

Friday, March 18, 2016

Status update on the “*Overweight Permit Fee Structure Development*” research study

Background

Current federal law limits gross vehicle weight on most interstate highways to 80,000 pounds when distributed across five or more axles. Majority of the states, including Arizona, issues permit to higher weights when the load is considered “non-divisible”.

In 2011, ADOT started issuing overweight (OW) permits for trucks carrying non-divisible loads within a 25 miles radius of the Nogales Port of Entry (POE). The program has been very successful and is available for implementation at the San Luis and Douglas POEs. In 2013, the Arizona legislature introduced a revenue-sharing from the \$75 OW permit between ADOT, impacted cities, and impacted counties law that took effect in September of that year.

In 2014, the Port of Tucson (POT) and PAG approached ADOT regarding expanding the permit to allow OW trucks to travel from Nogales to the POT. ADOT Director instructed staff to initiate this study.

Objectives

- Assess the damage to the transportation infrastructure attributable to OW trucks using the I-19 corridor and the portion of I-10 that is required to travel from Nogales to the POT.
- Establish a framework for charging reasonable permit fees to OW trucks.
- Develop a mechanism to document OW truck traffic.
- Lessons learned from this study should be applicable and may be implemented on other corridors.

Outreach

The approach that ADOT is using to execute this study is very inclusive. Our consultant team, in collaboration with ADOT Communications staff, met with various stakeholders:

- County and municipality representatives.
- Chambers of commerce, Fresh Produce Association, Port of Tucson, Sonoran manufacturers, export brokers, and motor carriers.
- Reached out to interview Arizona Trucking Association, Swift, and Knight. Was unsuccessful.
- Task 3 will include another outreach effort to industry.

Status Update

The research study is divided into five tasks including multiple subtasks:

Task 1: Study Initiation – study was kicked-off on June 16, 2015, the work plan was finalized soon after

Task 2: Data Collection – complete, will be discussed on March 28 during a TAC meeting

Task 3: Analysis – in progress, to be complete by May 31, 2016

Task 4: Experimental Design – due by August 2016

Task 5: Final Report – final draft due by end of 2016