MAASTO Regional Truck Parking

Truck Parking Information Management Systems (TPIMS)

Key Fact: The MAASTO TPIMS is an innovative solution to critical truck parking issues that affect the region's economic competitiveness and the safety and efficiency of the national freight network.

Although access to safe and convenient parking areas for trucks is essential for a robust freight transportation network, truck drivers consistently have difficulty finding areas to safely rest. Drivers who have not located parking before reaching their hours of service limits are often forced to park illegally or unsafely, often on the shoulders of highways, on off-ramps or at abandoned facilities.

In response to these concerns, the State of Kansas in partnership with Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin are developing a multi-state Regional Truck Parking Information and Management System (TPIMS). The project is funded through a $25 million Federal TIGER grant and state funds.

The Regional TPIMS is envisioned to be a network of safe, convenient parking areas with the ability to collect and broadcast real-time parking availability to drivers through a variety of media outlets including dynamic signs, smart phone applications and traveler information websites. This will help drivers proactively plan their routes and make safer, smarter parking decisions.

With implementation of the Regional TPIMS in 2018, truck drivers will have the ability to weigh the value of driving an extra five to 20 miles to secure available parking without fearing the unknown or experiencing a lack of availability upon arrival. This will increase drivers’ overall productivity and efficiency.
**Key Fact:** The MAASTO TPIMS will be a true regional system. End users (e.g. truck drivers) will see a consistent, cohesive system as they cross state lines. However, each state also will have the flexibility to integrate proposed solutions into their existing systems.

The MAASTO Partnership will deploy the Regional TPIMS throughout the eight-state region on high-volume freight corridors including: I-35, I-64, I-65, I-70, I-71, I-75, I-80, I-94 and I-135. These routes are among some of the most important corridors in the MAASTO region with truck volumes on many of these routes already exceeding 25,000 trucks per day and expected to grow. These high truck volumes create congestion at parking sites, making it difficult for truck traffic to easily locate safe, convenient parking during peak rest hours.

That will change when the Regional TPIMS Project is completed. The system will use existing intelligent transportation systems (ITS) infrastructure and capabilities, along with emerging vehicle detection and data collection technologies, to monitor the availability of truck parking. It will then provide real-time information through multiple platforms to commercial vehicle operators for over 150 parking sites across the MAASTO region. Since over-the-road truck drivers typically travel at least 500 miles in a day, they will benefit most from this seamless system unbound by state lines and capable of future expansion to additional freight corridors and states.

The MAASTO region is America’s first such regional effort, leveraging efforts already underway in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. This initiative offers a great opportunity to improve the country’s global competitiveness while boosting the region’s economic growth through improvements to freight movements to and from both coasts and significant corridors connecting with Canada and Mexico.