

November 1, 2016

State Legislative Truck Size and Weight Harmonization Draft Study available for public comment

A draft of the study initiated by the North Dakota Legislature to examine impacts of harmonizing truck size and weight regulations with surrounding states has been completed and is now available for public comment.

The study, conducted by the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) at North Dakota State University is available for review and public comment on UGPTI's website at <http://www.ugpti.org/downloads/truck-harmonization/>. Comments on the study will be compiled and submitted to the North Dakota Legislature along with the finalized study when the Legislature convenes in January.

The primary objectives of the study are to conduct a comprehensive analysis of current legal truck configurations in North Dakota and analyze the effects of potential changes to current configurations and legal weight limits including the use of double and triple trailer combinations and tridem axle and spread axle tractor-semitrailer combinations. The study examines the potential impacts of increasing the maximum commercial truck envelope limits at 129,000 lbs. gross vehicle combination weight or 110 feet in overall length.

The study was advised by an executive committee comprised of a broad group of state and local agencies, industry representatives and stakeholders from agriculture, trucking, and freight organizations. In the 137-page draft of the study, the analysis serves as a starting point for an economic impact analysis which considered the effects on statewide economic productivity and major industry groups.

Comments should be submitted no later than December 1, 2016 by reviewing it on the UGPTI website at <http://www.ugpti.org/downloads/truck-harmonization/> or by emailing comments to truckharmonization@ugpti.org.