State News

Governor Wants Input from Businesses on Regulatory Burdens & How to Improve Them

Governor McMaster will be holding a series of roundtable style meetings with local business leaders across South Carolina during the month of June. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss regulatory matters and other issues that make doing business difficult.

SCTA – through its members - wants to participate by weighing in, particularly as it pertains to owning/operating CMVs and employing CDL drivers.

Please provide feedback immediately so that SCTA can be prepared to submit/transmit your concerns to Governor McMaster. Click here to Take the Survey

REAL ID Update

The legislation that passed this year requires SC to comply with federal law regarding REAL ID driver’s licenses. The SCDMV has begun the process of implementing these changes. Without the ID-compliant card, passport or other federally approved identification, state residents won’t be able to board a commercial flight or enter a secured federal facility (such as a military base or federal courthouse) after Oct. 1, 2020.

Individuals can apply for a REAL ID through the SCDMV beginning May 15, 2017. It is important to note that the SCDMV is in the process of implementing the new standards and while individuals may apply, the cards will not be available until late 2017/early 2018.

The SCDMV has begun the process of implementing these changes and has a comprehensive overview of the changes being made, processes and timelines available online – click here to learn more.

The state has been operating on extensions granted by the federal government. The state anticipates receiving another extension from the US Department of Homeland Security through October 10, 2017, and additional extensions after that date, while it works towards full compliance and implementation. This extension will allow drivers to enter federal facilities with their current license.

**Please note that the current June 6, 2017 deadline for compliance is expected to be extended through October 10, 2017; however, the SCDMV is currently waiting on formal notification from the feds that this extension has been granted. We will keep you updated of any changes with this expected extension.

Public Meeting in Georgetown County June 6 Concerning Proposed Roundabout

The SCDOT has scheduled a public information meeting Tuesday, June 6, 2017, for the proposed roundabout at Waverly Road and Petigru Drive in Georgetown County. The meeting will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Waccamaw High School cafeteria, 2412 Kings River Road, Pawleys Island. The meeting will have a drop-in type format with displays for viewing and citizens will have the opportunity to provide written comments. Click here for more details.
SCDOT Public Involvement Portal
There is a new feature on the SCDOT website that increases transparency and makes it easier to learn about projects in your area. The Public Involvement Portal allows easy access for you to:

- **Project Viewer**: this user-friendly map shows SCDOT projects in your area
- **Current Projects**: lists of usually larger-scale projects by area, with links to more information
- **Public Meeting Calendar**: information about upcoming public meetings in your area
- **Email signup**: receive notifications about public comment periods

Technical College of the Lowcountry Seeks CDL Instructor
The Technical College of the Lowcountry is beginning to implement a CDL program and is currently seeking a CDL instructor. [Details on the position can be found.](#)

Federal News

**Trump, Congress Head for Fight Over Tolls**
The White House and Congress are headed for a fight over President Trump’s desire to build new toll-ways on U.S. highways.

The administration is drafting plans to lift current tolling restrictions on interstate highways as part of an effort to upgrade the nation’s infrastructure.

But the contentious idea will be a tough sell in Congress, where lawmakers have generally been reluctant to broach the unpopular subject.

Trump’s idea for revitalizing U.S. roads, bridges, airports, and other public works relies heavily on private companies instead of the federal government to back transportation projects, which he says would speed up project delivery and bring down costs.

A six-page fact sheet on the infrastructure plan says Trump will pursue a proposal to lift a federal ban that prevents tolling on existing lanes of interstate highways. The infrastructure outline also calls for allowing private companies to construct, operate and maintain interstate rest areas.

“Tolling is generally restricted on interstate highways. This restriction prevents public and private in-vestment in such facilities,” the White House fact sheet says. “We should reduce this restriction and allow the states to assess their transportation needs and weigh the relative merits of tolling assets.”

When Congress created the Interstate Highway System in 1956, states were prohibited from tolling the interstates, with the exception of states that already had tolls in place. But lawmakers have slowly chipped away at the ban. Tolling is now allowed to add new capacity to an interstate highway or to re-construct a bridge.
Congress also created a pilot program in a 1998 highway bill that allows three states to explore tolling on their interstates, though none of them have yet utilized the program.

Proponents of tolling say it gives states more flexibility to pay for local transportation projects and would encourage more private sector involvement — two core principles in Trump’s infrastructure initiative.

Critics argue that tolling could create a new slew of problems, such as more traffic on local roads. “Tolls also hurt businesses, communities and economies where they are located,” said Stephanie Kane, spokesperson for the Alliance for Toll-Free Interstates.

Trump’s tolling proposal would need to win approval from both the tax-writing panels and the transportation authorizing committees before being brought to the floor. Stay tuned...

**Industry News**

**CVSA Gears Up for 30th Annual Roadcheck – June 6-8, 2017**

*Source: Transport Topics 05/29/17*

Will Schaefer, director of safety programs for the nation’s top commercial vehicle inspectors group, has some advice for motor carriers whose trucks will be on the road June 6-8: Make sure that your maintenance programs are keeping up with your vehicles and remind your drivers to keep their log books current.

During those dates, state and federal inspectors in the United States, Canada and Mexico will be conducting more than 60,000 heavy-truck and bus inspections during 72 hours of stepped-up enforcement. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Roadcheck, an annual Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance event that in 2017 will feature an emphasis on cargo securement compliance. Inspectors primarily will be conducting North American Standard Level I Inspections, the most thorough conducted on the roadside.

It’s a 37-step procedure that includes an examination of driver operating requirements and vehicle mechanical fitness. Drivers are required to provide items such as their driver’s license, hours-of-service documentation, motor carrier registration and shipping documentation. Inspectors also will be checking drivers for seat belt usage and the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

CVSA said the vehicle inspection includes the brake systems, cargo securement, coupling devices, driveline/driveshaft, exhaust systems, frames, fuel systems, lighting devices (required lamps), steering mechanisms, suspensions, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels, rims and hubs, and windshield wipers. *Read the article in its entirety: Transport Topics online.*

**Uber Retires Otto Brand Name**

Uber has quietly put the Otto brand name out to pasture, according to published reports out of San Francisco. As Forbes reports, “Uber consolidated Otto’s activities under its Advanced Technologies Group, or Uber ATG, in April and ‘retired the Otto name.’”
When Uber launched its much-anticipated Uber Freight brokerage app recently, some observers were surprised that it had nothing to do with autonomous trucks. While there’s much speculation that Uber Freight and the company’s autonomous truck division will eventually synchronize operations and offerings, the company is downplaying such talk, for now.

Supreme Court Scheduled to Confer on ELD Lawsuit Next Month
The U.S. Supreme Court could decide as early as June 8 whether it will hear the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association’s lawsuit against the federal government’s rule to mandate use of electronic logging devices for truck drivers.

Paul Cullen, the attorney representing OOIDA and two truckers in the case, said the Supreme Court’s justices will conference on June 8 to review OOIDA’s petition asking the court to take up its case. It will review the arguments presented by both sides in the case, Cullen said.

Other than deciding whether or not to hear the case, the justices could also seek more information from either OOIDA or the Department of Transportation, the defendant in the case, to help make their decision. That scenario could delay the justices’ decision about the petition, Cullen says.

So far, however, the courts have disagreed with OOIDA’s assertions. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the DOT and its Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in the case in a decision issued October 31. OOIDA also lost its bid for an appeal at the 7th Circuit level.

Truck Driver Input Needed on Parking Issues in and around Atlanta, GA
The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), the trucking industry’s not-for-profit research organization, is assisting the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) to better understand new or improved truck parking solutions to serve professional drivers traveling in, through and around the Atlanta, Georgia region.

ATRI is now seeking truck driver input through an online survey.
Please encourage your drivers to take a few minutes to participate in this critical research
Click here to take the Survey.

ATRI Seeks For-Hire Motor Carrier Operational Cost Data
The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) today issued a data call for the annual update to its Operational Costs of Trucking report. The brief online questionnaire seeks to capture basic cost information from for-hire motor carriers such as driver pay, fuel costs, insurance premiums and lease or purchase payments.

For-hire motor carriers are encouraged to provide confidential operational cost data through ATRI's survey by Friday, June 29, 2017 available online at www.atri-online.org. The results of this study will be available later this year, but survey respondents will receive an advance copy of the report.
Other States’ News

OK Budget and Road Funding
The Oklahoma Legislature adjourned May 26th with lawmakers grappling over a budget agreement. The GOP majority had to institute fee increases in order to pass budget legislation without the supermajority required to pass revenue raising or tax measures required by voters in 1992.

Related to transportation funding, $100 million will be swept from the ROADS fund and $50 million from the CIRB fund and applied to the budget deficit.

Ultimately, a proposed six-cent per gallon increase in gasoline and diesel taxes was not advanced. The budget agreement maintains the ROADS’s fund cap of $575 million, and the existing $59.7 off-the-top allocation. Also, added to the new revenue mix was HB 2433 which effectively raises the excise tax on vehicle purchases by 1.25% from the current 3.25% to 4.5% which equals the state sales tax. HB 1449 passed which imposes annual registration fees of $100 on electric vehicles and $30 on hybrid vehicles, and applying the funds to the State Highway Construction and Maintenance Fund.

Welcome to the SCTA Group Insurance Trust!

The SCTA Group Insurance Trust can help your company avoid the ACA Community Rating and join a large group pool of trucking companies to help control costs. Any South Carolina based trucking company and companies that directly support the trucking industry can participate in the plan.

Contact Scott Woodberry to learn more!

**Traffic Notices**

US 25 BRIDGE OVER RIVER ROAD IN GREENVILLE COUNTY
The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has the following update on the US 25 bridge repairs over River Road (S-23-119) in Greenville County requiring lane closures. This area is located at mile points 48.6 to 48.7. Work on the southbound lanes will begin on the morning of May 29 and is scheduled to be completed during the evening of Friday, June 2, weather permitting. (The original work schedule for southbound lanes (May 22-26) has been pushed back one week due to forecasted rain.)
EASTBOUND LANES OF US 52 (MEETING STREET/CARNER AVENUE), BETWEEN BURTON LANE AND SPRUILL AVENUE IN CHARLESTON, SC
The ongoing closure of the US 52/Meeting Street/Carner Ave, between Burton Lane and Spruill Avenue, will be continued until Friday, June 9th for eastbound thru traffic into Charleston. All eastbound thru traffic will be detoured via Burton Lane to Spruill Avenue while local traffic will be allowed access up to Hackemann. Thru trucks should not be using neighborhood streets. Westbound traffic, towards North Charleston, will be provided a single lane of traffic traveling at a significantly reduced speed.

Optional Public Affairs/Advocacy Contribution for 2017 - “NOT TRUCKPAC”
You will notice a new line item on your 2017 dues invoice. This is for an optional contribution to support SCTA’s public affairs, image, advocacy, and outreach efforts in 2017. We ask that you go above and beyond your dues so SCTA can go above and beyond general member services. (This contribution does not go to TruckPAC.)

We plan to increase our overall advocacy efforts in the promotion of “Trucking” in 2017 including education & outreach initiatives to cultivate a new generation of truck drivers and technicians. Your additional support will not only help us with this new endeavor, but it will also help us maintain the professional staff necessary to carry out our mission; Foster relationships with elected officials/state government agencies and keep them abreast of our issues and positions; Cultivate Grassroots; and maintain memberships and support other coalitions and organizations that helps us develop unified alliances.

We look forward to serving you in 2017 and appreciate your continued investment in SCTA.