

# **Michiana Area Council of Governments**

## **The MACOG Freight Transportation Study: An Analysis of Freight Capacity and Movement in Northern Indiana**

**Midwest Transportation Planning Conference**

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# MACOG Freight Transportation Studies

- **1995 *Intermodal Goods Movement Study for St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties***
  - Regulatory issues affecting the freight community, including truck, rail, and pipeline.
- **2000 *Michiana Freight Transportation Study: Analysis of Freight Capacity and Movement in Northern Indiana***
  - Explore growth and congestion affecting freight flows as they relate to the Michiana Region
  - 1999 series of freight surveys conducted by the MACOG
  - Identification of key economic development zones, recommendations, and implementation strategies
  - Results will be used as input for the 2025 Transportation Plan and for the Congestion Management System
- **2004 *MACOG Freight Transportation Study: An Analysis of Freight Capacity and Movement in North Central Indiana***
  - Identified key freight stakeholders, conducted a survey of over 500 freight haulers
  - Identified growth areas in each of the communities in North Central Indiana
  - Identified transportation network issues, and transportation policy issues in region and nationwide

# Freight Transportation Study Process

- Formed Steering Committee
- Identified Companies to Survey
- Freight Survey
- Freight Survey Results
- Results used in Long Range Plan Update

# Freight Transportation Study Process

## *Steering Committee*

- Membership
  - State DOT
  - Local Engineers, Planners
  - Airports
  - Motor Carriers
  - Warehouseurs
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Railroads
- Purpose
  - Identify companies for survey
  - Identify, explain, clarify known issues/challenges in region
  - Act as experts in respective areas of freight movement
  - Provide data resources

# Freight Transportation Study Process

## *Identified Companies to Survey*

- Previous surveys
- Steering Committee
  - Provided contact information
- Phone book
- Chambers of Commerce directories
- Local knowledge

# Freight Transportation Study Process

## *Freight Survey*

- Manufacturers
  - Commodities, Truck docks, Delivery days, Incoming/Outgoing, Rail capabilities, Transfer sites, JIT delivery, Warehousing space
- Warehouseurs
  - Commodities, Truck docks, Incoming/Outgoing, Rail capabilities, Transfer sites
- Rail Carriers
  - Commodities, Transfer sites, Double stacking, # of trains through region, Peak travel periods
- Motor Carriers
  - Commodities, Truck type, Truck mileage, Transfer sites, Fuel type,
- Other items
  - Transportation problems affecting firm's profitability
  - Relocation, expansion plans for next 5 years

# Freight Transportation Study Process

## *Freight Survey Results*

- Hours of Service issues
- Tolls
- Policy Issues
  - heavy load routes, 4-lane highways, 65 mph, gas tax, rest areas, safety education
- Road maintenance issues
- Railroad underpasses in urban areas
- Congestion in large urban areas
- Local road issues

# Freight Transportation Study Process

## *Results used in Long Range Plan Update*

- Identified most needed projects in region
- Identified new projects to be considered
- Provided a new public input group for planning input

# Conclusions

- Long Range Plan
  - Identify projects can address freight
  - Use of steering committee and TTAC to create goals for freight planning
- Use of technology
  - Continue making it easier for busy private stakeholders to participate in freight planning
  - Email, Internet
- Quarterly Freight newsletter
  - One page newsletter focusing on freight planning to 1500+ in region
- Continue building relationships with private stakeholders
  - Industry groups, Chambers of Commerce