Project Capsule

25-2SS

March 2025

Truck Parking Shortage: Improving Efficiency and Identifying Opportunities

PROBLEM

Real-time truck parking space availability is critical to maintain safety, hours of service compliance, and efficiency. The shortage of truck parking, however, has been a longstanding issue in the trucking industry in the United States. Industrial and residential developments are generating more truck trips and parking demand than local infrastructure can handle. Given that there are more than 11 truck drivers for every one parking space in the U.S., drivers often face challenges finding safe places to park, leading to fatigue, increased accidents, and disruptions to the supply chain. The Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act aims to address this problem by providing funding for the expansion of truck parking infrastructure. This legislation would set aside $755 million of the Highway Trust Fund for states to finance projects aimed at increasing the number of parking spaces for commercial truck drivers. However, parking is generally a local land use issue, and many cities lack effective codes and regulations to accommodate their commercial truck parking needs. As such, Louisiana risks being unable to compete for these federal funds.

OBJECTIVE

In coordination with the American Trucking Association (ATA) and American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), this project aims to address truck parking issues with short- and long-term solutions. The short-term solution is to identify what truck parking exists, how it is managed, and what and where Variable Message Signage (VMS) exists for truck drivers in Louisiana. The long-term solution is to develop guidance for truck parking ordinances that local jurisdictions are willing to adopt and help build more truck parking spaces.

METHODOLOGY

This project will employ the following methods to provide recommendations of short- and long-term solutions for truck parking issues in Louisiana: (1) review and synthesis, (2) survey and interview, (3) economic impacts, and (4) qualitative analysis. This will include eight tasks:

Start Date
December 15, 2024

Duration
15 months

Funding
SPR: TT-Fed/TT-Reg - 5

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1. **Project Kickoff:** The project will begin with a kickoff meeting that comprises the project review committee, project team, and other stakeholders.
2. **Investigating Truck Parking Status:** The project team will investigate both publicly and privately owned truck parking status and truck traffic in the state of Louisiana. This process will include visiting existing parking facilities, working with DOTD personnel to obtain existing data, contacting other regional and local transportation and planning agencies, and requesting information from freight transportation companies with a particular focus on where VMS exists and where it is needed.
3. **Literature Review:** The project team will conduct a thorough and comprehensive literature review on truck parking management and development including academic research, technical records, and federal and state efforts.
4. **Identifying Funding Sources:** In this task, funding sources will be identified and evaluated for specific situations from federal, state and local governments, the trucking industry, and other private sectors.
5. **Conducting Survey and Interviews:** Based on the literature review described above, the project team will design a survey to send to a broad range of stakeholders across the state, including state and local transportation and planning departments and agencies, trucking companies and drivers, and community residents.
6. **Analyzing Data and Synthesizing Information:** Truck parking status, survey, interview, and other data will be analyzed. These findings and the reviewed literature will be synthesized. A list of databases, programs and practices used by federal agencies, other states, truck companies, and other organizations will be provided.
7. **Developing Recommendations:** Considering the current truck parking status, the trucking industry's needs, local land use and zoning regulations, the community's concerns, economic impacts, and other factors, the project team will develop a short-term truck parking management plan and a long-term parking ordinance and guidance for state and local jurisdictions.
8. **Final Report:** The project team will prepare a final report outlining all findings and recommendations.

IMPLEMENTATION POTENTIAL

This project will yield data for immediate implementation. The results of the analysis will be shared with DOTD and several local and regional transportation authorities, including the Baton Rouge Capital Region Planning Commission, Lake Charles MPO Southwest Louisiana Regional Planning Commission, and New Orleans MPO Regional Planning Commission, to better manage and coordinate the current truck parking facilities. The guidance and sample ordinances produced from this research will provide DOTD, regional planning commissions, and local governments with the necessary tools to shape and improve local codes to develop additional truck parking throughout the state.