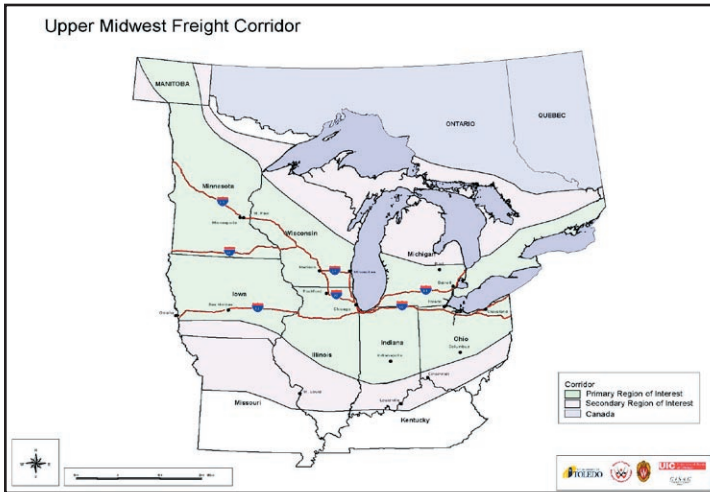




Executive Summary



Active since 2003, the Freight Corridor Coalition has been dedicated to meeting the challenges of freight movement and economic vitality in the Upper Midwest. To date, the seven states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa, as well as the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, have participated in the Freight Corridor Coalition along with the Federal Highway Administration and researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Illinois-Chicago, and the University of Toledo. The Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition's efforts focus on developing capacity, regulatory, planning, and public/private initiatives to help meet the nation's need for safe, efficient and sustainable infrastructure for the movement of goods. For more information, visit <http://www.uppermidwestfreight.org>.

Potential Activities

Prioritized at April 2006 Corridor Coalition Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

Short term priorities with immediate payoff:

- Collect improved regional data and continue to enhance Midwest FreightView database <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/>
- Document regional freight funding needs and consequences
- Create an ongoing regional organization
- Improve political and public understanding of freight
- Support multi-modal solutions for bottlenecks
- Address regulatory bottlenecks at border crossings
- Define a freight focal point in each state transportation agency

Longer term priorities:

- Support river and lake lock improvements
- Define a regional freight network
- Define the role and structures appropriate for public/private partnerships
- Develop model freight-related planning approaches
- Implement regional freeway management technologies; multistate traffic operations program (MSTOP)
- Consider modifications to Jones Act of 1920 – particularly provisions related to vessel production

The Vision

The Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition has a vision for the future movement of freight in the region. The three main elements are:

- **Cooperation across state and international borders**
- **Intermodal systems operation**
- **Adequate systems capacity**

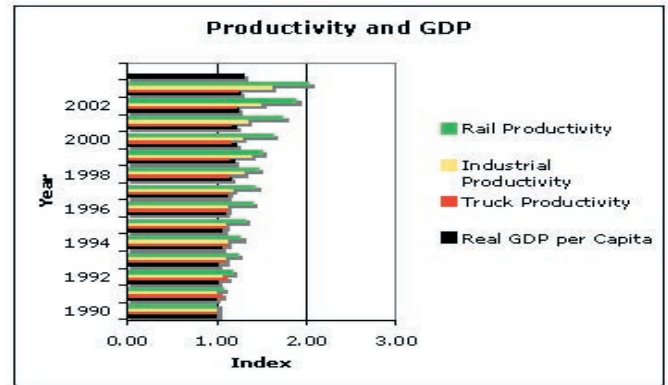
For more info, visit <http://www.uppermidwestfreight.org>.

Freight Data

The Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition has developed a regional database to provide stakeholders with the means to evaluate systems capacity and the patterns of freight flows within the Upper Midwest.

Take a look at <http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/>.

Freight and the Economy



Transportation investments produce productivity improvements and productivity improvements foster increases in GDP. Measures of productivity correlate very closely with GDP and other measures of economic growth.

The economy of the Upper Midwest is unique in that it is heavily reliant on manufacturing and agriculture. Both generate significant amounts of freight and are dependent upon efficient transportation systems to remain competitive in the global market.

-Excerpt from *Transportation and the Economy* white paper compiled by Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition, available at <http://www.uppermidwestfreight.org>.

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UPPER MIDWEST



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