



Newsletter
March 2017

Working Together to Create a Safer, More Dependable, and Efficient Corridor

Annual Meeting

Our meeting this year will be held on April 23-25 at the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, WV. We have a great program scheduled that includes a cross-sector panel session and talks on developments in incident management, advanced freight management systems, future highways, truck parking, the state of rail freight, corridor infrastructure improvements, insight from manufacturers, and connected and automated vehicles. We will also discuss new directions for the coalition and how we will better serve our stakeholders.

Registration is now open and you can reserve your spot, get your room, check out the agenda or get sponsorship/exhibitor information from our website. Follow this link to get starter. www.i-81coalition.org If you have any questions or issues please call Carolyn @ 540-231-3589.

From the Executive Director

I've been traveling our corridor to reach out to our existing and potential members to garner support and learn more about stakeholder concerns and interests. I traveled recently to PA where Rick Rovegno and I visited with those ranging from local fire and police to Transportation Secretary Richards. On the way home I spent some time in WV learning more about their corridor concerns and spoke with the Berkeley County Council. I participated in a Virginia Legislative session that focused on I-81 and traveled to TN to meet Transportation Commissioner Schroer and others at TDOT and the Lakeway MPO. I'm headed back to TN for a Freight Advisory Committee meeting on March 23. A more comprehensive list of outreach activities is included at the right.

Our Steering Committee has prioritized regular communication amongst coalition membership by sector and I'm happy to report that we've been able to facilitate four such meetings between both State-Level and Regional sectors. The first State-Level meeting was held in-person in Winchester in Nov. 2016 with attendees ranging from TN to PA. We are planning to continue these discussions and are planning to add comparable events with corporate members in the near future.

A (Somewhat) New Direction

While there are myriad issues facing our corridor we're focusing our efforts in three primary areas that support the larger goals of safety, reliability, and quality of life. These are:

- **Incident Prevention**—Most crashes that result in major upset to the corridor involve trucks. Better freight information systems and vastly improved truck parking will reduce the risk of heavy vehicle crashes. We are currently preparing a multi-state freight information system and truck parking reservation system proposal. We are working with Schneider National to gain access to driver hours-of-service data to do a parking needs assessment.
- **Incident Management**—In many cases impediments to quick incident clearance can be addressed with better training, policy, legislation, and technology. We are working to become a clearinghouse of training information and events for the corridor. Cross-border tabletop sessions are also planned. Through our state-level sector meetings we're sharing information on new policy and legislation. We will also share information on the application of proven technologies that enable quicker clearance.
- **Corridor of the Future**—We have a great opportunity to lead the way in preparing our corridor for the future and for applying already proven methods in communication, automation, aerial-based sensing, and elsewhere to enhance safety, travel reliability, and efficiency. Our corridor is somewhat uniquely situated to lead the nation in these efforts due to our location, topography, weather, growth, and freight loading.

Recent Selected Outreach Activities

Dec. 12-13—National Coalition for Truck Parking - Washington, DC-spoke on behalf of the coalition, (FHWA and FMCSA Administrators present)

Jan. 8-11—Transportation Research Board – Washington, DC

Jan. 12—Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC)-Front Royal, VA (presentation on I-81 CC)

Jan. 16—Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board Legislative Briefing – Richmond, VA (this meeting specifically targeted I-81 related issues)

Jan. 19—NRVRC TAC Meeting – Radford, VA (regional freight plan discussion)

Feb. 7-8—PennDOT and FHWA visit along with Dauphin County Safety Director and County Commissioners Chief Clerk, and Tri-County Regional Planning Commissioner Executive Director

Feb. 9—Presented to the Berkeley County Commissioners, Martinsburg, WV

Feb. 28—Attended the UAS in Public Safety, Emergency and Disaster Response Conference in Crozet, VA

Mar. 8—Presented at the Lakeway MPO, Morristown, TN met TDOT Commissioner John Schroer and Deputy Commissioner Toks Omishaken

Have anything you would like to share, please send it in

Be sure to look us up on the following, then like or :

<https://www.facebook.com/i81CorridorCoalition>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/I-81-Corridor-Coalition-8534260/profile>

<https://twitter.com/i81coalition>

www.i-81coalition.org

