TZD and Commercial Motor Vehicles: Bridging the Gap

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Main Topics

• What is the Weight and Safety Program?
  • Why is it important?

• Engineering strategies for reducing commercial vehicle crashes
  • What tools does our office have?
  • Things to keep in mind during the design process.
Minnesota Weight and Safety Enforcement Program

- MnDOT works with the Minnesota State Patrol to keep our roads safe.
- Program areas in truck safety, school bus safety, specialty transportation providers (STSS, limos), oversize/overweight permits.
- Required by federal law.

Why is Weight Enforcement Important?

- Weight enforcement and safety inspections are needed to protect the safety, wellbeing and health of the public, operators, freight owners and Minnesota’s infrastructure.
- According to latest estimates, illegal overweight vehicles cause $42 million of damage to Minnesota’s trunk highway system each year.
Enforcement Programs

- **Roadside Inspection Program** – throughout the state carried out in coordination with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration guidelines

- **Mandatory Inspection Program** – annual inspection of vehicles that transport hazardous materials, have a gross weight of more than 26,000 pounds, are a school bus, or self-propelled mobile equipment mounted on a vehicle chassis that weigh more than 26,000 pounds.

Commercial Vehicle Truck Traffic Trends
**Available Resources for Designers**

- **SUPERLOAD Utility Resource Map**
  - Filter clearances on MnDOT utility lines, overhead signs and signals on state highways, and details on electrical services in different areas of Minnesota.

- **Width of Roadway Map**
  - Displays travel lane widths for MnDOT’s two-lane undivided highways in three different travel lane width classes: 10 ft., 11 ft., 12 ft. or greater.
  - You can also view the location of Metro rush hour zones and restricted travel areas.
  
  [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/index.html)

**Available Resources for Designers**

- **Prevent Crashes & Minimize Crash Severity**
  - Separate Commercial Vehicles out of the stream of traffic
    - Encourage trucks to use alternative routes
    - Create a truck only lane through the work zone
  
- **Work Zone Design and Maintenance**
  - Maintaining sufficient truck parking nearby
  - Maintain good retroreflectivity (sign, device and pavement markings)
  - Establish and enforce work zone speed limits
  - Avoid the creation of traffic queues/Provide warning of stopped or slow traffic ahead
  - Avoid using short or no acceleration lane entrance ramps
Available Resources for Commercial Vehicle Drivers

- Guide for New Commercial Vehicle Operators
  - [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/new_operator.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/new_operator.html)
  - Fact sheets
  - Statutes and Rules
  - Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations

- Statewide Truck-Weight Education Training
  - [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/training/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/training/)
    - Online Training
    - Commercial Motor Vehicle driver training (not CDL training)
    - Passenger Transportation Classes (limousine and special transportation services)
    - OSOW permit training
    - Truck Weight Education Training

Available Resources for Commercial Vehicle Drivers

Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS)

- [https://trucksparkhere.com/](https://trucksparkhere.com/)
- Minnesota 1 of 8 states with new technology
- 6 rest areas in Minnesota along I-35 and I-94
- Collects and broadcasts real time data

**HOW TPIMS WORKS**

1. Vehicle detection systems measure available parking in lots across each state
2. Parking data goes to states and 3rd party processors
3. Data is delivered to drivers
Things to Consider

- Design decisions that may affect commercial vehicles, oversize/overweight permitting and State Patrol’s ability to enforce laws
  - Narrower shoulder or lane widths
  - Roundabouts
  - Tighter turning widths

Coordination Opportunities

- Check the Commercial Vehicle volumes
- Consult the maps on the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicles Website
- Call our office
  - Shelly Meyer, Permits Supervisor
    651-366-3689
    and/or
    Rob Holschbach, Special Projects Coordinator
    651-355-0243
    Julie Whitcher
    651-366-3688
- [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/oversize/index.html)
Thank you!

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