



TEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATES TO HELP ADDRESS THE MIDWESTERN TRUCK DRIVER SHORTAGE

In May 2016, the MGA hosted its first Smartland Series discussion dedicated to the truck driver shortage in the Midwest. This meeting brought state staff together with trucking schools, associations, truck drivers, and industry for a productive discussion that resulted in recommendations to tackle this important issue.

- ✓ Identify solutions for truck bottlenecks. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) compiles an annual list of the top 100 worst truck bottlenecks nationwide. Illinois and Ohio each hold a spot in the top 10. Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, and Minnesota all have spots in the top 50. Nine MGA states comprise nearly a quarter of congested spots across the entire nation. These bottlenecks cost the industry billions of dollars each year. See the full list [here](#).
- ✓ Include truck parking requirements when awarding economic development grants.
- ✓ Support state legislation requiring headlights to be on if a car's windshield wipers are on. According to AAA, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana, do not currently have this law on the books. Iowa's law says "adverse weather," but not specifically wipers (Ohio says adverse weather and wipers). Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio have this wiper law on the books.
- ✓ Invite trucking industry representatives to have a seat at the table when drafting regulations or legislation that impact the industry and its employees.
- ✓ Review closed rest areas and truck stops and consider re-opening them, with a private partner, if necessary. Also consider opening truck weigh stations for after-hours parking to provide additional parking options for commercial drivers.
- ✓ Monitor federal hours-of-service legislation to ensure that the rules provide for driver safety without creating additional and unintended safety consequences (such as the 34-hour restart provision that required overnight breaks of 1-5 a.m., putting trucks on the road at the most congested time of the morning). This is the number one trucking industry issue for the past three years.
- ✓ Consider increasing and better promoting English as a second language (ESL) courses at driving schools so more citizens can study and earn their commercial driver's license (CDL).
- ✓ Enforce distracted driving laws for automobiles and increase public awareness about the dangers of distracted driving. This is a growing problem that is causing insurance rates to increase across the board and costs lives every day. According to AAA, every MGA state except Missouri prohibits texting while driving across the entire state for every driver.
- ✓ Issue a proclamation in recognition of National Truck Driving Appreciation Week, September 11-17, 2016. In addition, consider participating in a ride-along, a truck driver celebration, or visiting a trucking company during the week. A toolkit of resources is available [here](#).
- ✓ Promote truck driving as a career in high school vocational education classes and job training events and speeches.