

# IDAHO POTATO PULSE



Brought to you by the Idaho Potato Commission  
Website: [www.idahopotato.com](http://www.idahopotato.com)

The Idaho Transportation Department is updating its Freight Study/Rail Plan. Travis Blacker, IGSA and myself are serving on the Committee as representatives of the potato industry. Below you will find information on local forums scheduled around the State beginning in Rexburg on July 10. If you want to know what the Committee is considering, you should go to one of these workshops. Your voice will make a difference in guiding Idaho's transportation priorities.

## IDAHO FREIGHT

### Freight Study/Rail Plan Update

- Conducting briefings and stakeholder interviews.
- Collecting last remaining bits of available data. Drafted existing conditions reports.
- Conducted 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee meeting.
- Please attend your local Regional Freight Forums to be held in July ...

**Rexburg:** The Development Company, 299 E. 4th N.  
July 10, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Pocatello:** City Council Chambers, 911 7th Street  
July 11, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Boise:** Dept. of Agriculture Conference Center, 2270 Old Penitentiary Rd.  
July 12, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Twin Falls:** College of Southern Idaho, Taylor Building, Room 277  
July 17, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Coeur d'Alene:** Public Library, 702 E Front Ave.  
July 24th – 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST

**Lewiston:** Lewiston Community Center, 1424 Main Street  
July 25th – 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PST

Please pass the invitation along to your stakeholders. A flyer for the workshops can be found at this link:  
[http://itd.idaho.gov/Freight\\_Workshop\\_Poster.pdf](http://itd.idaho.gov/Freight_Workshop_Poster.pdf).

### Local Action

- Lewiston Port Authority receives TIGER grant! For more info: <http://www.ioc.com/press-release/port-freight-projects-awarded-79-million-tiger-iv-infrastructure-grants?page=3>
- Union Pacific 150 year anniversary coming up next week!
- The Idaho Trucking Association Annual Conference to be held in McCall during the first week of August.
- Union Pacific hopes Operation Lifesaver program will stem rail deaths, accidents, for more info: [http://www.lodnews.com/news/article\\_8cc8b33a-d70c-5d11-80f7-9f91fca3a27a.html](http://www.lodnews.com/news/article_8cc8b33a-d70c-5d11-80f7-9f91fca3a27a.html)

## KEY ISSUES SPOTLIGHT

## LEGISLATION

### **Reauthorization of Transportation Bill**

The House and Senate today passed a new two-year \$105 billion surface transportation reauthorization bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The measure, H.R. 4348, passed the House 373-52. The Senate passed the bill 74-19. <http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/062912reauthorization.aspx>. A summary of freight related information is provided below (thank you to the AASHTO Freight Transportation Network):

#### National Freight Transportation Policy, Network, Strategic Plan

**Policy:** Congress will establish a National Freight Transportation policy and goals "to improve the condition and performance of the national freight network to ensure that the national freight network provides the foundation for the United States to compete in the global economy"

**Network:** Within 1 year of enactment, USDOT will establish a National Freight Network, consisting of a primary freight network as well as any portions of the Interstate Highway system that do not fall under the primary freight network, and critical rural freight corridors. The primary freight network is initially limited to 27,000 total lane miles of highways, with a variance of an additional 3,000 miles. The primary freight network will also be redesignated every 10 years. Various factors for this primary freight network designation are included in the report.

**Strategic Plan:** Within 3 years of enactment and every 5 years following, USDOT in consult with the States and others will develop a National freight Strategic Plan

#### State Freight Plans

The Secretary shall encourage each State to develop a freight plan that provides a comprehensive plan for the immediate and long-range planning activities and investments of the State with respect to freight. This plan may be separate or included in the State's Long Range Plan.

#### State Freight Advisory Committees

The Secretary shall encourage each State to establish a freight advisory committee consisting of a representative cross-section of public and private sector freight stakeholders, including representatives of ports, shippers, carriers, freight-related associations, the freight industry workforce, the transportation department of the State, and local governments

#### Federal matching formula

For freight projects eligible under Sec. 1115 and within a State Freight Plan, there is a 95-5 federal share for projects on the Interstate Highway System and a 90-10 share for other eligible projects. Eligibilities and requirements are included in the Conference Report.

#### Retention of Sec. 130

Section 130 Highway-Railgrade crossing dedicated funding is retained

#### Permitting divisible loads for emergency relief

Following a national emergency disaster declaration, a state may permit the movement of an oversize/overweight divisible load used solely for the purpose of delivering relief supplies.

#### TSW Study

Included in Commercial Vehicle Safety language is a comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Study. SCOHT members should be on the lookout for a follow-up e-mail from us with more analysis and information

#### **And, in other federal legislation news...**

##### **Study of Rural Transportation**

The Senate passed a \$500 billion, five year farm bill on Thursday, June 21, which included an amendment regarding a study of rural transportation issues. For a copy of the bill: [www.1.usa.gov/fullfarmbill](http://www.1.usa.gov/fullfarmbill)

## TRENDS/NEWS

### **Editorial: Life Is Good**

<http://www.ttnews.com/articles/basetemplate.aspx/storyid=29327&t=Editorial-Life-is-Good>

### **Amtrak Wins Round in Battle With Railroads**

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2012/06/01/47054.htm>

**Trucking conditions improve 'significantly' in April: FTR**

[http://www.trucknews.com/news/trucking-conditions-improve-significantly-in-april-ft/1001446785/xOps44wM6s4r70xW8q3M8307vM6vo/?link\\_source=aypr\\_TN&AF=&utm\\_source=TN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=TN-ENO6112012&link\\_target=DailyNews](http://www.trucknews.com/news/trucking-conditions-improve-significantly-in-april-ft/1001446785/xOps44wM6s4r70xW8q3M8307vM6vo/?link_source=aypr_TN&AF=&utm_source=TN&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TN-ENO6112012&link_target=DailyNews)

**Port of Portland Longshore Dispute Backs Up Cargo Across the Northwest**

[http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/06/union\\_dispute\\_leads\\_to\\_delays.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/06/union_dispute_leads_to_delays.html)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **REDIFIT**

The mission of the Idaho Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation (REDIFIT) Program is to assist businesses and industries to develop and expand options for shipping freight and products to market. The intent of the funding is to support planning and development of Intermodal Commerce Authorities that will help to develop and expand options for shipping freight and products to market. For more information, follow this link:

<http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/Marketing/transportation.php>

## RESOURCES (DATA, PUBLICATIONS, TRAINING/EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES)

**Talking Freight Webinar Series - Siting of Freight Facilities**

July 18, 2012; 1:00 - 2:30 pm EDT; <http://fhwa.acrobat.com/freight>