

# Action Plan: Transportation

## MFRP Minnesota Forest Futures Conference: TAKING ACTION!

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Wednesday and Thursday: December 10-11, 2014

Arrowwood Lodge

Baxter, Minnesota

### Transportation

**Recommendation # 1.** Fund improvements to, and maintenance of existing forest roads and bridges in the forested parts of the state.

Action Steps / • Tasks	Responsible Parties Lead/Support Persons	Benchmarks	Timelines
<b>Action Step 1: Pass legislation to sufficiently fund road and bridge maintenance and improvements</b>	- MFI - TPA	Language developed to present to legislators/governor	2015 legislative session
<b>Action Step 2: Improve the county forest road system</b>	-		2015 legislative session

**Recommendation # 2** Urge Minnesota’s congressional delegation to move federal highway vehicle weight limits at least up to current state limits, 90,000 pounds with six axles in the summer and 99,000 pounds with six axles in the winter, to ensure a more seamless road network (Governor, Congressional delegation)

Action Steps / • Tasks	Responsible Parties Lead/Support Persons	Benchmarks	Timelines
<b>Action Step 1: Urge Minnesota’s congressional delegation to lobby for state limits on federal highways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MFI</li> <li>- TPA</li> </ul>	Completion of US DOT Truck Study, early 2015, allows action at federal level	late 2015
<b>Action Step 2 Apply for an exemption for I-35 from terminus at Duluth south to Hinckley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MFI</li> <li>- TPA</li> </ul>		2015 Leg. session

**Recommendation # 3** Urge Minnesota’s congressional delegation to change laws that prevent rail competition (governor, Congressional delegation)

<b>Action Step 1: Urge Governor and Minnesota DOT Commissioner to remove railroad anti-trust exemption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TPA</li> <li>- MFI</li> </ul>	Language developed to present to Gov. & Comm.	3 months
<b>Action Step 2: Surface transportation board reform?</b>	-		2015 Legis. session

**Recommendation # 4** Support development of pipelines as an option to increase the availability of rail service for the forest products industry (Governor, Legislature, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission)

<b>Action Step 1: Expedite PUC decision or urge the governor to pass/sign the provision re: Enbridge/Keystone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TPA</li> <li>- MFI</li> </ul>	Language developed to present to Governor/Legislature/PUC	3 months
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