FY 2026 WORKPLAN
ADVANCING
SOLUTIONS

THE EASTERN TRANSPORTATION COALITION

CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS

SAFETY | DATA | TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES | SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

June 30, 2025

We are pleased to share The Eastern Transportation Coalition's **Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Workplan**.

The Workplan embraces the Coalition's vision to "advance the future of transportation" and mission to "connect for solutions." As we complete the celebration of our 30th anniversary as a Coalition, we are proud of our three decades of bringing forward real-world benefits and we look forward to continuing to serve our members in the years ahead.

This Workplan emphasizes the same four priorities that have guided us through the past few years:

- Significantly increasing the **safety** of our region's transportation system.
- Providing **data** to support decision-making by both executive and operations staff to improve safety, mobility, and resilience.
- Preparing member agencies for the transition to **transformative technologies**.
- Exploring alternative options for sustainable **transportation funding**.

The Workplan directs the Coalition's three nationally recognized programs—Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO), Freight, and Innovation. It also delivers quick-response implementation projects through our Special Cooperative Program (SCOOP) and multistate initiatives through discretionary grants from the Federal government.

The Eastern States face significant challenges in the year ahead as we seek to move more people and freight safely, efficiently, and reliably. Our strength as a region draws from how we work together to advance solutions that benefit each agency and the public. We look forward to continuing to connect for solutions that provide significant benefits for each of our member agencies in the year ahead.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Patricia Hendren

EXECUTIVE BOARD LEADERSHIP

Russell McMurry
Chair
Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation

William Cass
Vice Chair
Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Marie Therese Dominguez
Vice Chair
Commissioner, New York State Department of Transportation

Garrett Eucalitto
Vice Chair
Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

William Pines
Vice Chair
Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fiscal Year 2026
Workplan Overview

This document summarizes the Workplan for The Eastern Transportation Coalition (the Coalition) for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26, covering the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026).

Executive Priorities

The Coalition's FY26 Workplan builds on our 30-year legacy and advances four priorities identified by the Executive Board:

- Significantly increasing the **safety** of the region's transportation system.

- Providing **data** for decision making by both executive and operations staff to Improve safety, mobility, and resilience.

- Preparing member agencies for the transition to **transformative technologies**.

- Exploring alternative options for **sustainable transportation funding**.

"The transportation system is the backbone of the economy. For 30 years, the Coalition has helped us all move toward a safer, more reliable, and more resilient transportation system: by connecting us for solutions related to data, emerging technologies, and sustainable funding, and by connecting us as a community. I look forward to continuing to work together to advance solutions in the year ahead."
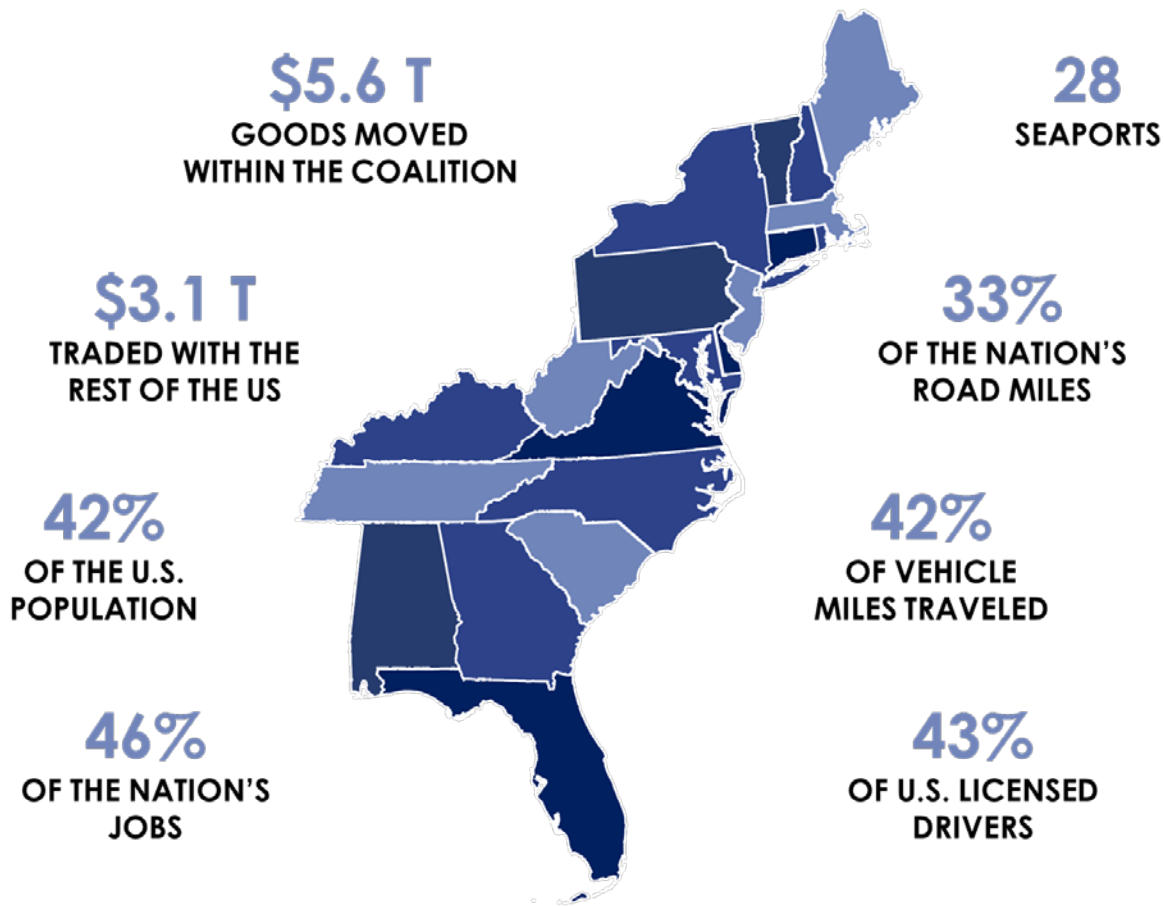
Russell McMurry, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation, and Chair, The Eastern Transportation Coalition Executive Board

This year's Workplan recognizes the economic importance of the Coalition to the nation and the world. The Coalition includes transportation agencies from Maine to Alabama—a region that represents the 3rd largest economy in the world. The Coalition States include 16 percent of the nation's land area but 42 percent of its population and 46 percent of its jobs. The transportation system contributes mightily to our economic competitiveness and quality of life—and as we face another year of uncertainty and disruptions, our ability to operate and manage a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation system is more essential than ever.

The Workplan directs the Coalition's activities in three nationally recognized programs:

- The **Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO)** program will maintain its longstanding emphases on providing better traveler information and data to inform operations decisions and on enhancing multistate collaboration on safety, reliability, incident and event management, and emergency response. This includes highly valued initiatives for training, data access and sharing, and exchange of best practices.

- The **Freight** program will help member agencies prepare for State freight plan updates and potential changes in Federal freight programs and grant opportunities; use emerging freight data sources to make more effective planning and operations decisions; and enhance freight safety and mobility through use of real-time alerts and technology.

- The **Innovation** program will address evolving member needs related to electrification of the transportation system and other emerging technologies, while continuing its national leadership in exploring sustainable funding options.

$5.6 T
GOODS MOVED WITHIN THE COALITION

28
SEAPORTS

$3.1 T
TRADED WITH THE REST OF THE US

33%
OF THE NATION'S ROAD MILES

42%
OF THE U.S. POPULATION

42%
OF VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED

46%
OF THE NATION'S JOBS

43%
OF U.S. LICENSED DRIVERS

3RD LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

The Workplan also delivers quick-response activities to extend our core program work through our **Special Cooperative Program (SCOOP)** and multistate initiatives through discretionary grants from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and other Federal programs.

COALITION WORKPLAN AT A GLANCE

VISION:
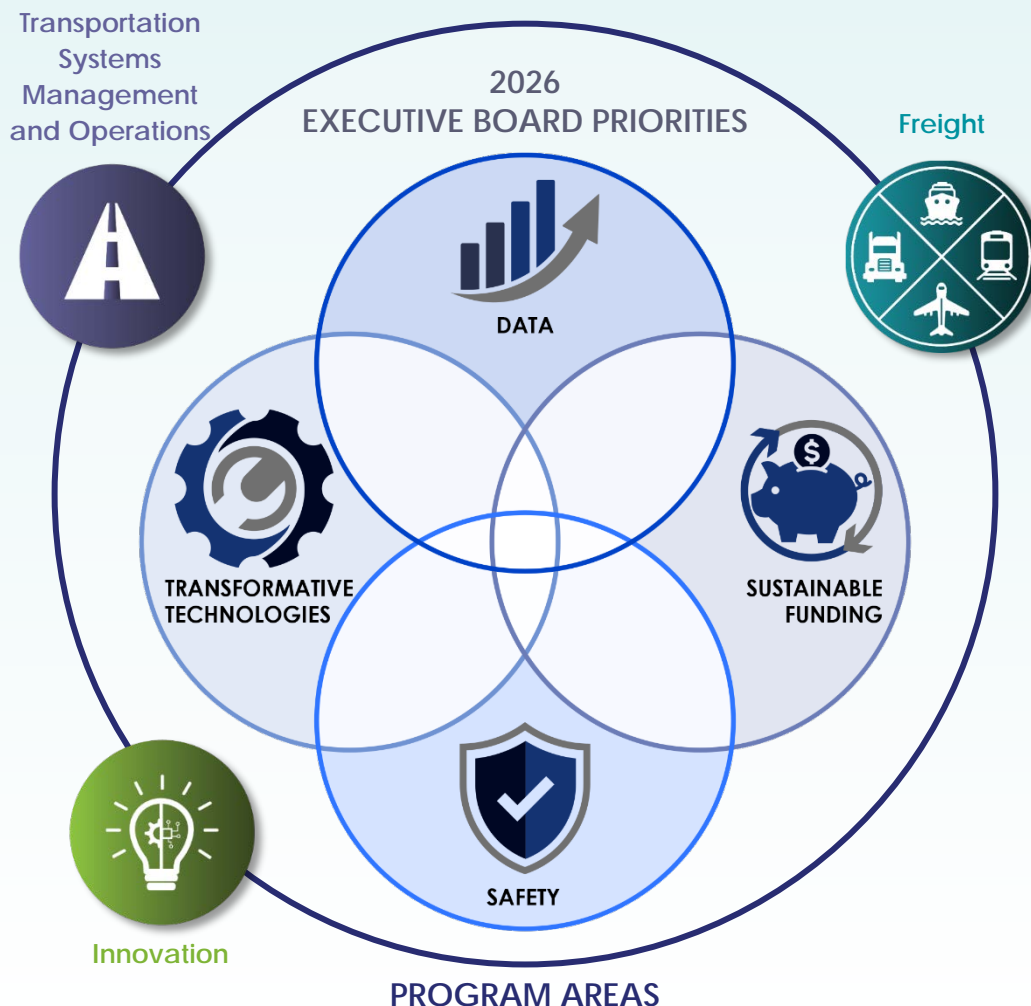### ADVANCE THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

We envision a reliable, smart, integrated, sustainable, and resilient multimodal transportation system that maximizes safety, mobility, equity, and economic competitiveness of the Eastern States.

MISSION:
CONNECT FOR SOLUTIONS

We develop innovative and implementable ideas, exchange best practices, test emerging technologies, and leverage data and tools to address operational, intermodal, and funding challenges. We accomplish this mission by bringing diverse agencies and perspectives together in a proactive, inclusive, and agile manner.

Transportation Systems Management and Operations

Freight

Innovation

2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD PRIORITIES

DATA

TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

SAFETY

PROGRAM AREAS

Board Priority	Key Issue	Coalition Focus
Safety	Reverse the curve: traffic fatalities in Coalition States declining but still above 2019 levels	■ Increase safety through solutions involving data, technology, innovation, and collaboration ■ Improve the accuracy and timeliness of traveler information ■ Strengthen partnerships for incident, event, and emergency management ■ Train future safety and operations leaders
Data	Provide data for decision making by both executive and operations staff to improve safety, mobility, and resilience	■ Leverage the power of multiple States through the Transportation Data Marketplace (TDM) ■ Assess emerging data products for use by agencies ■ Share best practices across agencies ■ Expand emphasis on the use of data for decision-making
Transformative Technologies	Prepare Coalition member agencies for the transition to emerging and disruptive technologies	■ Provide a forum and usable resources to help agencies prepare for electrification of the transportation system and related technologies ■ Create a testing ground for safer and more reliable roads ■ Identify implementable infrastructure and operations strategies to support transformative technologies
Sustainable Funding	Explore alternative options for sustainable transportation funding	■ Continue to explore the feasibility and operational implications of shifting to a distance-based funding approach ■ Increase the effectiveness of toll operations including collaborating on expanding tolling reciprocity across States and reducing violations ■ Make the business case for long-term funding for safety and operations

What We Do: The Coalition at Work

Funding Source	Activity	Description	Examples from FY25
Core program	Working groups	Regular meetings to work through specific topics; spotlight presentations	■ Traveler Information Services Committee ■ 3rd Party Navigation & Mapping Working Group ■ Transformative Technologies Working Group ■ Freight Data & Planning Working Group ■ Truck Parking Working Group ■ Bridge Hit Mitigation Working Group ■ Electric Vehicle Working Group
	Peer exchanges	Practitioner-only "closed-door" sharing on key topics	■ Highway Operations Groups ■ Peer exchanges on Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF) pilot lessons learned
	Workshop/ conferences	Larger-scale interactive event with practitioners, subject matter experts	■ Workshop on fiber deployment in right of way ■ Workshop to explore regional MBUF clearinghouse ■ Workshop on toll reciprocity in Mid-Atlantic region
	Virtual exchanges	Opportunity to learn about successful strategies; wider audience and participation	■ Roundtable on lessons learned from Key Bridge collapse ■ Exchange on lessons learned from States with kWh fees
	Training	Intensive, hands-on academies and other programs to build capacity and professional network	■ Operations Academy ■ Freight Academy ■ Virtual Transportation Incident Management training ■ Consortium for Innovative Transportation Education (CITE) scholarships
	Data & tools	Access to data and tools with cost savings[1]	■ Transportation Data Marketplace
SCOOP	Special initiatives	Quick-response activities to extend core program work	■ Move Over Laws assessment ■ Secondary crash risk assessment ■ Count All Pedestrians and Bicycles Efficiently ■ EV Charging Contracts—Lessons for State DOTs ■ Translating Freight Project Investment to Multistate and National Benefits
External grants	Multistate demonstrations	Collaboration on large-scale research and deployment initiatives	■ MBUF real-world pilots

[1] Member agencies may purchase data from the Transportation Data Marketplace for a fee.

How We Got Here: Workplan Development Process

The Workplan was developed through an iterative process that included:

- Confirmation and refinement of Executive Board priorities at a February 2025 strategic planning workshop.

- Engagement of agency staff in leadership and membership roles in Coalition committees and working groups under the three program areas—TSMO, Freight, and Innovation—to identify potential program activities consistent with the Board priorities.

- Review and adoption of a unified Workplan by the Board at its June 2025 meeting.

What's Next: Implementation

- Deliver the Workplan through program areas and committees.

- Adapt the Workplan as needed to address evolving or unexpected needs and opportunities.

- Provide periodic progress reports to the Executive Board throughout the year through bi-monthly meetings, quarterly reports, an annual Year-in-Review report, and other communications methods.

- Continue to expand engagement of Coalition member agencies and partners, including regional planning organizations and transportation authorities.

- Continue to partner with Federal agencies and national organizations to advance mutual goals.

- Continue the SCOOP initiative with calls for activities and additional membership dues.

- Monitor the status of IIJA implementation, including discretionary funding opportunities suitable for multistate coalitions that could support Coalition activities without competing with State applications.

- Kickoff FY27 Workplan development at the first Board meeting in calendar year 2026.

"Congratulations on 30 years of amazing contributions to transportation and mobility objectives for such a wide circle of members and stakeholders. The Coalition is a model of communication, cooperation, and collaboration for regional solutions that deserves to be celebrated."

Mark Muriello, formerly with
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Support for Executive Board Priorities

The FY26 Workplan advances the identified priorities of the Executive Board.

Executive Priority	Example Activities		
	TSMO	**Freight**	**Innovation**
Safety	■ Leverage partnerships with third-party providers to improve data feeds ■ Determine commercial vehicle data needs to enhance in-cab alerts ■ Expand implementation of Move Over compliance and secondary crash reduction strategies	■ Identify and share effective truck parking strategies ■ Improve in-cab alerts for drivers ■ Reduce bridge strikes through information sharing, corridor campaigns, and mitigation tactics	■ Expand understanding of and effective strategies to address safety and operations issues unique to electric vehicles
Data	■ Expand use and content of Transportation Data Marketplace (TDM) ■ Develop a strategy for the national expansion of TDM ■ Highlight successful cases of agencies turning data into usable information	■ Highlight evolving sources and uses of freight data ■ Support State freight plan updates by showcasing noteworthy freight planning practices	■ Complete scan of maintenance and data requirements for electric vehicle infrastructure ■ Help agencies identify data requirements related to mileage-based user fees and tolling reciprocity
Transformative Technologies	■ Advance opportunities for implementation of technologies that enhance safety (e.g., smart work zones, wrong-way driving warning systems)	■ Showcase examples of optimizing signal timing systems to reduce freight bottlenecks ■ Assess state of the practice of truck industry automation	■ Assist members in responding to market-driven deployments of electric vehicles; identify lessons that could apply to other emerging technologies ■ Identify artificial intelligence implementations; share information across programs
Sustainable Funding	■ Provide forum for State DOT TSMO program directors to discuss program management challenges ■ Highlight effective TSMO funding strategies	■ Provide a forum to stay aware of changes in Federal laws, programs, and guidance related to freight and truck parking ■ Deliver webinar update on MBUF truck pilots	■ Continue exploratory MBUF work in Coalition States ■ Advance implementation of toll reciprocity solutions ■ Convene departments of motor vehicles, States, and toll authorities to discuss toll-related challenges with counterfeit license plates

1.0 Transportation Systems Management and Operations

Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) is the Coalition's largest program. TSMO is an integrated set of operational strategies to maximize the safety, mobility, and reliability of the transportation system.

TSMO strategies are critical for enhancing the safety and mobility of travel in the region. The Coalition region accounts for 41 percent of all fatal crashes nationwide. The region accounts for 30 percent of all road miles and 42 percent of all vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the nation. The region includes 25 of the nation's 50 most congested metropolitan areas, and 49 of the nation's top 100 truck bottlenecks. People and freight trips regularly cross State lines. Incidents, bottlenecks, special events, construction, and other disruptions often have broader systemwide impacts, highlighting the need for regional coordination and information sharing.

The TSMO program is organized in five areas:

- **Traveler Information Services**, sharing best practices and coordinating with other States and with third-party mapping and navigation services to provide integrated traveler information across the Coalition States.

- **Data User Groups and Services,** extending the Coalition's successful initiatives for sharing traffic and related data among States and highlighting ways to effectively use a wider range of data and tools.

- **Highway Operations Group (HOGs)**, providing regional and corridor-wide forums for coordination across stakeholders and jurisdictions to improve traffic operations, incident management, and emergency management. In FY26, the HOGs will expand to incorporate cross-jurisdictional networking and coordination among TSMO leaders.

- **TSMO Transformative Technologies (T3),** promoting emerging technologies for improving operations and safety that are implementable today, or are anticipated to be implementable in the near term.

- **Training and Workforce Development**, offering Coalition member agency staff immersive education opportunities through nationally recognized programs and scholarships.

Traveler Information Services

The **Traveler Information Services Working Group** promotes the development and use of multimodal traveler information systems. This Working Group will plan two corridor-wide events in FY26: an annual meeting in fall 2025 (primarily in-person, with a virtual option) and a virtual summit in spring 2026 to discuss challenges, best practices, and solutions. The Working Group will also conduct at least one virtual roundtable to facilitate a quick response to emerging issues and events.

TRAVELER INFORMATION SERVICES WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP

Kelly Wells
North Carolina Department of Transportation
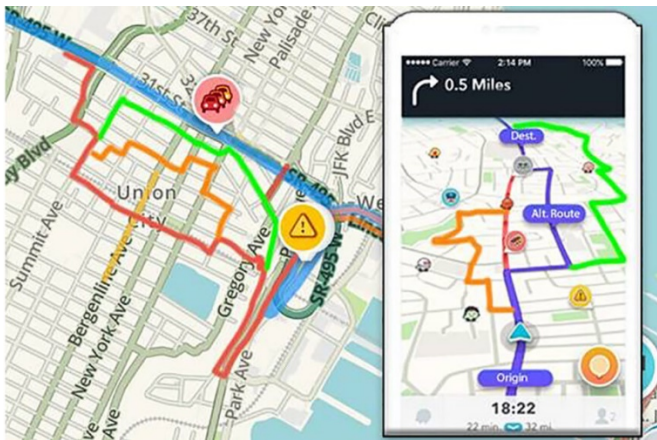
The TSMO program will continue to collaborate with Waze and Google to improve the quality of data feeds, including convening at least two virtual meetings of the **Waze/Google Coordinating Working Group.** The program will work to **bring additional navigation partners such as Apple and TomTom to the table.**

As an extension of this collaboration, FY25's in-person Traveler Information Systems Summit identified two States that are using free travel time/speed data from Waze for operational functions—one to populate travel times on its dynamic message signs, and one to analyze signal timing and traffic flow across corridors where other data sources are not available. A SCOOP activity is now examining **Waze travel time/speed data** to assess its reliability for other operational use cases. These findings will inform FY26 Traveler Information Systems discussions.

A key initiative in FY26 will be to enhance **real-time alerts to commercial motor vehicle drivers and operators**, so they are able to prevent, avoid, or mitigate the impacts of disruptions. The TSMO program will take the lead on technical activities, which may include conducting an inventory of available commercial vehicle operations and safety data, identifying data requirements to provide in-cab alerts to drivers, enhancing coordination with third-party providers to enhance data feeds specifically serving commercial drivers, and identifying opportunities to create a commercial motor vehicle application programming interface (API). The **Freight** committee will support this effort by providing subject matter expertise from both public agencies and the motor carrier industry.

Data User Groups and Services

The TSMO program will continue its longstanding emphasis on data through expanding its nationally recognized **Transportation Data Marketplace** (TDM) and sharing best practices in data collection, analysis, sharing, and use for decision-making through **Data Users Groups** and a partnership with **Regional Integrated Transportation Information Systems** (RITIS).

Transportation Data Marketplace

The **Transportation Data Marketplace** (TDM), originally launched in 2008 as the Vehicle Probe Project, provides member States with access to data and data tools from multiple vendors at discounted prices. The TDM currently includes 11 vendors providing data in six core categories -- travel time and speed, origin-destination, waypoint, freight, volume, and conflation -- and a host of sub-vendors providing complimentary data visualization and analytics tools. The Coalition validates data, negotiates terms and data use agreements, and provides contract vehicles to save agencies time and resources. Data procured through the TDM is available to participating agencies, as well as their regional planning organizations and contractors.

The **TDM Leadership Working Group** guides the overall TDM program, directs the validation program, identifies member needs and priorities, and addresses vendor issues. The Working Group will meet virtually three times, with emphasis on expanding available data offerings and enhancing data validation efforts. The Workplan includes two TDM vendor virtual meetings and up to three TDM data validation efforts.

> *"This work showcases just how essential the Coalition is in advancing transportation data initiatives. We're fortunate to work alongside such dedicated professionals and are excited to continue sharing and growing together."*
>
> Sam Harris, Georgia Department of Transportation

Additionally, following the Executive Board's guidance, the Working Group will develop a strategy for the national expansion of TDM. This approach would make TDM data available to States outside of the Coalition region, while ensuring Coalition members receive unique benefits through TDM.

TDM LEADERSHIP WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP

Mike Fontaine
Virginia Department of Transportation
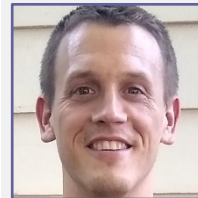
Zach Vander Laan
University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology

Data User Groups

The Coalition will continue to highlight successful cases of agencies turning data into usable information through **Data User Groups** and the Coalition's partnership with **Regional Integrated Transportation Information Systems** (RITIS), a large-scale data integration platform for transportation management and planning. The University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) Lab will continue to partner with the Coalition to showcase member uses of the RITIS platform. The Workplan includes up to four Data User Group virtual meetings and up to two RITIS Product Enhancement Working Group to coordinate development of power user enhancements.

DATA USER GROUP LEADERSHIP	
	Jesse Buerk *Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission* *Data User Group*
	Matt Glasser *Arcadis* *Data User Group*
	Bob Frey *Massachusetts Department of Transportation* *RITIS Product Enhancement Working Group*

The **CAPABLE (Count All Pedestrian and Bicycle Locations Efficiently)** project is examining how the Coalition could improve the availability, quality, and cost of bicycle/pedestrian data. The second phase, now underway as a SCOOP activity, is creating a standardized bike/ped data schema to introduce a new dataset to the TDM and to further agency bike/ped data collection.

Highway Operations Groups (HOGs)

The TSMO program will maintain **Highway Operations Groups** (HOGs) for four regions: **New England**, **Tri-State/Delaware Valley, Mid-Atlantic/Potomac**, and **Southern**. HOGs provide a forum for member agencies to improve incident management, including its impacts on safety and mobility. HOGs are multidisciplinary, bringing together operations, maintenance, and first responder staff for discussions on challenges and opportunities across jurisdictional boundaries.

HOGS LEADERSHIP	
	Jennifer Portanova *North Carolina Department of Transportation*

Member-driven topics for HOGs meetings during the last two years focused largely on technologies and best practices that are relevant across all regions, such as responder safety, safety service patrols, and quick-clearance towing. Building on these common interests, the Coalition will convene one in-person, corridor-wide HOG meeting in FY26 to showcase practices for improving safety and mobility. This meeting will include an in-person workshop for TSMO leadership from each State to discuss challenges and best practices related to operational priorities, workforce development and retention, and funding from a director-level perspective.

The regional HOGs will continue to play an important role in coordination before and during major events. Coalition staff will continue to provide on-call assistance, such as cross-jurisdictional coordination and mapping/ navigation support, during crises.

A SCOOP initiative is conducting a comprehensive analysis of **secondary crash risks** based on incident alerts, congestion data, lane configurations, emergency responder presence, and other factors related to nearly three million incidents across four States. A second SCOOP activity is analyzing **Move Over Laws,** their messaging, and enforcement in each Coalition State and developing recommendations for a unified Move Over campaign for use across the region. Both of these projects will produce key insights for integration into FY26 HOGs activities.

TSMO Transformative Technologies (T3)

The T3 Working Group emphasizes the real-world application of emerging technologies that can be relevant to day-to-day operations and safety. FY25 activities included a showcase of technologies being implemented across Coalition States. FY26 activities will highlight new or innovative uses of technologies and explore opportunities for multistate implementation of technology projects that are anticipated to enhance safety, such as safe work zones, wrong way driving warning systems, and connected vehicles.

The Workplan includes at least one in-person or virtual corridor-wide exchange to showcase implemented technologies, as well as one virtual roundtable to examine the feasibility of emerging technologies to solve pressing operational challenges.

TSMO TRANSFORMATIVE TECHNOLOGIES (T3) WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP

Derrick Herrmann
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Zach Neihof
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Training and Workforce Development

TSMO training activities include nationally recognized educational programs as well as scholarship support to enable participation by member agencies. These include:

- Conduct the annual **Operations Academy** in fall 2025. The Operations Academy is an immersive program designed to meet increasing demand for qualified personnel and to train the next generation of TSMO leaders. The Academy uses a mix of classroom instruction, team workshops, field studies, and presentations by nationally recognized guest

speakers. It provides opportunities to practice and apply the principles learned that are not possible in traditional classes and short courses. Acceptance to the program is competitive and requires the nomination of a local, State, or Federal transportation agency. The Coalition will provide scholarships with a goal of including at least one participant from each member State.

- Continue to offer scholarships for member State DOTs to attend instructor-led and/or independent (self-paced) on-line training courses through the **Consortium for Innovative Transportation Education (CITE)**. The Coalition will work with CITE to increase data-related course offerings to help meet the growing need for data-driven transportation programs.

"The Operations Academy helped open my eyes to the bigger picture and know that I'm not alone in the problems we are facing. There are others out there that can help, no need to face it alone."

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation participant

TSMO Workplan Summary

Emphasis Area	Projects/Deliverables	Executive Board Priorities
Traveler Information Services	**Priority Focus: Improve safety by providing travelers with enhanced information on risks and disruptions; emphasis this year on commercial drivers.**	Safety Data
	■ Conduct two Traveler Information Services Working Group summits, one in-person and one virtual, to showcase noteworthy practices. ■ Convene at least one roundtable discussion for quick response to emerging issues and events. ■ Conduct two Waze/Google Working Group virtual meetings to continue to advance improvements to the quality of data feeds; bring additional navigation partners to the table. ■ Determine commercial vehicle data availability to enhance in-cab alerts (with support from **Freight**).	

Emphasis Area	Projects/Deliverables	Executive Board Priorities
Data User Groups and Services	**Priority Focus: Increase agency access and use of data** ■ Expand the Transportation Data Marketplace (TDM), including enhancing available data and tool offerings. Includes three TDM Leadership Working Group virtual meetings, two TDM Vendor virtual meetings, and up to three TDM data validation efforts. ■ Develop a strategy for the national expansion of TDM. ■ Highlight successful cases of agencies turning data into usable information. Includes up to four Data User Group virtual meetings and two RITIS Product Enhancement Working Group virtual meetings.	Safety Data
Highway Operations Groups (HOGs)	**Priority Focus: Continue to enhance the safety and reliability of highway operations** ■ Conduct one in-person, corridor-wide HOGs meeting to showcase noteworthy practices for improving safety and mobility. ■ Conduct an in-person workshop for TSMO leadership from each State to discuss challenges and best practices from a director-level perspective. ■ Continue to provide on-call assistance, such as cross-jurisdictional coordination and mapping/navigation support in crises.	Safety
TSMO Transformative Technologies (T3)	**Priority Focus: Advance technologies that enhance safety** ■ Conduct one in-person or virtual corridor-wide exchange to showcase implemented or readily implementable technologies. ■ Conduct one virtual roundtable to examine the feasibility of emerging technologies and pressing operational challenges.	Safety Transformative Technologies
Training and Workforce Development	**Priority Focus: Enhance workforce capacity and skills.** ■ Provide at least one Operations Academy scholarship per member State. ■ Provide scholarships to support Coalition member participation in CITE training courses, with emphasis on adding more data courses.	Safety Data

2.0 Freight

The Freight program emphasizes improving the safety, mobility, and reliability of the movement of goods throughout the Eastern States. The Coalition accounted for about 46 percent of U.S. jobs and gross domestic product and moved nearly $5.6 trillion in goods in 2022, with many trips crossing jurisdictional boundaries.

FY26 is anticipated to be a period of change and uncertainty for freight in the Eastern States. Continued shifts in demographic and economic activity will impact where freight is generated throughout the region, as well as demand for consumer and industrial goods. Shifts in U.S. trade agreements and tariff policies could impact global trade flows to and from the Eastern States. New and emerging technologies such as automation and artificial intelligence will create new opportunities for both the freight industry and public agencies.

Nearly all Coalition member States will be updating their federally required State freight plans in FY26 or FY27 to comply with the new four-year update cycle. This creates opportunities to update State freight polices and investments. At the same time, the new Administration may adjust Federal freight planning requirements as well as discretionary grant opportunities, while the Congress continues to work toward reauthorization of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other potential modifications to Federal laws and programs. During this time of change, the Coalition's Freight program will continue to provide steady support and equip individual States to enhance freight safety and operations. This includes facilitating multistate opportunities that reflect the sheer scale at which freight moves in the Eastern States.

A Coalition-wide **Freight Committee** manages the Freight program. Members include State DOTs, metropolitan and regional planning organizations, transportation/toll authorities, port authorities, Federal agencies, and trucking, rail, and other industry associations.

The Freight Committee has two working groups, which bring in additional agency staff:

- **Freight Data and Planning Working Group**.
- **Truck Parking Working Group**.

The Freight Committee also conducts work in two additional areas:

- **Freight Operations and Technology**.
- **Training and Workforce Development**.

FREIGHT COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Dan Pallme
Tennessee Department of Transportation

David Rosenberg
New York State Department of Transportation

The Freight Committee may deliver a corridor-wide, in-person exchange in FY26 to bring planning and operations staff from member agencies together to discuss cross-cutting opportunities and challenges.

In addition to these specific activities, Freight program staff will continue to be a resource to member agencies for quick responses to questions and will continue to assist with connecting members to subject matter experts in both the public and private sectors.
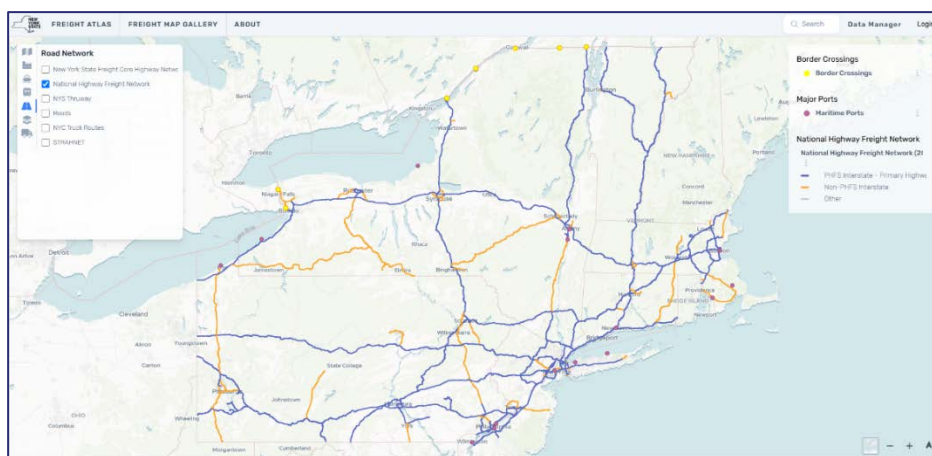
Freight Data and Planning

The Coalition will maintain the **Freight Data and Planning Working Group,** comprising member staff with expertise in this area. The group will emphasize State freight plan updates and expanded access to and use of freight data. The Working Group will continue to meet quarterly to provide a forum for member discussions and spotlight presentations. Specific activities may include:

FREIGHT DATA AND PLANNING WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP

Sara Walfoort
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

■ Assist with State freight plan updates by maintaining and updating the **State Freight Plan Matrix** initially developed in FY23 to track the content and timing of member agency freight plans and related documents such as truck parking initiatives and supply chain resilience studies. The Working Group will also showcase noteworthy freight planning practices among Coalition State or nationally.

■ Showcase **emerging sources, uses, and visualizations of freight data** through spotlight presentations. This will include publicly available data sources used by agencies within the Coalition or nationally, and applications of private sector freight data including data sources available in the **TDM marketplace.**

■ Deliver a webinar on the results of a SCOOP initiative on **multistate and national freight project investments** initiated in FY25. This update will share the research results and discuss opportunities to advance multistate planning and investment programs in FY26 and beyond.

- Conduct a webinar on the **Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF) Phase 5 truck pilot** led by the **Innovation** program. This update will provide insights into the potential effects of MBUF on motor carriers and freight operations and inform future activities.

- Monitor and share updates on potential changes in **Federal laws, programs, and guidance** related to freight. These might include freight plan requirements, Federal planning efforts such as the National Strategic Freight Plan and National Multimodal Freight Network, discretionary grant programs, USDOT appropriations, and IIJA reauthorization.

Truck Parking

The Coalition will continue its **Truck Parking Working Group,** comprising member agency staff from planning, operations, and maintenance. This Working Group will meet quarterly for a roundtable exchange, with emphasis on effective roles for public agencies to enhance safe and secure options for truck parking. The Working Group will provide a forum for members to engage with Federal agencies and motor carrier and truck stop industry representatives to collaborate on viable truck parking solutions.

TRUCK PARKING WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP

Erik Johnson
Virginia Department of Transportation

Potential meeting topics include spotlight presentations on truck parking studies and initiatives for improving safety and expanding capacity. The Working Group will monitor proposed legislation, policy changes, and funding priorities, such as the proposed Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act and potential changes truck parking legislation including Jason's Law.

"Roadside truck parking continues to be a top safety concern for public agencies and for truckers. Our working group strives to keep the needle moving in the right direction."

Erik Johnson,
Virginia Department of Transportation

Freight Operations and Technology

In addition to the ongoing working groups, the Freight program will include targeted initiatives to use data, technology, and operational strategies to enhance the reliable movement of goods and to mitigate or reduce the impacts of system disruptions. Activities will include:

- Continue to convene the **Bridge Hit Mitigation Working Group**, which engages member agencies on strategies to prevent, reduce the impact of, and share information about commercial vehicle bridge strikes. In FY25, the group developed case studies and toolkits summarizing existing research and potential strategies, as well as a media tool kit to communicate the importance of understanding and preparing for bridge clearances. FY26 activities could include efforts to encourage State departments of motor vehicles (DMV) to expand content on bridge height, clearance, and signage in Driver's Manuals/Commercial Driver's License manuals; increase use of a generic bridge hit driver questionnaire by State law enforcement to better document and understand the factors contributing to bridge strikes; and assess the Coalition States' readiness to provide "authoritative" data on bridge clearances for sharing with commercial drivers and third-party mapping and navigation providers.

- Provide public and private sector freight expertise in support of enhancing **real-time alerts to commercial drivers.** The Freight program can provide technical expertise and leverage relationships with the trucking industry into activities led by the **TSMO** program to inventory freight data, work with third-party mapping and navigation providers, and explore approaches for providing in-cab alerts.

- Conduct a webinar on **optimizing signal timing systems to reduce truck bottlenecks**. The webinar will share information on existing deployments, including the potential for signal preemption or priority for commercial vehicles near specific locations such as ports and terminals. The webinar will consider how these systems improve safety and mobility.

> *"Very good presentation with great questions and information. Can't wait to bring this information back to my State."*
>
> Dan Pallme, Tennessee Department of Transportation

- Conduct a high-level **state of the practice review of truck industry automation**, including autonomous trucking. The state of the practice review could document both private sector technology advances and existing practices of member States. This review could occur through a webinar and short scan document or a larger synthesis, depending on available resources.

- Maintain and expand the **CVO Portal,** which links directly to State and related resources for trucking companies and drivers on topics such as commercial vehicle regulations, safety, and operations. The Coalition will update and expand portal content to include other topics related to safety and operations, such as commercial vehicle travel restrictions.

Training and Workforce Development

The Coalition convened its nationally recognized **Freight Academy** in June 2025. The Freight Academy helps operations, policy, and planning staff better understand freight as an integral part of the transportation system. The Academy includes immersive training, field visits, opportunities to engage with private sector leaders, and capstone group projects. In FY26, program participants will complete and share the results of their **capstone projects,** many of which will focus on how logistics are being influenced by artificial intelligence and the implications for public sector freight transportation and operations decision-makers.

The Freight Program will monitor and share information on additional in-person and virtual **freight training opportunities** to provide support for agency workforce development.

Freight Workplan Summary

Emphasis Area	Projects/Deliverables	Executive Board Priorities
Freight Data and Planning	**Priority focus: Support State freight plan updates and expand access to and use of freight data.**	Data Sustainable Funding
	- Conduct Quarterly Freight Data and Planning Working Group meetings. - Showcase emerging sources and uses of freight data including through the TDM marketplace. - Support State freight plan updates by maintaining the State Freight Plan Matrix and spotlighting noteworthy freight planning practices. - Deliver a webinar on the benefits of multistate and national freight project investment. - Conduct a webinar on the Mileage-Based User Fees (MBUF) Phase 5 truck pilot (with **Innovation** program). - Monitor and share updates on potential changes in Federal laws, programs, and guidance related to freight.	

Emphasis Area	Projects/Deliverables	Executive Board Priorities
Truck Parking	**Priority focus: Clarify effective roles for public agencies to enhance safe truck parking options.** ■ Conduct Quarterly Truck Parking Working Group meetings with spotlight presentations and roundtable exchanges. ■ Provide forum for members to engage with motor carrier and truck stop industry representatives to collaborate on viable truck parking solutions. ■ Monitor proposed legislation, policy changes, and funding priorities (e.g., Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act, Jason's Law).	Safety — Sustainable Funding
Freight Operations and Technology	**Priority focus: Enhance reliable movement of goods and mitigate or reduce impacts of system disruptions.** ■ Continue Bridge Hit Mitigation Working Group to prevent, reduce the impact of, and share information about bridge hits (with **TSMO** program). ■ Bring public and private sector freight expertise into efforts to enhance real-time alerts to commercial drivers (in support of **TSMO** program). ■ Conduct a webinar on optimizing signal timing systems to reduce bottlenecks for improved freight safety and mobility, including preemption for trucks. ■ Conduct exchange on state of the practice of autonomous trucking and truck industry automation to identify safety, planning, and policy considerations for State DOTs. ■ Maintain and expand as needed the CVO Portal to provide access to State agency information of interest to motor carriers.	Safety — Data Transformative Technologies
Training and Workforce Development	**Priority focus: Enhance workforce capacity and skills** ■ Complete and share capstone project work from 2025 Freight Academy. ■ Explore and share additional freight training opportunities to fill gaps in agency workforce development.	Safety — Data Transformative Technologies — Sustainable Funding

3.0 Innovation

The Innovation program is designed to be an incubator: a home to new, dynamic topics. This program provides an opportunity to apply resources to emerging or evolving transportation opportunities and challenges our members are facing related to changing technologies, policy priorities, or funding approaches.

The Coalition will prioritize two Innovation topics in FY25:

- **Electrification of transportation,** with emphasis on facilitating peer exchange, strengthening partnerships, and developing tools to help States prepare for electrification, as well as identifying lessons learned that could be applied to other emerging technologies.
- **Sustainable transportation funding,** with emphasis on **tolling reciprocity** and **mileage-based user fees**.

In addition, the Innovation program will continue to monitor the testing and deployment of other emerging technologies that could impact safety and mobility. In particular, the program will track artificial intelligence policies, plans, and deployments among Coalition agencies, providing the Executive Board with guidance for future Coalition activities.

Electrification of Transportation

Evolving energy markets and technologies impact transportation. During the past few years, the Coalition supported member States in responding to increasing use of electric vehicles (EV), including topics such as siting, contracting, and deployment of EV charging infrastructure; safety and operations considerations related to EVs; and revenue options for EVs in lieu of the fuel tax.

With a new Administration and a possible shift in Federal funding, there are many open questions about the role of State DOTs and EV charging infrastructure. The Coalition remains prepared to support our members in responding to upcoming questions and topics that may arise. The Coalition's EV Working Group plans to explore topics related to EV infrastructure contracting, operations, and maintenance; education and outreach; and safety. At the same time, the Coalition

ELECTRIC VEHICLE WORKING GROUP LEADERSHIP
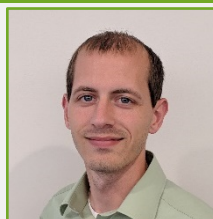
Colton Brown
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Derrick Herrmann
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Justin Harrod
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

will monitor other changes in transportation energy sources and strategies, such as other alternative fuels and use of transportation right of way to generate and store energy.

In FY25, the Coalition completed two SCOOP initiatives related to EVs. The first, "**Charging the Charge: To kWh Fee or not to kWh fee?**", explored the pros, cons, and challenges with and feasibility of implementing kWh fees as a revenue source for electric vehicles in lieu of the fuel tax. The Coalition developed a state of the practice memo exploring current programs and lessons learned and hosted a virtual workshop in October 2024 featuring presentations by three States with kWh fee legislation (Georgia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania). The second activity provided a resource for States on **overcoming hurdles to EV charging program operations.** The findings were presented at a workshop in April 2025.

In FY26, the electrification initiative will continue to bring practical guidance and tools to DOT staff through four virtual events. Possible meeting topics will include:

- State DOT roles with EVs, beyond building charging stations.

- Alternative fuels (e.g., hydrogen), rural applications, and the roles of DOTs.

- EV charging site case studies.

- Evolving funding for EV chargers.

- Freight and EVs, including fleet depot charging and what States can do or need to do.

- Scan of current operations and maintenance and data requirements for EV infrastructure; potential for region-based standards.

- Targeted education and outreach materials related to electric vehicles for use by member agencies.

- Best practices learned from agency practices on how to apply Build America, Buy America requirements to technology purchases**.**

Sustainable Transportation Funding

The Coalition will continue to advance initiatives related to sustainable funding options, with emphasis on assisting agencies as they explore, prepare for, and implement programs and practices related to tolling and mileage-based user fees.

The Coalition has been working in partnership with the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) to advance activities related to **toll reciprocity** across States. This partnership seeks to improve the conversation with departments of motor vehicles (DMV) as

critical partners and identifying resources and approaches necessary to strengthen reciprocity. In October 2024, the Coalition and IBTTA jointly hosted a workshop for Mid-Atlantic States engaged in a conversation about tolling reciprocity. The two-day event brought together DMVs, DOTs, and toll authorities in the region to identify resources and approaches for implementing tolling reciprocity. In FY26, the Coalition will reconvene this group to discuss progress and define next steps.

In an effort to address recent concerns about license plate fraud and its impact on toll collections, the Coalition will convene DMVs and toll authorities in the fall of 2025 to define the issue, understand the impacts, and forge a collaborative path toward regional solutions.

MILEAGE-BASED USER FEES

Since FY18, the Coalition has been involved in the national dialogue on identifying feasible and sustainable transportation funding sources in response to declining fuel tax revenue. The Coalition was awarded six consecutive Surface Transportation System Funding Alternative (STSFA) grants under the FAST Act and a seventh through the Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC) program created as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

"I knew we could figure this out. So happy things are trending in the right direction regarding the pilot. I can't speak highly enough about your team, MBUF would be a major change in how we fund transportation. The pilot projects help us understand how people might react."

Coalition member

As of FY25, the Coalition has conducted work across 9 States including 14 passenger vehicle pilots, 3 commercial vehicle pilots, public opinion research, household impact analyses, peer exchanges, and development of revenue tools, a compendium of revenue alternatives, digital messaging campaigns, and educational material.

Coalition Executive Director Dr. Patricia Hendren was selected to serve as the co-chair of the Federal System Funding Alternative Advisory Board, which is tasked with guiding a national pilot program for a motor vehicle per-mile user fee.

In FY26, work on the fifth grant will conclude, the sixth STSFA grant will continue, and the first SIRC grant will commence. Combined, this work will include:

- Engaging members of the public through pilot projects.
- Conducting specialized pilots to test MBUF capabilities, such as for small business owner vehicles.
- Conducting surveys and focus groups with pilot participants and members of the public to gauge perception and sentiment about MBUF.
- Exploring the impact of an MBUF on bonds and other financial tools.
- Educating legislators on MBUF.
- Supporting state DMVs as they are asked to administer new fees.

Innovation Workplan Summary

Emphasis Area	Projects/Deliverables	Executive Board Priorities
Electrification of Transportation	**Priority focus: Support members in responding to market-driven deployments of electric vehicles, and identify lessons learned that could apply to deployment of other emerging technologies.** ■ Conduct Quarterly Electric Vehicle Working Group meetings to facilitate information exchange. ■ Complete scan of current operations and maintenance and data requirements for electrification infrastructure; lay foundation for potential region-based standards. ■ Develop targeted education and outreach materials related to electrification for use by member agencies. ■ Share best practices for applying Build America, Buy America requirements for technology.	Safety · Data · Transformative Technologies · Sustainable Funding
Sustainable Transportation Funding	**Priority focus: Help agencies, explore, prepare for and implement, programs and practices related to tolling and mileage-based user fees.** ■ Complete work on Phase 5 and continue work on Phase 6 STSFA grants to explore Mileage-Based User Fee (MBUF), including conducting additional pilots, developing revenue visualization tools, and continuing extensive stakeholder education and outreach. ■ Launch SIRC grant to continue MBUF work that raises new funding topics and expands the conversation to more Coalition States. ■ Support work of Federal System Finance Alternative Advisory Board. ■ Reconvene Mid-Atlantic States and toll authorities that met in fall 2024 to discuss updates and next steps on regional reciprocity. ■ Bring DMVs, States, and tolling authorities together to discuss tolling-related challenges with counterfeit license plates and explore regional approach to solutions.	Data · Sustainable Funding

4.0 Special Cooperative Program

The Coalition saw a growing demand for quick-response activities that extend core program activities by addressing pressing/emerging issues through new and innovative solutions. The Coalition is uniquely suited to oversee this type of work and keep costs manageable. Given these activities would fall outside the resources available through membership dues, a Special Cooperative Program (SCOOP) was created in FY23 as a way to bring this additional value to the Coalition. The additional funds from members are used to conduct research, data and tools development, analysis, and capacity-building that provide a foundation for immediate implementation.

SCOOP fills the need between the Coalition's core program and external funding sources (e.g., discretionary grants or other application-based funding) that are time-consuming to use. SCOOP fosters collaboration between participating States and supports the Coalition's emphasis on developing innovative and implementable ideas, testing emerging technologies, and leveraging data.

This program is intended for activities that:

■ Extend the core TSMO, Freight and Innovation work.

■ Can be completed within 6 to 12 months.

■ Are anticipated to provide benefits that extend beyond one State and foster multistate and cross-border collaboration.

"We would like to continue to participate in the SCOOP program for the coming year. We have received significant value from the multistate collaboration on quick pick up efforts, as well as some of the longer term convenings to problem solve the sticky issues.

Michele Boomhower
Vermont Agency for Transportation

■ Have immediate urgency but also advance longer-term strategic needs.

■ Address unique opportunities that are not underway by other associations or groups of States.

■ Support the Coalition's vision, mission, and Executive Board priorities for the year.

SCOOP is designed as a 12-month process. Members submit ideas by April of each calendar year. Agencies confirm their intent to participate in SCOOP by June of each year. A SCOOP committee comprising participating States selects initiatives in July of each year. Activities then get underway, and the work is evaluated in February/March in preparation for the next year's SCOOP cycle.

In FY25, 12 States contributed $590,000 in additional membership dues to support SCOOP—an increase of nearly 50 percent since FY23. A total of 23 initiatives have been started since the launch of SCOOP.

SCOOP at Work

Board Priority	Initiative	Purpose	Lead State
Safety	■ Move Over Laws	■ Analyze Move Over Laws in each Coalition State; develop recommendations for Move Over Laws language, enforcement, and messaging, as well as a multistate public outreach campaign.	■ Delaware
	■ Secondary Crash Risk Assessment	■ Evaluate and update the risk factors for secondary crashes using transportation data in four States.	■ Maryland
Data	■ Count All Pedestrians and Bicycles Efficiently (CAPABLE) II	■ Create a standardized bike/ped data schema to introduce a new dataset to the TDM and further agency bike/ped data collection.	■ Vermont
	■ MUSTANG	■ Explore ways to leverage current data sources and emerging methods to address challenges with the application of probe data on rural roadways.	■ Kentucky
Transformative Technologies	■ EV Charging Contracts— Lessons for State DOTs	■ Summarize contracting lessons learned from recent RFP efforts.	■ New York
Sustainable Funding	■ Translating Freight Project Investment to Multistate and National Benefits	■ Develop case studies that illustrate how freight projects accrue benefits that contribute to regional and national economies.	■ Virginia
	■ Cost-Benefit Analysis of Safety Service Patrols	■ Evaluate Safety Service Patrol programs in Coalition States, including costs and benefits of outsourcing versus in-house staffing, stakeholder perceptions, and operational procedures (e.g., cone deployment).	■ North Carolina

The FY26 Workplan development process identified several potential SCOOP activities that are consistent with Executive Board priorities. This work will be further developed and prioritized against available membership dues in early FY26.

Potential FY26 SCOOP

Potential SCOOP Initiative
■ Conduct a survey of Coalition States to identify available data relevant to commercial motor vehicle routing and alerts (e.g., truck routes, bridge heights, restricted use, dangerous slowdowns) and the format(s) of available data.
■ Develop a "how to" guide for conducting a data gap/overlap analysis, establishing a framework for interdisciplinary coordination, governance, and planning for big data implementation.
■ Examine the accuracy, breadth and reliability of work zone data exchange feeds in Coalition States.
■ Gather lessons learned from State DOTs and develop a terms and conditions template that could be used universally by States for contracts involving artificial intelligence.
■ Develop a "how-to" guide for using probe data to estimate volume for Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) submissions.
■ Conduct a state-of-the-practice review of truck industry automation including autonomous trucking deployment.

Coalition Team

The Coalition gratefully acknowledges the support of our entire team. Together the team delivers high quality results and are invaluable for directing programs, managing projects, responding to member needs, and supporting Board meetings, Coalition communications, financial management, contract oversight, data use agreements, meeting logistics, travel support, and the many other details that are needed to successfully carry out our Workplan and operations.

TSMO DIRECTOR	FREIGHT DIRECTOR
Sheryl Bradley	Marygrace Parker

INNOVATION DIRECTOR	CHIEF DATA OFFICER
Ginna Reeder	Stan Young

TSMO PROGRAM ASSOCIATE	FREIGHT PROGRAM ASSOCIATE	INNOVATION PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
Nicole Forest	Sabrina Causley	Casey Bottiger

PROGRAM MANAGER	ASSOCIATE PROGRAM MANAGER
Patty Reich	Mai Quynh Le

THE EASTERN
TRANSPORTATION
COALITION

CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS