for the Trade Corridors and Economic Development Package:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Highway Operations

Objectives:

- Maintaining and improving highways (safety, resilience)
- Assessing and expand truck parking capacity

Initiatives:

25. Maintain a state of good repair (SOGR).
26. Maintain or improve travel time reliability.
27. Keep highways open and safe through prompt and effective snow removal and incident management.
28. Minimize delay associated with highway projects.
31. Promote the safe movement of commercial vehicles through enforcement and leveraging technology and communications.
30. Ensure sufficient, safe truck parking is available across the state.
Breakout Discussion

- Key discussion questions for the Highway Operations Package:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives we should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Breakout Group 4

- Rail Development Package
- Air Freight Package
Rail Development

Objectives:

- Maintaining and upgrading rail infrastructure
- Educating shippers and the public about freight rail

Initiatives:

32. Upgrade all State-owned freight rail lines to be able to efficiently carry the industry-standard railcar weight of 286,000 lbs. (286k).
33. Maintain trackage at Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Track Class 2 or better.
34. Preserve and fully use industrial land parcels with access to rail sidings.
38. Participate in multistate rail planning and programming to improve regional rail network.
41. Maintain and modernize freight rail yards.
Breakout Discussion

- Key discussion questions for the **Rail Development Package**:
  - Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  - Are there other initiatives VTrans should consider?
  - Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  - Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Air Freight

Objectives:

- Maintaining infrastructure
- Monitoring ongoing studies and plans

Initiatives:

42. Maintain airport runway surfaces, approaches, and instrumentation in state of good repair.
43. Improve instrumentation if/when opportunities to expand air traffic and cargo arise.
44. Monitor runway safety issues and implement action plans as needed.
45. Monitor obstructions to airport approaches and implement action plans as needed.
46. Develop a weather observation station equipment improvement plan for State airports.
Breakout Discussion

• Key discussion questions for the **Air Freight** Package:
  • Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  • Are there other initiatives VTrans should consider?
  • Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  • Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Report-Out

• Each Group’s facilitator will briefly report the group’s conclusions
  • Do the initiatives address Vermont’s freight needs?
  • Are there other initiatives VTrans should consider?
  • Which initiatives ought to be Vermont’s highest priority?
  • Which initiatives should be implemented sooner/later?
Next Steps

MOUNT FREIGHTPLAN
Implementation Plan

- Guidance for implementing Freight Plan initiatives
  - Lead agencies/actors and roles
  - Timeframes (short/medium/long)
  - Investment Plan for National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funds
Next Steps

Freight Plan Advisory Committee Input Throughout the Process

Develop Implementation Plan

Publish Freight Plan

Distribute Draft Freight Plan for Comment
Additional Information on Web Page

- Newsletters
- Data Trends Summaries
- Technical memoranda
- Meeting presentations
- Online map with information and feedback tool

Freight Plan Web Page:
https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight
Thank You

For more information on the Vermont Freight Plan Update, visit vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight or contact Dave Pelletier at Dave.Pelletier@vermont.gov or (802) 595-9675.

For more information on the Vermont Rail Plan Update, visit vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports or contact Zoe Neaderland at Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov or (802) 793-2778.