

ERNEST B. PERRY, PHD.

Administrator, Researcher and Facilitator for the Mid-America Freight Coalition (MAFC)



ROLE

Conduct state-defined research agenda. Support Stakeholder and State DOT participation in multistate activities.

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

25

YEARS AT MAFC/ UW-Madison

8

EDUCATION

B.S., Animal Science
University of Missouri –
Columbia, 1999

M.S., Rural Sociology
University of Missouri –
Columbia.

PhD, Rural Sociology
University of Missouri -
Columbia, 2003

SPECIALIZATION

► 11+ of experience in freight planning, and economic development, 25 years in transportation.

► Expertise in freight planning, truck parking, and waterways freight development.

► Expertise in federal and state transportation and freight policy.

► Expertise in developing and supporting transportation innovation such as truck platooning, truck parking information systems

► Expertise in research design

► Expertise in strategic planning and performance management

RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

► "Developing a Regional Regulatory Approach to Truck Platooning" 2017.

"Modal Investment Comparison: The case of the Mississippi River" 2017.

► "Quantification of the Value of Multimodal Investment" August 2018.

► "Status, Integration and the Future of Environmental Justice in Transportation agencies" 2003

Dr. Perry worked in the state DOT setting for 17 years and is now in his 8th year with MAFC at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. While at MoDOT Perry was the first socioeconomic impact specialist and provided for social and economic analysis for NEPA documents, developed and managed a social science research agenda in the research division, and worked as a performance management specialist for freight and economic development efforts. Perry then was charged with establishing a freight development unit at MoDOT where he conducted development research and activities to support the marine freight industry, trucking, aviation and rail industries. Many of these projects included economic development and analysis, and policy analysis.

As the administrator, facilitator and researcher for the Mid-America Freight Coalition, Perry works with the 10 MAASTO states to support regional freight development, development and management of multistate corridors, economic development, and innovative technologies such as truck platooning and truck parking information management systems. He also supports development of new approaches for states to comply with the recent freight planning and operations directives in transportation reauthorization. The MAFC research agenda is state defined. The 10 MAASTO states identify the research and development efforts they need.

Perry supports and assists with freight research and project collaboration across the 10 states of MAASTO. In addition to bringing peers together to share best practices across the states, he supports regional projects such the Truck Parking Information Management System and harmonization of platooning regulations in the Midwest. He has also worked to identify and prioritize multistate highway freight corridors, and multistate marine freight corridors.

Dr. Perry is a subject matter expert in freight and transportation policy, economic and community development, Great Lakes and inland river marine freight, freight planning, strategic planning and performance measurement, truck platooning, truck parking, customer satisfaction and survey methodologies, freight planning, and multistate collaboration. Perry was also part of the 2010 European Freight scan of 6 countries which addresses their multi-country freight policies, operations and planning.

RELATED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Policy Analysis and Technology

- Development of Midwest Regulatory model for Harmonization for Truck Platooning
- Truck Parking Information Management Systems
- Survey of State Designation of Critical Rural and Critical Urban freight Corridors.
- Participation on transportation reauthorization response team while at MoDOT
- Integration, Status and Future of Environmental Justice in Transportation
- Evaluation of Economic Models suitable for Multimodal Investment Comparisons
- Synthesis of state concerns and comments for the docket on transportation reauthorization
- Upper Mississippi River stakeholder survey

Planning

- MAFC Regional Freight Study
- Development of Strategic Plan for Wisconsin Commercial Ports

Relevant Publications, continued:

► "From the Ground up: Alignment of State Freight Plans to enhance state collaboration and regional and regional and national harmonization of freight policy" 2014

► "Development of Wisconsin Ports Strategic Plan Phase 1" 2015

► "Market Development for Wisconsin Ports, Phase II" 2016.

Professional Service:

► 2015-16 - Marine Highway-35 Advisory Committee member

► 2015-16 - Wisconsin Department of Transportation Freight Advisory Committee Member

► 2014-15 - Member Area Maritime Security Committee, United States Coast Guard. Marinette/Menomonee Rooster.

► 2014-15 - Review Team Member – America's Watershed Initiative.

► 2014-15 - Member Minnesota Department of Transportation Freight Planning Committee.

► Invited presentation to HWYH2O conference. November, 2015. Toronto, Canada.

► Invited presentation to Department of Energy Quadrennial Listening Session: Energy and Transportation. July 2014 Chicago, Ill.

► Invited presentation to National Freight Advisory Committee, Operations Committee. January 2014 Chicago, Ill.

► FHWA MAP-21 Critical Rural Corridors Working Group

► AASHTO MAP-21 Freight Working Group.

► Research Panel Member NCFRP 29. New Dedicated Revenue Mechanism for Freight Transportation Investment. 2010.

- From the Ground up: Alignment of State Freight Plans to enhance collaboration and multistate planning
- An evaluation of vacant urban land for truck parking
- Quick Reference guide for Freight in the FAST Act.
- The importance of a national freight policy and freight network for MAFC states: MAP21
- Critical rural freight corridor designation: Implications from truck percentage calculations.

Economic Analysis and Economic Development

- Implications of multimodal investments: Mississippi River closure and increased highway Truck Traffic.
- Quantifying multimodal Investments: analysis of existing models and their ability to compare investment across modes.
- Wisconsin commercial ports phase II: marine market development
- Top 5 strategies to advance MAASTO under MAP21: freight initiatives to support economic development.

SELECTED PROJECT BIOS

In his role with MAFC, Perry is in charge of coordination with 10 state dots to define the coalition's research agenda, complete the research design for state identified projects, execute the research, collaborate with state representatives to provide data and ensure the research reflects their needs.

- Midwest Regulatory Model for Platooning Harmonization. This project provides a literature review and history of platooning, identifies the benefits and complications of implementation, identifies appropriate corridors, and provides a list of legislative barriers across the states that hinder harmonization of truck platooning regulations. The report also provides a summary of states regulations and legislative actions. Nine specific regulations were identified that present the biggest barrier to platooning regulation harmonization and changes to these regulations were provided.
- From the Ground Up – alignment of state freight plans for enhanced collaboration and national leadership. This project reviewed the development of individual state freight plans and identified and shared best practices. The project also encouraged multistate efforts to manage corridors and pursue funding.
- Impacts of closure of the Upper Mississippi River on parallel highway corridors. This study identified pool by pool freight movements to identify agricultural freight headed downstream. The study provided the tonnage of goods moved south, and the likely highway routes the freight would travel if the river was closed. Then marginal costs to pavements, safety and livability are examined in light of the freight diversion to the highways.
- Evaluation of multimodal investments. This project reviews existing economic models' ability to evaluate investments between the modes. Most models are unable to provide for investment comparisons across the modes so states are left with no quantitative methods to evaluate investment in the different modes. After reviewing existing models the team created a matrix approach that includes economic modeling as well as classification of the projects based on qualitative factors.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

► Member Wisconsin DOT Freight Advisory Committee.

► Member Wisconsin DOT Intermodal Development Team.