



**MAASTO Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2017
Sheraton Grand Phoenix
Phoenix, Arizona**

MAASTO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and opening remarks were made by MAASTO President Director McKenna.

MAASTO Board Members in Attendance:

- Patrick McKenna, Director, Missouri DOT, MAASTO President
- Randy Blankenhorn, Secretary, Illinois DOT
- Richard Carlson, Secretary, Kansas DOT
- Alison Grand, Indiana DOT
- Mark Lowe, Director, Iowa DOT
- Bob Seitz, Secretary, Wisconsin DOT
- Kirk Steudle, Director Michigan DOT
- Jerry Wray, Director, Ohio DOT
- Charlie Zelle, Commissioner, Minnesota DOT

Others in Attendance:

- Paul Loete, Illinois DOT
- Beth McCluskey, Illinois DOT
- Omer Osman, Illinois DOT
- Justine Sydello, Illinois DOT
- John Selmer, Iowa DOT
- Tony Lazarowicz, Iowa DOT
- Charlie Purcell, Iowa DOT
- Lee Wilkinson, Iowa DOT
- Chris Herrick, Kansas DOT
- Catherine Patrick, Kansas DOT
- Joel Skelley, Kansas DOT
- Kimberly Avery, Michigan DOT
- Polly Kent, Michigan DOT
- Nancy Daubenberger, Minnesota DOT
- Serge Phillips, Minnesota DOT
- Mark Gieseke, Minnesota DOT
- Michael DeMers, Missouri DOT
- Kathy Harvey, Missouri DOT
- Ed Hassinger, Missouri DOT
- Jay Wunderlich, Missouri DOT, MAASTO Secretary
- Dave Coyle, Ohio DOT
- Jack Marchbanks, Ohio DOT
- Dewayne Johnson, Wisconsin DOT

2. Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes from the July 27, 2017 MAASTO Board meeting were approved.

3. Appointment of Committee Vice Chairs

Director McKenna presented his appointments of vice chairs and liaisons for the MAASTO Committees. These appointments included:

- Jay Wunderlich will not only serve as Secretary to MAASTO, but also vice chair to the STIC Committee.
- Ed Hassinger, MoDOT's Chief Engineer, will serve as the vice chair to the Chief Engineers Committee.
- Mabelle Watkins, MoDOT's Planning Director, will serve as vice chair to the Planning Committee.
- Scott Marion, MoDOT's Motor Carrier Service Director, who was recently elected as the chairman of the MAASTO Motor Carrier committee, will remain as chair and work in the role as liaison to the committee.
- John Cauwenbergh, MoDOT's Assistant Chief Counsel, will serve as vice chair to the Chief Counsel's Committee.

4. MAASTO Annual Conference

Director Wray provided the board with an overview from the 2017 MAASTO Annual Conference which was held in Cleveland, Ohio. The director reported the total number of conference attendees was 586. After expenses and "seed money" were subtracted from the total amount of the conference income, \$91,146.00 was deposited into the MAASTO treasury.

Director McKenna along with several other board members complimented Director Wray, Terri Barnhart, and all the Ohio DOT staff for working hard and providing an excellent conference for all those that attended the annual event.

Director McKenna and Secretary Blankenhorn announced the 2019 annual MAASTO Conference will be held in Indiana and the Illinois DOT will host the 2020 conference in Chicago.

Director Stuedle provided the committee with an update on the 2018 MAASTO Annual Conference scheduled to be held in Traverse City, Michigan. Director Stuedle said everything is on track to make next year's conference a huge success.

The board then discussed the cost of registration fees for those MAASTO states interested in attending next year's conference. After a thorough discussion on the topic of revenues generated during the 2017 annual meeting and the funds currently available in the association's bank account; Director Stuedle made a motion that the registration fees for those MAASTO states interested in attending the 2018 conference be waived.

Director Wray seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of the board.

5. Committee Reports

On behalf of the Strategic Transportation Initiatives Committee (STIC) Joel Skelley, Kansas DOT reported the following:

- MAASTO Annual report – The annual report has been finalized and a link to the report is on the MAASTO's home webpage. Thanks to Illinois and Iowa for making this happen.
- Resolution and White Paper – The MAASTO white paper and resolution for a discretionary rural transportation program have been well received by all MAASTO states and presented to several White House officials. Director McKenna is expected to present the white paper before the AASHTO board of directors during their annual board meeting.
- Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) Survey Update – The MAASTO FAC survey is making its way to FACs in MAASTO states. The results will likely be shared at the May board meeting or possibly during the spring summit.
- Truck Platooning – A working group with representation from nine MAASTO states continues its effort towards a regional model for truck platooning. The goal is to complete most of its work by

the end of this calendar year so states can use the results to engage their legislature on platooning if they desire. STIC recently completed a survey of state platooning laws and are now preparing for outreach to the private sector to gather their input.

- **Truck Axle Weight Study** – Polly Kent, MDOT reported that initial thoughts from MAASTO states have determined there may not be a critical mass of interested states to move forward with a pooled fund study. It has also been determined that the pavement research portion of the project may take longer to complete than originally thought.

Paul Loete, IDOT reported the following on behalf of the Chief Engineers Committee:

- **MASH Standards** - It appears at this time that FHWA and AASHTO will work together for determining the direction needed to implement MASH standards for guardrail. The committee will monitor their progress.
- **Right-of-Way Demands** – All MAASTO states are witnessing the same concerns that are being placed on their respective states right-of-ways. Mowing concerns, pollinator issues and utility locations are placing demands on public property.

Mark Gieseke, MnDOT reported that the Planning Committee continues to monitor and track the use of its consulting services for the freight study currently underway.

Jay Wunderlich, MoDOT, on behalf of the Motor Carrier Committee reported the MAASTO subcommittee on Highway Transport held its annual meeting on September 25 to 27 in Kansas City, Missouri. The committee has been working with other MAASTO committees to research and develop a proposed truck platooning regulatory model.

6. Emphasis as President of MAASTO

Director McKenna shared his goals of what he hopes to achieve as president with the MAASTO Board. These special emphases included:

- **Safety** - Encourage and promote safety initiatives among the MAASTO states that could reduce or eliminate disabling injuries of the traveling public such as Missouri's "Buckle Up Phone Down" campaign.
- **Autonomous Vehicle Technology** - MAASTO should support movement on the federal level that could provide a framework for states to work within to advance the use of autonomous vehicle technologies.

MAASTO should consider adopting a form of the "smart cities" concept along the borders of each adjoining state for modeling and planning purposes to address capacity and congestion issues.

The MAASTO region should lead the study on "connective analytics" as it relates to *incident management* for altering the travel of the general public during times of accidents and *demand management* as it relates to incentivizing the traveling public to alter their driving habits during times of congestion.

- **Federal Funding** - For the next several years, it is becoming increasingly evident that the federal government will have little or no opportunity to provide additional federal transportation revenues to state departments of transportation. MAASTO states need to continue to educate their respective elected officials on the need to fully fund the transportation system and retain allocation formulas. States need funding, not financing tools.
- **Freight Harmonization** - Continue to support and advance past-president Blankenhorn's efforts to harmonize freight movements between MAASTO states.

- **Rural Infrastructure Needs/Investment** - Promote the needs for increased investments in rural infrastructure (i.e. local roads and off system bridges, etc.).

A general discussion was held by the board members who stated that many of Director McKenna's statements are core principles of MAASTO. Secretary Blankenhorn used the example of freight and how one single point of failure can impact large shipments of good and services (referring to the Mississippi river ways).

This conversation lead into comments made by Director Steudle who said that the MAASTO board needs to look into creating a program that can assist new CEOs become more familiar with understanding who MAASTO is and what it can do for the mid-American region of the nation. Director Steudle suggested some form of educational material on what is the purpose of MAASTO? What are the association's beliefs? Where does its money come from and how are monies spent? A simple general purpose document that can be used to educate new CEOs on the importance of MAASTO.

No action was taken.

7. Spring Summit

A discussion was held by the board on continuing to have a Spring MAASTO Summit.

Director McKenna stated there are a lot of activities currently being discussed in Congress regarding the next transportation act and a spring summit could be timely.

Director Steudle mentioned that he was in favor of having another spring summit as long as it was a productive meeting and easy to travel to.

Director McKenna asked that the STIC committee work together to see what topics and agenda could be put together for the 2nd week in April 2018.

Secretary Blankenhorn made a motion that MAASTO pay for hotel and meals for and MAASTO CEOs or any committee member who would like to participate in the 2018 spring summit.

Director Steudle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

8. Open Discussion

Director Wray discussed the possibility of utilizing the MAASTO organization as a way to help promote member state DOTs with conferences and activities that could benefit all who attend. Specifically, the MAASTO organization could assist with the payment of expenses (such as speakers) for a particular MAASTO state's conference; MAASTO could be recognized as being a co-sponsor of the event; and MAASTO member states could have the opportunity to send a small delegation of interested attendees to the conference. Details would have to be flushed out.

After discussion, Director Wray made a motion that a MAASTO sponsorship program be explored and created by the STIC committee and brought back to the board for approval at a later date.

Commissioner Zelle seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a vote of the board.

Director McKenna brought up the issue of the need for the board to appoint a representative from the MAASTO region to serve on the steering committee of the AASHTO Transportation Policy Forum. This position serves a two year term.

Secretary Blankenhorn made a motion to appointment Justine Sydello, IDOT to service as the MAASTO representative.

Director McKenna seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

Secretary Blankenhorn also stated that during the 2018 Annual MAASTO board meeting, the CEOs will have the opportunity to elect from the MAASTO region their candidate for the vice president position on the AASHTO board.

No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jay Wunderlich
MAASTO Secretary

