

**U.S. Department of Transportation
Freight Policy Council Charter**

1. Official Designation

Freight Policy Council (FPC, or “the Council”)

2. Authority

This charter establishes the FPC under the existing authority (49 U.S.C. § 301 *et seq.*) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

3. National Freight Policy Statement

It is the policy of the DOT to improve the condition and performance of an integrated national freight transportation system that is safe, economically efficient, environmentally sustainable, and provides a foundation for the United States to compete in the global economy.

4. Membership

The Deputy Secretary will Chair the FPC and its members are:

- Deputy Administrators of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Maritime Administration, the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (the relevant operating administrations, or OAs);
- the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy;
- the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy;
- the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs (Chief Financial Officer);
- the General Counsel; and
- the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

5. Support

The FPC's staff support shall include a designee within the Office of Transportation Policy, and shall draw on a multimodal staff support group composed of representatives from the member Operating Administrations and Offices.

6. Purpose

The FPC's primary purpose is to oversee and coordinate the development and implementation of MAP-21 freight policy provisions, including the National Freight Policy, advance the President's National Export Initiative, and at the request of the Chair, make recommendations to the Secretary regarding freight policy issues.

7. Relationships and Duties

The Chair will engage the FPC in the development of the National Freight Strategic Plan (NFSP) as authorized in MAP-21. The NFSP will include an assessment of the condition and

performance of the national freight system, an identification of bottlenecks on the national freight system, forecasts of future freight volumes, an identification of major trade gateways and freight corridors, an assessment of barriers to improved freight transportation system performance, an identification of important routes for energy exploration and production, best practices for improving the freight transportation system performance and mitigating the impacts of freight movement on communities, a process for improving multi-state collaboration on projects, and strategies to improve freight intermodal connectivity.

In developing the NFSP, the FPC will actively solicit and consider the advice and recommendations advanced by relevant advisory committees, such as:

- a) the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC);
- b) the Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness (ACSCC);
- c) the Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection (COAC);
- d) the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC), and
- e) the Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC).

In developing the NFSP, the FPC will also actively solicit and consider the advice and recommendations of relevant State departments of transportation and State freight advisory committees, as well as other relevant Federal agencies and interagency committees as appropriate.

The FPC will provide input as needed to existing efforts to improve the infrastructure permitting and approval process.

The FPC will contribute as necessary to the evaluation of freight components of projects under consideration of departmental grant programs.

The FPC will oversee the departmental coordination efforts being undertaken as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the DOT and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Any member of the FPC may recommend to the Chair a freight policy issue for consideration by the FPC.

The Chair may request that the Council's staff, supported by the member Operating Administrations and Offices, provide support to the Council in addressing freight policy issues considered by the Council.

The Chair may request that the relevant Operating Administrations and Offices use the Council's staff to coordinate programmatic implementation of any cross-modal freight policies established by the Department.

8. Duration

Continuing.

9. Amendment

The Chair or any member of the FPC may originate recommendations for amendments to the charter. Recommended amendments to the charter must be approved by a majority vote of the members prior to forwarding any changes to the Deputy Secretary. Only the Deputy Secretary or the Secretary has the authority to amend the charter after recommendations are forwarded by the FPC.

10. Termination

The Chair or any member of the FPC may recommend termination of the charter. A recommendation for terminating the charter must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members prior to forwarding this recommendation to the Deputy Secretary. Only the Deputy Secretary or the Secretary has the authority to terminate the charter after this recommendation is forwarded by the FPC.