

Statewide Freight Plan, Transport Ohio Scope of Services

Background

Ohio is a well-established base for companies moving goods around the globe, being just a one-day drive from more than 60 percent of the U.S. and Canadian populations. This, along with having the nation's fourth largest interstate system, fourth highest number of rail lines, eighth most maritime tonnage, and being second in the number of intermodal facilities, makes Ohio a pivotal point in the global marketplace. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) developed a statewide freight plan called "*Transport Ohio*" to guide to inform and support future infrastructure investments on Ohio's multi-modal freight network and to retain and attract jobs and commerce.

The purpose of this project is to update *Transport Ohio*, the state freight plan. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act included a provision that requires each State that receives funding under the National Highway Freight Program to develop a State Freight Plan that provides a comprehensive plan for the immediate and long-range planning activities and investments with respect to freight and meets all the required plan contents listed in the Act. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) added several new required elements and updated procedures for State Freight Plans ([USDOT Guidance of State Freight Plans](#)).

In updating *Transport Ohio*, ODOT wishes to understand how Ohio's freight infrastructure is being utilized and develop a plan for Ohio's freight future. The Plan will identify and analyze modal freight volumes, commodities, origins/destinations while exploring new technology options for better freight flow and how best to utilize existing infrastructure. As a result, the plan will provide ODOT with the tools necessary to:

- Plan and prioritize future strategic investments in Ohio's freight infrastructure
- Guide future economic development activities to make the most efficient use of the existing freight infrastructure
- Satisfy USDOT State Freight Plan requirements, including the development of an investment plan listing Ohio freight projects

Anticipated Scope of Work

Below is a list of major tasks to be completed during plan development. Additional tasks may be added later. Each task will be summarized in an interim technical report. All technical reports will serve as appendices to the final plan. Major tasks will include:

1. Stakeholder Involvement
2. Plan Integration
3. Truck Parking Study
4. Existing Conditions and Performance
5. Transport Ohio Dashboards
6. Freight Investment Plan
7. Final Plan and Other Deliverables

Task 1: Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder interviews

To establish a baseline understanding of how Ohio's freight system accommodates business and industry, several stakeholder interviews will be conducted. The exact number of interviews will be determined by ODOT.

Freight Advisory Council

The project team will heavily engage the Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) as the steering committee organized to advise ODOT throughout development and implementation of Transport Ohio.

Task 2: Plan Integration

Critical to the development of Transport Ohio will be a comprehensive understanding and integration of existing, and in development, ODOT plans that address freight - including, but not limited to, existing Transport Ohio (2022), the Statewide Transportation and Development Analysis (STDA)(2024), Ohio Maritime Plan (2025), Ohio Rail Plan (2025), Ohio Airport Systems Plan (2025), Transportation Systems Management and Operations 2.0 (TSMO)(2024). The Consultant will also scan Regional Planning Organization (RPO) long-range and freight-based transportation plans to identify significant sub-regional corridors, assets, and facilities enabling intermodal freight transport.

Emphasis will be given to existing and valid Transport Ohio (2022) strategies and the analyses and outcomes of the Ohio Strategic Transportation and Development Analysis (STDA), currently under development and planned for completion in December 2024. The STDA will provide significant recommendations for future travel demand on highway and interregional connections that supporting development, determining system stresses and recommending needed improvements.

This task should engage internal and external plan owners resulting in a comprehensive understanding of the key inputs and outcomes of each plan. Integration of these plans is foundational to the performance of additional tasks to develop existing and future conditions, assess performance, and determine needs. The analysis will be utilized to define and contextualize Ohio's multimodal freight transportation network.

- Propose a process to evaluate, synthesize and integrate existing ODOT and RPO plans into the development and outcomes of Transport Ohio.
- Engage internal and external plan owners
- Document multimodal transportation network components for use in task 4.
- Assess existing statewide and modal plans for gaps and develop recommendations for future update

Task 3: Truck Parking Study

Update the existing [Truck Parking Study](#) to inventory the supply, assess the demand and utilization of truck parking statewide, and identify truck parking needs.

Truck Parking Inventory

Determine where existing public and private truck parking facilities are located in the state. Summarize by region, corridor, and other accommodations provided facility.

Truck Parking Demand

Determine where truck parking is needed based on truck volumes, truck crashes, and observed truck parking on ramp shoulders. Identify where imbalances between inventory and demand exist and recommend potential solutions.

Truck Parking Impacts

Analyze the impacts associated with truck parking issues to the system, truck drivers and adjacent communities. Analysis should include environmental and local community impacts, such as emissions, noise, or traffic; safety and security issues for drivers, such as crime and security provisions at parking facilities; driver perception, issues, and amenity needs at parking facilities; and engagement of RPOs and local agencies to understand the impacts of truck parking, and lack thereof, to adjacent land uses.

Truck Parking Expansion

Identify opportunities for new or expanded truck parking. Assess state-owned properties against developed criteria and feasibility measures to identify opportunities and develop conceptual layouts and estimated costs at each site.

Identify opportunities for the improvement and expansion of Truck Parking Information Management Systems (TPIMS), considering latest technologies to assess capacity and availability and relay timely information to truck drivers.

Task 4: System Conditions and Performance

The Consultant will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the multimodal freight transportation system. The Consultant will develop an existing and future conditions and performance assessment organized by modal system and drawn from Task 3 plan integration.

Strategic Freight System

Update the Strategic Freight System (SFS), defined in the existing Transport Ohio plan, in consideration of Task 3 Plan Integration and the USDOT National Multimodal Freight Network (NMFN) expected for release winter 2024. Analyze conditions on the SFS in regards to safety, asset condition, and access to and between intermodal freight facilities.

Freight Flow Analysis

Determine current freight flows based on the best available data and summarize flows based on flows into, out of and through Ohio. In addition, summarize freight flows by mode and principal commodities moved (based on tonnage and value of goods moved). Forecast future freight flows over a 25-year horizon (2050).

Identify and analyze potential freight and supply chain bottlenecks, including those resulting from incidents such as major storm events, cybersecurity incidents, or labor management issues. Develop strategies to increase overall supply chain resilience

Identify strategies and efforts to mitigate freight equity issues and the effects of freight transportation on communities, particularly minority and low-income communities, regarding environmental stewardship, mobility for non-freight modes, air and water quality, and community-based benefits.

Economic Trends Analysis

Develop an economic freight logistics profile of Ohio; the profile will be developed in the context of key economic drivers of growth and their relevance to Ohio's goods movement. Identify industries most important to the economy, freight transportation, and facilities most vital to their supply chains. Evaluate external economic trends and development initiatives that may serve as opportunities or threats to Ohio's freight transportation system. Evaluate freight industry workforce trends and identify strategies for increased development and maintenance of an adequate workforce.

Physical Assets

Summarize the breadth and scope of Ohio's freight infrastructure, including an inventory and description of statewide intermodal facilities. Discuss the current conditions and project future conditions over a 25-year horizon (2050).

Needs Analysis

Layering the freight flow analysis, economic trends, and physical assets, evaluate the needs of the freight system in Ohio with respect to existing conditions and desired performance. Summarize the needs by mode.

In performance of the above, the Consultant will consider existing statewide/regional data sources and tools, and insights compiled through stakeholder engagement efforts. The analysis shall consider:

Task 5: Transport Ohio Dashboards

The Transport Ohio dashboard serves as a hub for exploring and downloading data included within Transport Ohio. This platform allows users to visualize data and incorporate the downloadable data into new web and mobile applications. Update and develop additional enhancements and data features for incorporation that lead to improved data sharing and functionality.

Task 6: Freight Investment Plan

Overlay existing and proposed infrastructure improvement projects on top of the needs analysis. Highlight projects that will address identified needs. Document how ODOT will be investing its federal Nation Highway Freight Program funds.

Task 7: Final Plan

Develop a final plan that is visually engaging and makes extensive use of graphics. The final plan will be approximately 50 pages in length and written for a non-technical audience. The interim technical reports summarizing each task will be appendices to the final report.

Deliverables

All data, products, and documents developed throughout this contract are subject to ODOT review and approval prior to publication. Consultants should anticipate requests for revisions to submitted items/documents and accommodate for multiple reviews by ODOT and other stakeholders. All drafts are to be submitted electronically to streamline the review process. Final, approved documents are to be submitted as original source files. The final deliverables will include:

- A final plan
- A PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the final plan

- A visually engaging infographic that summarizes the final plan, and an individual infographic that summarizes the Truck Parking Study.

General Requirements

- The consultant shall keep track of all data, documentation, graphics, and source files developed/acquired throughout the contract and turn them over to ODOT by the conclusion.
- The consultant should be prepared to present the Plan at ODOT represented conferences and meetings as directed.
- Monthly invoicing containing a summary of work performed during the invoicing period. No invoicing shall be submitted without appropriate documentation of work. Documentation should be delivered as each task is completed.

Requirements of the Team

The successful consulting team will be comprised of individuals with the following expertise:

- Completion of statewide freight plans that are BIL compliant
- Analyzing national, statewide and regional freight data
- GIS analytics and mapping
- Stakeholder involvement
- Writing for non-technical audiences
- Exceptional graphical design

Consideration may be given to team that includes a local presence in Central Ohio to assist with coordination efforts.