

MAASTO Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday, May 25, 2017

## **Motor Carrier Committee (MCC) Report –Roadmap for OSOW Harmonization**

### Action Item

At the April, 2017 Intermodal Freight Summit the Board of Directors asked the MCC to submit a roadmap for future Oversize/Overweight (OSOW) permit and regulation harmonization efforts. The MAASTO Subcommittee on Highway Transport (SCOHT) reports to the MCC. This report primarily includes a summary of harmonization efforts to date by AASHTO and the regions through the Phase I and II projects and also includes a detailed matrix the MAASTO SCOHT has developed to track their harmonization results and other items of interest to their committee.

### Efforts/Results

At its 2012 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the AASHTO Board of Directors officially inaugurated an initiative begun by the Subcommittee on Highway Transport (SCOHT) known as "Harmonization," an effort among the 52 AASHTO member states to research and assess for common, minimum standards across the nation on oversize & overweight truck travel permits.

In order to facilitate this research, AASHTO first came to consensus on certain categorical permit items to be reviewed, known as Phase I ([PR-3-12](#)).

With generous support from the [FHWA Office of Freight Operations](#), AASHTO selected a research team from [Cambridge Systematics](#) to facilitate research on the national, regional, and state-by-state impacts of oversize and overweight permit harmonization proposals selected in Phase I.

#### Industry Advisory Group:

Working closely with industry leaders in operations, safety and policy, SCOHT has convened an Industry Advisory Group to assess the various impacts and efforts of permit harmonization. Industry Advisory Group members include:

- Steven Todd, Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association
- Rick Clasby, Utah Trucking Association on behalf of the American Trucking Associations
- Capt. Jay Thompson, Arkansas Highway Police on behalf of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
- Jay Folladori, Bennett Motor Express LLC
- Paul Ross, Keen Transport, Inc.
- Ray Morgan, Perkins Specialized Transportation Contracting
- Peter Lynch, Specialized Freight Solutions
- Mike Morgan, National Pilot Car Association

#### Goals:

AASHTO and SCOHT seek to enhance interstate commerce while maintaining highway safety by considering data driven proposals that may assist State DOT's in assessing legislative, regulatory, or policy changes that could remove certain barriers to interstate commerce that exist today.

All proposals assume a minimum standard. States that already meet or have less restrictive standards would achieve permit harmonization by simply retaining the status quo.

States with more restrictive standards, but who would like to consider changes, may find the research and proposal recommendations a useful analysis tool that reflects the consensus view and best practices of many other States. However, they should not consider this a mandate to make such changes.

Final technical recommendations will be published in a revised edition of the [AASHTO Guide to Vehicle Weights and Dimensions](#).

Phase I:

The Phase I categories selected for research were:

- Escort Requirements
- Warning Flags
- Warning Lights
- Warning Signs
- Days and Hours of Operation

SCOHT members, through the national subcommittee, as well as the 4 regional NASTO, SASHTO, MAASTO and WASHTO, continue to consider proposals for permit harmonization in these categories.

Phase II:

The AASHTO Board of Directors affirmed and continued its work on the permit harmonization effort at its 2013 Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado by selecting additional categorical items for research (PR-13-13). The items selected, known collectively as Phase II, include:

- Number of Valid days allowed on single trip permits
- Permit Amendments
- Holiday Restrictions
- Type and Size of Escort Vehicles
- Escort requirements for overheight loads and overheight loads with other dimensions

**The MAASTO SCOHT reports our member states are ahead of the other ASSHTO SCOHT regions and with just a few minor exceptions, have successfully achieved the minimum standards of Phase I and II Harmonization items.**

**Attachments:**

\*1 – [Summary of results from Phase I and II \(39 states responded to the survey\)](#)

\*\*2 – [AASHTO Harmonization Results Graph](#)

\*\*\*3 – [MAASTO SCOHT Harmonization Matrix](#)

Phase III:

The Phase III list of the next items to be harmonized is being developed by AASHTO SCOHT and industry representatives. The hope is for finalization of the list this year. A potential list of items is as follows:

- Night Moves
- Route Surveys
- Standardization of Permit Application Information
- Electronic Verification of Permits
- Multi-State Corridor Communication/State and Industry Communication

## MAASTO Roadmap for Future Harmonization

AASHTO, the other regions and industry have recognized the MAASTO SCOHT and DOTs for their aggressiveness and sense of urgency in their successful efforts to harmonize permit regulations. Based on past success, the plan for future harmonization efforts is straightforward:

- Collaborate with the Mid-America Freight Coalition (MAFC)
  - MAFC's proposed research agenda includes the project, *OSOW Harmonization*, which includes the following deliverables:
    - A comparison of each state's OSOW regulations
    - A review of past and current harmonization efforts in the MAASTO region (identify any gaps from Phase I and II)
    - Research and facilitation support for the priority harmonization efforts for the MAASTO region (Phase I and II gaps and new Phase III items)
- Start working on the harmonization of Phase III items when approved
  - Includes identifying what items (regulations) and in what MAASTO states current regulations fall short of the minimum suggested harmonization criteria. Also includes identifying what action is needed in each MAASTO state to achieve harmonization (policy change, amended rule, legislation)
    - The MAASTO SCOHT has already been discussing the potential list of Phase III items
- Revisit and renew efforts to fill any gaps identified from Phase I and II
- SCOHT will report progress to MCC for elevation to the Board of Directors
  - Board of Director awareness and support may be required to achieve specific regulation harmonization in some states due to various complexities in individual states involving policy changes, rulemaking and legislative changes
- MCC and SCOHT to identify potential additional harmonization items other than AASHTO's Phase III list (specific to the MAASTO region)
  - AASHTO's national Phase III items will be the priority for MAASTO SCOHT, but the group has also started discussions about the potential interest and feasibility of studying and sharing a common automated permit system
    - A survey has been sent to MAASTO's permit officials as a starting point and discussions will continue
- **Attachments:**

\*\*\*\*4 – [MAASTO One-System Permit Questions](#)

**The MAASTO SCOHT's next meeting is September 25-27 in Overland Park, Kansas**

- MCC to assist and work with MAFC's proposed research project, if ultimately selected, *Truck Parking in Urban Areas*, which includes the following deliverables:
  - Literature review of urban truck parking issues and discussion of how urban spaces could alleviate some parking shortages
  - Review of local ordinances and time limits on truck parking in each of the selected urban areas
  - GIS and parcel evaluation of potential truck parking availability in a selected urban area in each MAASTO state
  - Facilitate pilot project