



## **MAFC Research Agenda Approval – 2017-2018**

The Planning Committee requests that the **MAASTO Board of Directors approve three MAFC research projects** that have been prioritized by the Planning Committee. Input from the Motor Carrier Committee, as well as discussions at the April Freight Summit, have also been considered with the prioritization of these projects. The three projects recommended for approval are:

- **Identification and Characterization of Major Freight Corridors, 10 months, \$80,000**
- **Quantifying the Value of Modal Investments, 12 months, \$100,000**
- **OSOW support for MC committee and SCOHT, 3 months, \$30,000**

Additional projects from the prioritized MAFC list of 11 projects, along with research ideas generated at the freight summit will be considered at the July MAASTO meeting where the budget for MAFC will also be discussed.

Brief project descriptions for the three recommended projects are listed below.

### **Identification and Characterization of Major Freight Corridors and their Economic Significance**

Summary: Ranked 6 and then moved to higher priority rank based on discussions at the April freight summit regarding the need to identify key multimodal freight corridors and their economic significance. A better understanding of key multistate, multimodal corridors provides a solid base to initiate regional corridor planning and operations.

Similar to the 2013 MAFC Regional Freight Study, this effort would update the 2013 freight corridors and facilities and provide a current portrayal of the region's multimodal freight infrastructure. The effort would also draw from the nationally defined multimodal network and the state's efforts to identify critical rural and urban corridors. The project would also produce individual state and regional freight facts brochures that highlight the nature and scope of freight and freight movement, the economic importance of freight and logistics and how the multimodal system serves local business and industry as well as connects the state and region to the world.

Deliverables:

- Updated maps and details on regional multimodal freight systems, corridors and facilities including the loads and significance each corridor or facility.
- Freight Facts brochure for each state and the region that details the modes and corridors, economic importance, jobs, commodities, trading partners, scale and national ranking of the freight systems.

### **Quantifying the Value of Multimodal Freight Investments**

Summary: Ranked 1

Quantifying the economic impact of infrastructure investments is key to understanding and communicating the value of multimodal investments. This project reviews current economic models to evaluate investments and then will develop an easy to use economic model that estimates the value of freight investments.



Deliverables:

- A list of the multimodal funding programs in use across the MAFC, the types of projects funded by these programs, and the cost of these projects.
- A literature review of current economic analysis tools.
- Develop usable economic analysis tool that provides an assessment of the value of multimodal investments, and can be used as a project prioritization tool. Project will consider matrix based solutions as well as spread sheet and economic modeling.

**OSOW Harmonization Support for MC and SCOHT Committees**

Summary: Ranked 2

OSOW freight makes up a very small portion of CMV traffic, but has significant economic value. Additionally, harmonization efforts for OSOW regulations and permitting have been underway for quite some time with slow progress due to required state legislative changes, state perspectives and real and perceived differences in state transportation needs and systems. MAFC will work with the MAASTO SCOHT, the MAASTO Motor Carrier Committee and the states to identify the current and past efforts in harmonization and then support the priority effort as determined and agreed upon by MAASTO.

Identified Deliverables:

- A comparison of each state’s OSOW regulations.
- A review of past and current harmonization efforts in the MAASTO region.
- Research and facilitation support for the priority harmonization efforts for the MAASTO region.

Below is the full prioritized list of MAFC research projects to be considered in July, which will likely be augmented with research ideas generated at the freight summit in April.

Project Title	Rank	Cost Estimate	Duration
Quantifying the Value of Multimodal Freight Investments	1	\$100,000	12 months
OSOW Harmonization	2	\$30,000	3 months
Truck Parking in Urban Areas	4	\$100,000	14 months
Autonomous Truck Corridors: Preparing for the Future	5	\$50,000	6 months
Identification and Characterization of Major Freight Corridors and their Economic Significance	6	\$80,000	10 months
TPIMS Performance Metrics and Data Warehouse	7	\$90,000/year	36 months
Developing Regional Performance Measures	8	\$60,000	6 months
Regional Supply Chain Optimization Study	9	\$100,000	12 months
Competitive Grant Template	10	\$60,000	6 months
Regional Assessment of Shipping Container Access	10	\$100,000	12 months