



**F R E I G H T**  
*Professional Development*



# Talking Freight Seminars

*Come hear the latest on freight transportation trends and challenges in the 21st Century.*

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Office of Freight Management and Operations and the Office of Planning host the "Talking Freight" seminars. The seminars are part of a broader Freight Professional Development Program aimed at providing technical assistance, training, tools, and information to help the freight and planning workforce meet the transportation challenges of tomorrow. Seminars are held on a monthly basis throughout the year and are open to all interested parties in both the public and private sectors. The schedule of planned seminars is on the reverse. **To register for the "Talking Freight" seminars, please go to [http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking\\_freight.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking_freight.htm).** If you have questions, please call or email Jennifer Symoun, SAIC, at 703-676-6849, [Jennifer.E.Symoun@saic.com](mailto:Jennifer.E.Symoun@saic.com).

## Why dial in?

With limited travel budgets and busy work schedules, it has become increasingly more difficult for freight and freight planning practitioners to get needed information, training, and education to keep up to date with the latest trends, tools, and noteworthy practices in freight transportation. *The seminars provide a convenient and no-cost way for transportation practitioners to broaden their knowledge base and develop new skills to help them do their jobs better.* Topics are chosen based on suggestions made at various freight outreach events and during conversations with freight stakeholders.

Participants are also invited to register for the Freight Planning Listserv ([www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning)) and visit the Peer-to-Peer Program Web site ([www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/p2p](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/p2p)). Both sites provide opportunities to exchange information and learn more about freight issues and trends.

## How it works

The seminars are interactive and are held via teleconference and the Internet. All that is needed is a telephone and a 56K Internet connection. This format allows for extensive participation of freight stakeholders from across the country. Each seminar lasts 90 minutes, with 60 minutes allocated for presentations, and 30 minutes for audience Q&As. Through the use of Web conferencing, participants can view the speaker's presentation on their personal computer and hear the audio portion of the presentation by dialing into the assigned teleconference number.

The "Talking Freight" Web site provides details about each of the seminars and information about registration. Seminars are recorded and archived on the "Talking Freight" Web site as well. Once participants register for a particular seminar, they will receive an email with directions for logging on to the seminars.

We look forward to your participation and hope you find the "Talking Freight" seminars beneficial to your professional needs.

Date & Time	Topic	Description of Topic
July 16, 2008 1:00-2:30 pm ET	Integrating Freight in Project Selection	Many states and MPOs have incorporated freight into traditional transportation planning. However, many still find it difficult to program, develop and implement projects that benefit freight movements. Learn about techniques being used to incorporate freight throughout the planning and programming process and implement freight improvement projects.
August 20, 2008 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET	Future Surface Transportation Options	Hear a discussion of the current Administration's surface transportation proposal as well as the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission's perspective, and a synthesis from the GAO on other reauthorization proposals, all in the context of freight transportation.
September 17, 2008 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET	Commercial Motor Vehicle Size and Weight	Significant growth in domestic and international commerce, coupled with increasing traffic congestion and delay on surface transportation networks, challenges the ability of industry to move freight economically without the use of larger and heavier loads. This trend challenges limited enforcement resources tasked with monitoring vehicle size and weight compliance in the interest of infrastructure preservation and in response to the structural constraints of the existing infrastructure. In 2006 FHWA completed an international scan tour to learn about emerging vehicle size and weight enforcement technologies. Learn about the results of this scan tour and hear about best practices and case studies in size and weight enforcement.
October 15, 2008 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET	Rising Fuel Prices/ The Effects of Energy Prices on Global Trade Patterns	Energy prices will affect the cost of production and transportation, and very likely cause changes to the current freight movement practices. This will require policy makers and planners to identify needs to meet such changes and plan accordingly.
November 19, 2008 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET	Freight and Land Use	Freight transportation planning, and its associated land use impacts, is a critical planning issue. Modern freight standards are increasingly leading to the obsolescence of older and established industrial and freight-related districts in metropolitan areas. The challenge of consolidating existing developed sites with differing owners, in combination with expected citizen opposition to expansion plans in some areas, leads many freight dependent industries to relocate to suburban and rural areas. MPOs are increasingly faced with addressing the transportation challenges created by these shifting freight movement patterns. This seminar will identify strategies that MPOs can apply to improve coordination between freight-related land use planning and transportation planning.
December 10, 2008 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET	Establishment Surveys	Establishment Surveys focusing on Freight, could be included in the data collection process for the Travel Demand Forecast models. The data collection activity takes place every ten years to re-calibrate the models in preparation for the new Census data.

#### Web Conferencing Contact

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“Talking Freight” Web Site:

[http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking\\_freight.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/fpd/talking_freight.htm)

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