

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FREIGHT COALITION

2010 CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

BUILDING BLOCKS

Over the past four years, the MVFC has done a number of projects that could serve as building blocks for future work:

1. **BOTTLENECKS:** Freight bottlenecks from across the region have been identified through existing data sources and through surveys and interviews with carriers. This could be an important data source for further planning.
2. **TRUCKING PARKING:** The locations of existing parking and the need for added truck parking have been documented for the region. This, too, could be a useful source of information for further planning.
3. **CORRIDOR RESILIENCY:** Using GPS data, the impact of major natural events is being analyzed for the region. This information provides a view of how that system operates under pressure and how well it responds to and recovers from incidents. This could be a solid source of information for planning for operational strategies.
4. **PROFILES OF COMMODITY FLOWS:** The county-to-county commodity flows have been documented across the region based on FAF information. Steps have also been taken to develop a micro-simulation model that would allow flows to be analyzed in even greater detail. Next steps might be to use the FAF-based information for a regional planning effort, or to dedicate additional resources to refine and expand the micro-simulation model, which could prove to be an even more robust planning tool.
5. **MIDWEST FREIGHT VIEW:** We have been building and refining this database of freight- relevant information for nearly a decade. It contains information on all modes and on business activity in the region. It could be a significant source of input into any future regional planning or policy analysis effort.
6. **REGIONAL INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE:** This effort to survey truckers on information needs and delivery preferences and states on data availability could provide a base for moving ahead with regional traveler information tools.
7. **REGIONAL IMPACT OF FREIGHT PROJECTS:** When completed this set of tools and processes should provide a way of evaluating the regional significance of projects. It could be an input into planning and policy analysis from a regional perspective.
8. **OUTREACH, PLANNING AND TRAINING:** These three efforts provide information that could be used to prepare additional training efforts or to do a more coordinated outreach to the policy makers or public.
9. **REAUTHORIZATION, ETC:** The effort to find regional approaches to federal reauthorization, coupled with previous work for the Surface Transportation Commission and to define a regional freight agenda, have done a good job of producing a set of regional freight policies. These could be input for future planning efforts.

