

Briefing on MAP-21 Comprehensive Truck Size and Weight Limits Study  
For the SJR26 Study of Oversize Loads

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For the Revenue & Transportation Interim Committee  
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The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, commonly referred to as MAP-21, funds surface transportation programs for fiscal years 2013 and 2014. MAP-21, signed into law on July 6, 2012, was the first long-term highway funding authorization enacted since 2005.

MAP-21 included a provision directing the U.S. Department of Transportation to conduct a comprehensive study of truck size and weight limits. The study is supposed to:

- address differences in safety risks, infrastructure impacts, and the effect on levels of enforcement between trucks operating at or within federal truck size and weight limits and trucks legally operating in excess of federal limits;
- compare and contrast the potential safety and infrastructure impacts of alternative configurations to the current federal truck size and weight regulations; and
- estimate the effects of freight diversion due to these alternative configurations.

The study period is 2-year period that began in November 2012. The deadline for providing a report to Congress is November 2014. At this point, there is a project framework in place, proposals were received, contracts have been awarded to address the study areas, and the first stakeholder outreach event was held. Three more stakeholder outreach events are scheduled, and peer reviews are upcoming. The peer review group for this study includes Montana Department of Transportation Director Mike Tooley.

The focus of this study is truck size and weight limits and the impacts of these limits. The study does not seem to address, however, the larger oversize loads that are central to the Senate Joint Resolution No. 26 study of oversize load movement in Montana.

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