



International Commerce & Mobility Forum

25 September 2024

Steering Comm Minutes

Date: 25 September 2024

Format: Virtual

Attendees: Mark Berndt, Jim Barton, John Pournoor, Tammy Heid, Andy Mielke, Justin Scott & Bill Goins chairing

Purpose of the Meeting: To review and finalize the agenda for ICM Forum #7 and discuss initial plans and recommendations for ICM Forum #8.

Key Discussion Points:

- Finalization of the ICM Forum #7 agenda, including the newly secured FNOT contract.
- Discussion on topics and potential guest speakers for ICM Forum #8.
- Introduction of potential collaboration opportunities for freight program managers and digital twin technology.
- Insights on federal funding opportunities and positioning Minnesota for future grants.

Notable Contributions:

- **Mark Berndt** discussed inviting freight program managers from other cities (e.g., St. Louis) to join ICM Forum #8, possibly as a panel. He also mentioned the Smart Cities Grant as a potential funding source for carbon footprint reduction initiatives.
- **Jim Barton** raised a thought-provoking question regarding the vision for a freight plan in 2025, asking for further input from committee members.
- **John Pournoor** emphasized the importance of external voices to gain insights on federal funding allocation, especially for Minnesota. He also highlighted the need to proactively apply for grants at the start of the legislative session.
- **Tammy Heid** supported the idea of having a panel of freight program managers, considering it a valuable addition to Forum #8.
- **Mark Berndt** revisited the concept of a digital twin, referring to previous discussions and a white paper from ICM Forum #6. He suggested exploring its use for freight modeling optimization, with Kale Info Solutions potentially providing a regional case study.
- **Andy Mielke** pointed out the importance of behind-the-scenes engagement with Met Council staff, specifically Steve Elmore and Steve Peterson, to align Forum #8 topics with their strategic goals.

Actions:

- Approval of the ICM Forum #7 agenda, including the addition of a 45-minute block for FNOT discussion.

Next Steps:

- Continue refining the ICM Forum #8 agenda, considering the inclusion of freight program managers from other cities.
- Explore potential funding from the Smart Cities Grant for multimodal freight initiatives.



- Further discuss and develop the digital twin concept with a focus on freight optimization.
- Initiate conversations with Met Council members to ensure alignment with regional transportation goals.

Next Meeting Details:

Date: TBD (early December 2024 or early-mid January 2025)

Time: TBD

Location: Virtual or hybrid (details to follow)

Closing Notes:

With the FNOT contract finalized and plans for Forum #8 shaping up, the committee is well-positioned for upcoming discussions on freight and transportation innovation. Further input from committee members is encouraged to strengthen the agenda for future sessions.