

7525 Red River Road Wahpeton, ND 58075 PH: (701) 642-8411 Website: www.mdf.coop



35 Hill Ave Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 PH: (850) 244-2332 Website: www.kratosdefense.com

08 September 2022

North Dakota Department of Transportation 608 East Boulevard Avenue Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Attention:Travis LutmanSubject:Kratos/MDFC Sugarbeet Hauling Platooning Plan

Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative (MDFC) has teamed with Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc. (Kratos) to launch self-driving trucks in Southern North Dakota. The objective for the deployment is to address the truck driver shortage burden to the Sugarbeet harvest supply chain and to ensure hauling capacity when qualified drivers are unavailable.

The self-driving truck deployment includes two MDFC trucks operating in a leader/follower platooning configuration with one human-driven leader truck and one driverless follower truck. The trucks will be traveling between piling locations in the Southern North Dakota region and the MDFC facility in Wahpeton, ND along designated routes.

Key points of the platooning deployment include:

- **Gap Distance**: Vehicle-to-Vehicle gap distance between Leader and Follower trucks will be maintained to 300 feet at a minimum.
- **Safety Rider**: A Safety Rider will be on-board the driverless Follower vehicle at all times during the deployment who will be able to take over manual control of the vehicle at anytime
- **Deployment Routes**: There are two routes identified for deployment between piling locations and the MDFC facility to include:
 - <u>Route 1 Galchutt Piling Location</u>: The trucks will drive to/from the MDFC facility along the following route:
 - MDFC facility to 75th St
 - 75^{th} St to 180^{th} Ave
 - 180^{th} Ave to 71^{st} St
 - 71st St to Galchutt Piling Location



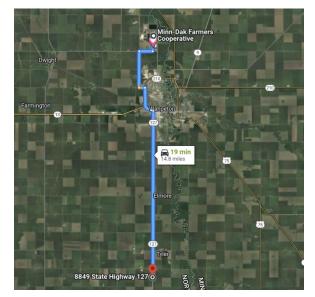


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- <u>Route 2 Tyler Piling Location</u>: The trucks will drive to/from the MDFC facility along the following route:
 - MDFC facility to Red River Road
 - Red River Road to 76th St
 - 76^{th} St to 181^{st} Ave
 - 181^{st} Ave to 16^{th} Ave
 - 16^{th} Ave to 210
 - 210 to 127
 - 127 to Tyler Piling Location



In addition to the key points of the platooning deployment listed, operation of the trucks along routes 1 and 2 will be in compliance with posted speed limits and operational rules.

We are excited to move forward with this adaptation of driverless vehicle technology in the State of North Dakota. Throughout this deployment effort we will continue to collaborate in a teamed approach with North Dakota Department of Transportation, Highway Patrol, and other stakeholders as we adapt this technology to address driver shortage issues impacting agriculture hauling capacity.

Thank you for your continued interest in this project and the invaluable insight offered to enable a safe and compliant leader/follower platooning deployment in North Dakota.

Thank you and best regards,

Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative

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