

FAST Act Discussion with Operations Subcommittee: Freight Operations Working Group

August 28, 2018

Atlanta, Georgia

Issue #4: Expand Eligible Activities under National Highway Freight Program

- *Current Federal Policy:*
 - FAST Act § 1116; 23 U.S.C. 167 establishes a National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) that funds activities that “must contribute to the efficient movement of freight on the NHFN and be identified in a freight investment plan included in the State’s freight plan.”
 - FAST Act § 1105; 23 U.S.C. 117 establishes “the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program to provide financial assistance—competitive grants, known as INFRA grants, or credit assistance—to nationally and regionally significant freight and highway projects.”
- *Issue:* The use of the nation’s highway system for freight is increasing, and the need for integrated solutions to better move freight throughout the country is increasing. Integrated freight management solutions and freight safety programs do not currently qualify as eligible activities for NHFP or INFRA funds.
- *Recommendation:* Reform the National Highway Freight Program, both formula program to States and the discretionary program (INFRA), to include eligibility for investment in **integrated freight management solutions and freight safety programs, including for emergency responders**. Eligibility should include multi-state proposals, such as for regions and corridors. **Freight technology?**

Issue #: Commercial Driver's License Requirements

- *Current Federal Policy:* 49 U.S. Code § 31308 establishes minimum commercial driver's license (CDL) requirements.
- *Issue:* Drivers are able to obtain CDLs and drive commercial freight vehicles even though they are unable to read all road signs (e.g. height restrictions) or are unable to physically operate a vehicle for an extended period of time. This causes crashes when drivers run into bridges or other low objects, or otherwise lose control of the vehicle.
- *Recommendation:* Raise CDL requirements to ensure drivers can comprehend all road signs and physically operate vehicles for extended periods of time.

Overweight milk

- Milk is a nondivisible load
- States could issue permits for large loads of nondivisible milk on the interstates

Federal data systems for electronic screening, permitting

- Databases we use are shaky
- Need to invest in data systems we rely on
- Incentivize states to harmonize and use the same information
 - Simultaneously issue permits via automation to multiple states