Safety Issues

Some highlights of the November 3rd Safety Issues Workshop follow:

What are the current large truck safety issues in Wisconsin?

- Crash factors: automobile driver error, CDL training (early and continuing), highway engineering
- Truck driver training and experience
- Increasing vehicle size disparity

What (if any) changes to TSW regulations should the State consider and what would be the impacts on Wisconsin?

- Increase standards for drivers (experience, training etc.) to place the best drivers behind the wheel of larger trucks
- Standardization of postings and permits
- Special permit management conditions (including routing)
- Application of permit fees to directly related activities (infrastructure, enforcement, etc.)
- Ability to audit carriers, shippers (civil enforcement capability)
- Performance measurement and data collection of large truck fleet
- Increase enforcement capacity

What truck safety countermeasures should the State consider adopting?

- Technologies (especially driver assistive e.g. stability control)
- Build safety conditions (driver performance, fleet performance, etc.) into special permit management conditions

The study’s recommendations will ultimately focus on improving economic efficiencies in the State while improving or (at minimum) maintaining the safety performance of Wisconsin’s roadways. By emphasizing safer large truck configurations and reducing truck VMT, there is a possibility of improving Wisconsin’s large truck safety record.

Large Truck Crashes

Nationally, as well as in the State of Wisconsin, the number of large truck crashes and fatalities and the rate of large truck crashes and fatalities is trending downward while large truck vehicle mileage continues to increase.

However, there remain significant differences in large truck crash rates when examined at the county level. Shown below with the highest crash rates in red and lowest in dark green, in addition to Milwaukee County, the counties that are experiencing large truck crash rates at least 125 percent higher than the statewide average rate (116 large truck crashes per 100 million VMT) include rural counties of Menominee, Calumet, Taylor and Adams.