Western States Freight Coalition

presented to
2019 AASHTO Special Committee on Freight Meeting

presented by
Christopher Chesnut – Utah Department of Transportation
Dan Andersen – Cambridge Systematics

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The Western States Freight Coalition (WSFC) is a voluntary partnership of state Departments of Transportation, which are committed to multi-jurisdictional coordination, organized around a common agenda and facilitated through a cooperative support structure.

Mission Statement

- To facilitate, through multi-state coordination, efficient, safe, sustainable, and forward-looking multimodal freight transport across the Western U.S., helping to foster economic opportunities.
Our Beginnings

» Organized by Nevada DOT in 2014

» Peer exchange among state DOT freight program managers

» Coordinate preparation of FAST Act compliant state freight plans

» Agreed on rotating leadership
Organizational Charter: Purpose Statement

» Stronger solutions may be found when addressed at a regional or multi-state level.

» Minimize or eliminate inefficiencies and optimize freight flows through:
  ▪ Multistate and multimodal coordination
  ▪ Public and private partnerships
  ▪ Emerging technological solutions

» Inefficiencies can be:
  ▪ physical (pavement and bridge condition),
  ▪ operational (congestion),
  ▪ safety (combination of physical and operational), or
  ▪ regulatory (differing regulations from state to state)
Collaboration and Coordination

Increasing levels of coordination available to the WSFC to carry out its purpose:

1. Information Sharing
   › Exchange ideas and best practices from individual jurisdictions on effective freight management

2. Coordination
   › Promote cross-jurisdictional collaboration with member entities and private sector partners

3. Data Sharing and Analysis
   › Gather, analyze and share data on regional freight movements

4. Joint-Funded Research
   › Pool research money and resources, when appropriate

5. Joint Project Delivery
   › Pool resources to fund larger-scale projects with a regional scope or significance
Sub-group Collaboration
Organizational Structure

**Decision-Makers**
DOT Management
Meet at WAASHTO twice yearly

**Executive Committee**

**Recommenders**
State DOT Freight Program Managers
Bi-monthly conference calls

**Steering Committee**

**Topical Subcommittee**
Freight Program Managers and other invited participants
Meet as needed

**Topical Subcommittee**

**Topical Subcommittee**
Common Interests – Topics of Discussion

» Truck parking
  ▪ Data and Demand Methodology
  ▪ Truck Parking Information Management Systems

» Regulatory harmonization (Truck size and weight, other)

» ITS and smart-freight technology deployment

» Funding/Federal grant support

» Project prioritization

» Data sharing
Challenges

» No single common corridor (I-95 Coalition)
» Limited resources/coalition fatigue
  ▪ Wyoming left the Coalition
» Limited opportunities to deliver joint projects
» Multiple, large challenges/opportunities
Opportunities and Synergies with WASHTO

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Opportunities and Synergies with WASHTO

- Multiple corridors across multiple states
- Common issues among Western states
- Western states advocacy
- Peer exchange
- Policy forum
- Umbrella organization

The purpose of WASHTO is to serve its member departments by:

- contributing to national policies on transportation issues that are responsive to members' needs;
- promoting a closer relationship between its members;
- advocating legislation that supports efficient and effective transportation systems, economic competitiveness and the environmental integrity of member states;
- providing a forum for exchanging ideas, exploring and adapting techniques, promoting quality and best practices for implementation;
- working with the United States Department of Transportation and other governmental agencies.