



Multi-State Highway Transportation Agreement
dba: Western States Transportation Alliance (WSTA)

Action Plan: December 2009

Over the many years that MHTA/WSTA has existed, there has been a continuing focus on identification and resolution of transportation issues on our highway network. This process of working to create greater safety, uniformity and efficiency on western highway system has been highlighted by model legislation, resolutions calling for action and a cooperative atmosphere between the user community, state agencies and western state legislators.

Over the past several years, WSTA has had its share of challenges as has any organization looking to create a forum of reasonable and productive change. To that end, the WSTA Board of Directors and the Cooperating Committee have launched several new initiatives to position WSTA as an agent of those changes in a manner that provides value to all western state stakeholders. WSTA long standing goals have not changed but the manner and outreach have.

Beginning in 2007, WSTA began a process to examine its operations, its outcomes, its strengths and its weaknesses. The WSTA Board of Directors, having received input from many sources, has now chartered a "Plan of Action" that will provide the following for WSTA members and states:

1. An open process of obtaining information on current issues concerning highway transportation in the western states and making that information available to members and interested parties in several formats, to become an information source for highway issues.
2. To discuss, investigate and research issues brought forward by members, industry and state agencies/legislators. Utilizing this process to determine courses of action that promote the goals and standards of WSTA, through education, model legislation and state legislative resolutions.
3. To track these outcomes to determine the success of WSTA efforts to impact state processes and regional coalitions to bring these solutions to bear within WSTA states and other jurisdictions.
4. To provide value for the investment made in WSTA through information, education, collaboration on common issues and encourages creative thinking on highway transportation issues throughout the west.
5. Encourage greater participation in WSTA efforts by other western states, state agencies, transportation policy groups and industry members

WSTA ACTION PLAN:

Identification of Issues:

WSTA will make a continued effort to make the organization available to states, members and other concerned parties for the purpose of vetting emerging transportation issues in the western states. Through its Advisory Committee and its Cooperating Committee, WSTA will seek and bring forth issues that are of regional consequence to WSTA members. These issues will be placed into the following process:

1. Affected party or interested member can bring issues forward to WSTA staff, Advisory Committee members, and members of Cooperating Committee or state agencies.
2. Staff will then ask for documentation on the issue to help frame the extent and impact on western states and industry members.
3. If needed, there will be presentations on the issue at WSTA conferences to bring forth dialogue on the issue and to help spur an organization course of action.
4. From the information provided, one or more of the WSTA committees will then entertain a course of action for WSTA to pursue. That course of action will be formally debate and voted on by the proper WSTA Committees for action and approval.
5. Upon approval by a WSTA Committee (Board of Directors, Advisory Committee or Cooperating Committee), the action item will then be formally drafted, documentation on the issue will distributed to all members and interested parties for review and comment.
6. After review comment period is accomplished, the Cooperating Committee will take formal action on the issue and its stated WSTA action plan for the issue.
7. Any issue can be elevated to action status based on a recommendation by a standing committee in WSTA without formal presentation or debate if such committee considers the issue of importance to fast track the process for a WSTA action item.
8. Once the issue has been acted on by WSTA according to its bylaws, there will be an action item created for distribution to all impacted parties and stakeholders. This action item will call for a certain action to be pursued by member state legislators with support of each state's industry members and WSTA members in that state. The action item will indentify the expected outcomes and will provide location of and distribution of needed data or information for the action item for lobbying and educational purposes.
9. WSTA will track each action item for its success, problem or hurdles that emerged and what needs to be accomplished to bring the action item to a successful conclusion.
10. WSTA staff will provide an updated report on these action items at each conference and will provide the report on the WSTA website.

2009/2010 Action Items:

Based on the actions of the WSTA Cooperating Committee in 2009, the following issues are the action items for WSTA members for the 2010 legislative sessions.

1. WSTA Resolution 2009-1: Concerning the taxation of interstate carriers by states when such carriers have no business location, employees or assets in those states. Action Needed: Resolution to be adopted by state legislature to support federal legislations that creates common sense standards listed in resolution for such taxation by states.
2. WSTA Resolution 2009-2: CVSA Lead Agency responsibility for the proper oversight of the commercial vehicle safety inspection programs in their states. Action Needed: state legislature to adopt a resolution supporting the action items in WSTA resolution.
3. WSTA Resolution 2009-4: Adoption of incentive plan for Smart Way vehicle improvements in the future to increase investment by the industry in these technologies. Action Needed: adoption of resolution promoting the creation of incentives to Smart Way investments to be made by industry members.
4. WSTA Resolution 2009-6: Creation of regional OS/OW permit process for new energy loads in western states working with state DOT agencies and WASHTO. Action Needed: passage of a resolution by the state legislature that calls for these agencies to work on regional solution for these loads.
5. WSTA Resolution 2009-6: Lifting the federal freeze on LCV operations in western states and allow the creation of pilot programs for such permits in each state. Action Needed: each state legislature approve a resolution asking for support from each states federal congressional delegation to support the lifting of the LCV freeze by the federal government.

Action Items Past Years:

WSTA staff will conduct a survey of the past action items approved by WSTA and create additional action items to be tracked for WSTA. This survey will rank the importance of past resolutions and will include all model legislation approved by WSTA. WSTA staff will ask the Cooperating Committee to review the survey results and make recommendations for retention and future action by WSTA member states.

WSTA Outreach Plan:

Once an “Action Item” has been approved by WSTA and a tracking process established, WSTA staff would distribute this action plan and its specific action items to a wide range of states, state agencies, industry members, interested parties and associations. All action plan items will be posted on the WSTA web site and updated quarterly. New information, reports, data submissions, requests for action by WSTA or invitations for WSTA Board members to speak at state, agency or association meetings will also be posted.

WSTA will continually solicit input from all interested parties, members or legislators on potential action items for future action and discussion. WSTA will also offer from members and other interested parties, the opportunity to present an issue to WSTA formally at one of the organization’s conferences.

New information, reports, action item requests will be posted on the website but will also be emailed directly to WSTA members and other interested parties for review and comment.