

Twin Cities Metro Freight Study

Summary of Results

Transportation Committee

July 22, 2013



Introduction

- Freight Study Overview
- Metro Freight System
- Freight and the Region's Economy
- Freight Study Reports
- Key Study Findings & Recommendations
- Next Steps

Freight Study Overview

Why Now?

- Previous MnDOT plans
 - MnDOT District Freight Plans
 - MnDOT Statewide Rail Plan
- Federal Transportation Act Reauthorization
- Opportunity to retain Volpe Research Center



Freight Study Overview

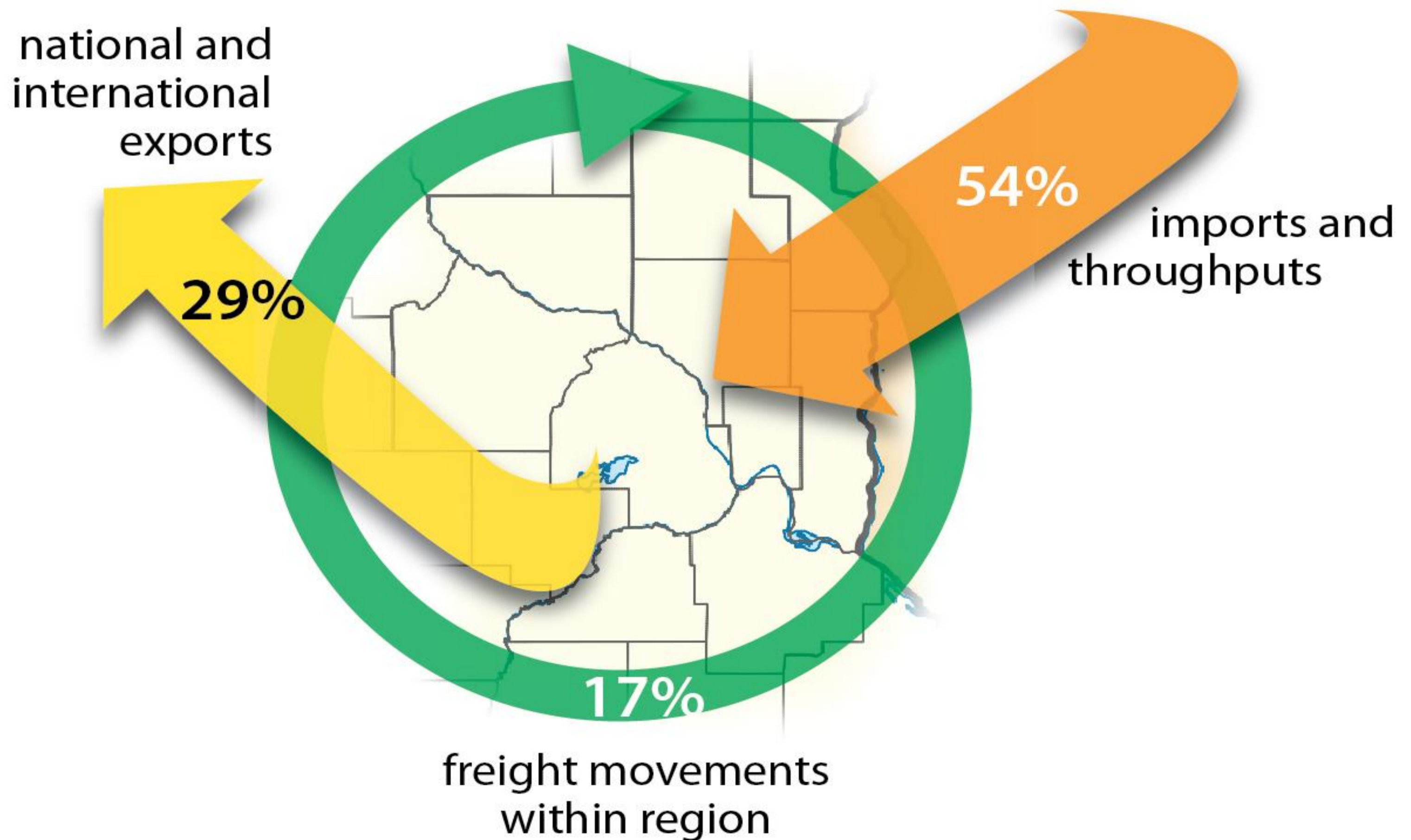
Study Goals

- Highlight importance of freight to region's economy
- Assess regional freight movements
- Identify regional issues and trends
- Begin to form framework for a regional freight strategy



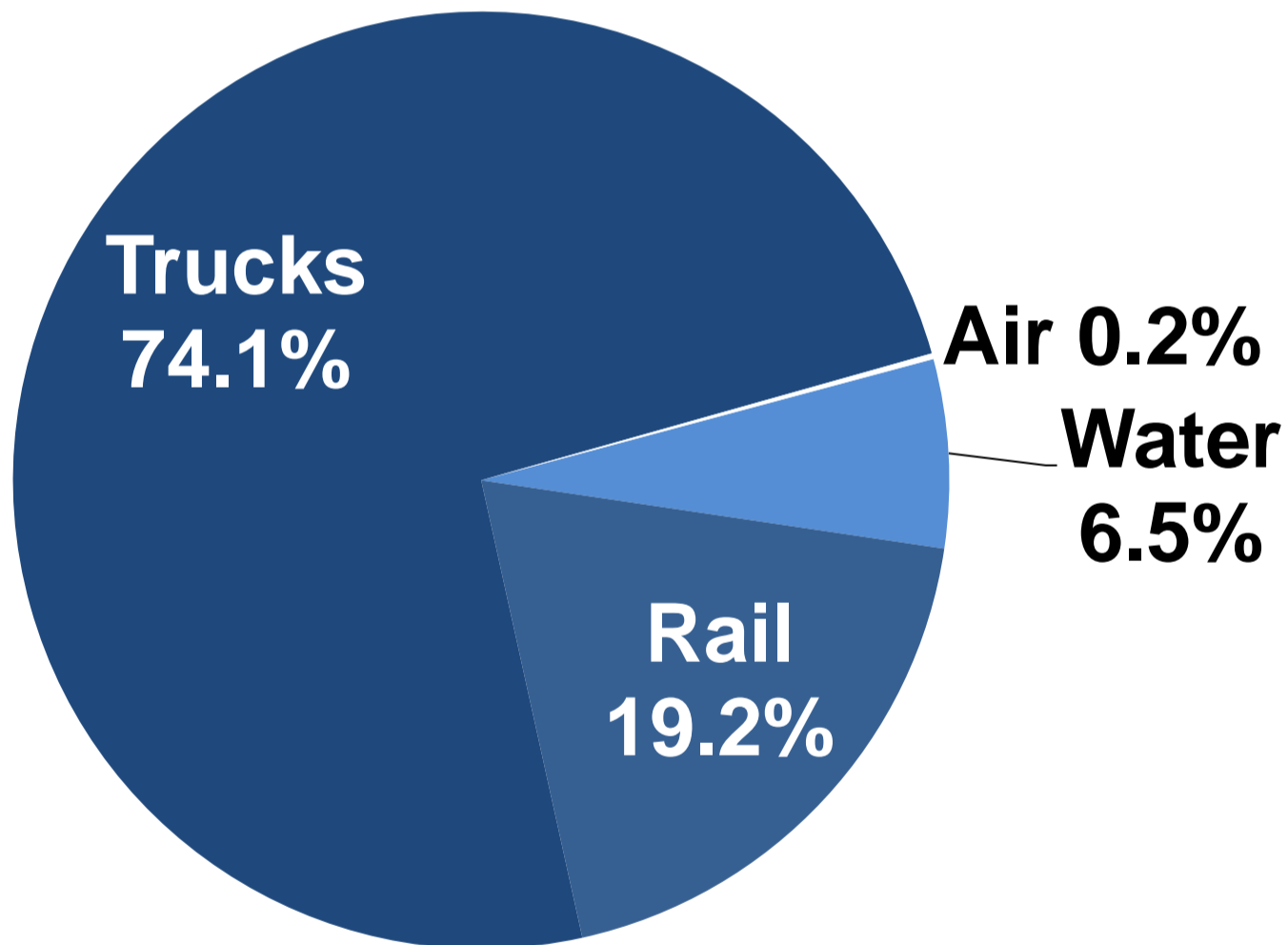
Metro Freight System

Regional Freight Flows

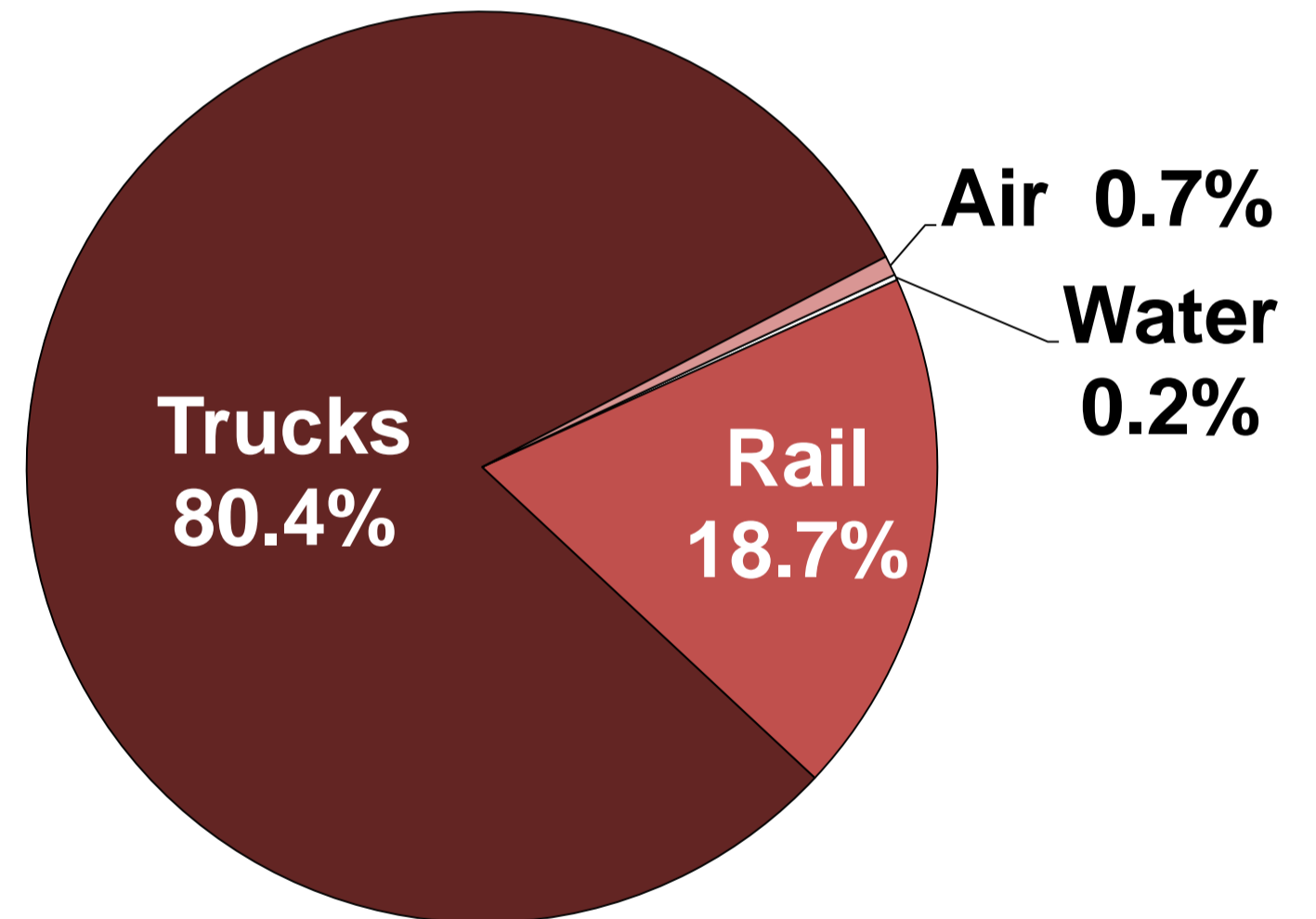


Metro Freight System

Tonnage by Mode



Value by Mode



Freight and the Region's Economy

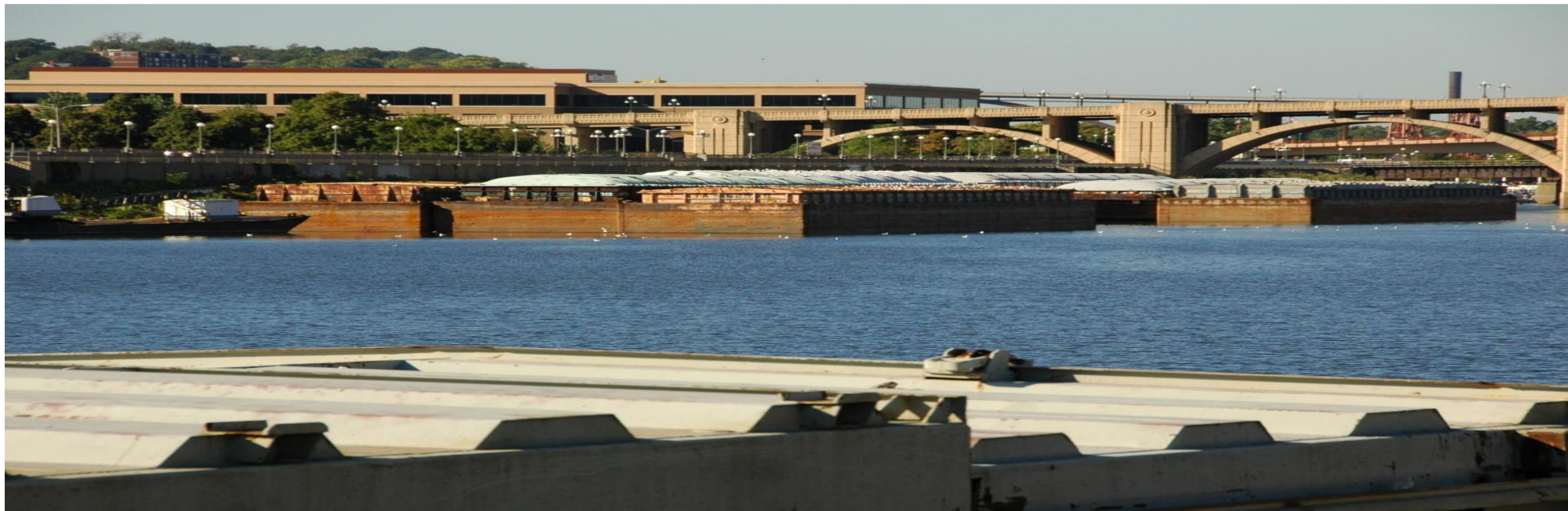
Freight system supports the region's economic competitiveness by:

- Providing jobs
- Retaining business
- Maintaining flow of regional exports
- Providing timely supply of manufacturing inputs



Freight Study Reports

- *The Importance of Freight to the Twin Cities' Economy*
- *Report on Peer Best Practices*
- *Opportunities to Strengthen Freight Planning*
- *Freight System Performance Management Framework*



Key Study Findings and Recommendations

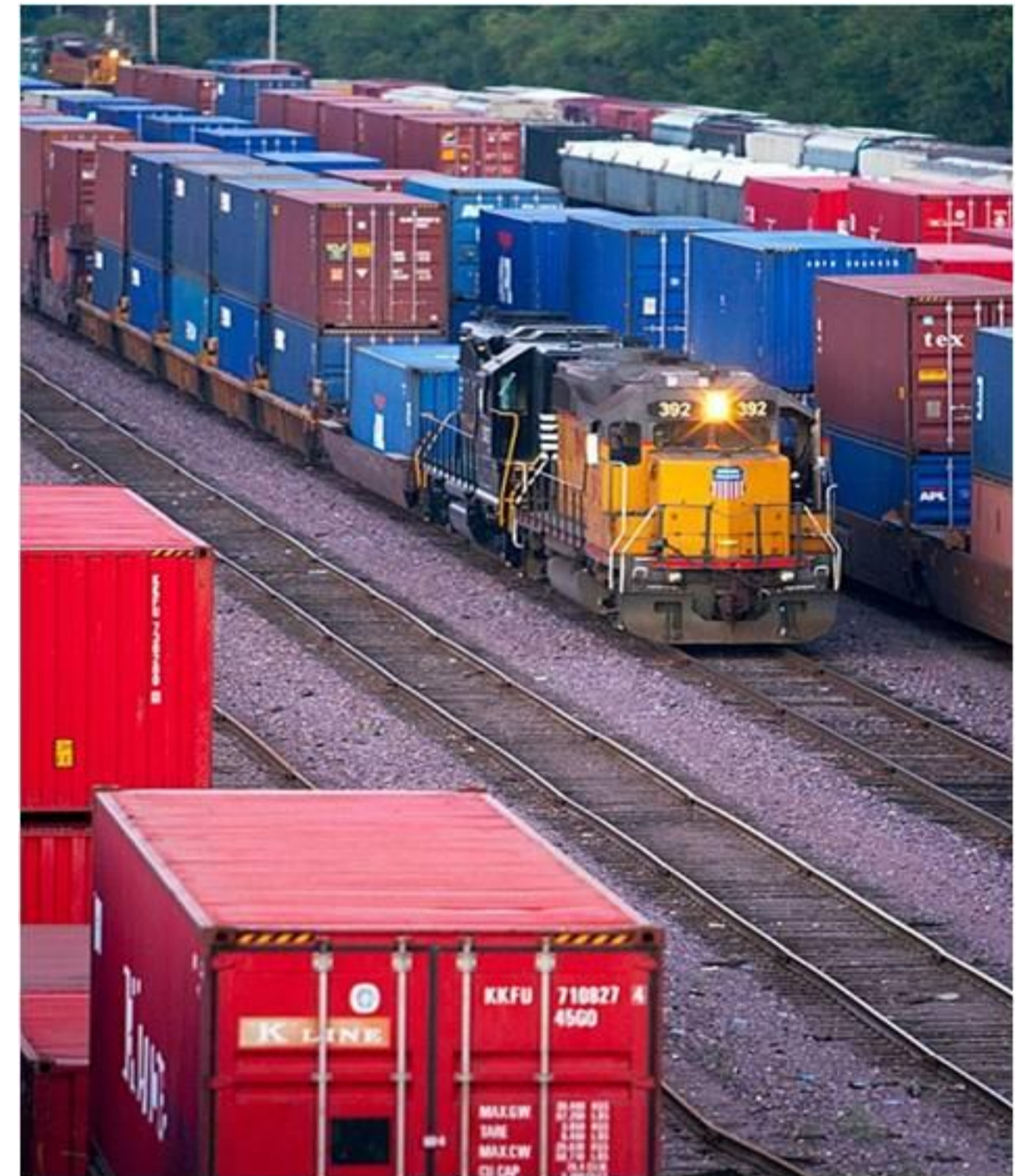
- Rail and Intermodal Capacity
- Residential/Commercial versus Industrial Land Use
- Congestion and Freight Moved by Truck



Rail & Intermodal Capacity

Key Findings

- Metro region rail bottlenecks limit capacity for future freight & passenger rail demand.
- Capacity constraints at container yards may limit rail intermodal growth.



Rail & Intermodal Capacity

Key Recommendations

- Through coalition of partners, pursue short & long-term capacity improvements.
- Conduct new rail capacity studies in metro area, where rail congestion identified or anticipated.



Land Use Pressures on Industrial Land & Freight Terminals

Key Findings

- Pressures to redevelop industrial land along rivers and railroads may threaten the viability of industry and freight.
- Non-industrial development and encroachment upon industrial land can affect efficiency of freight terminals and can lead to conflicts with residents.



Land Use Pressures on Industrial Land & Freight Terminals

Key Recommendations

- Analyze existing land use and zoning along the Mississippi River and in major rail corridors to determine:
 1. Land and transportation needs of waterway and rail corridor-dependent industries
 2. Extent to which developable land for industrial/manufacturing uses is threatened by non-industrial development

Land Use Pressures on Industrial Land & Freight Terminals

Key Recommendations

- Depending on results of industrial land use/zoning analysis on river and rail corridors:
 1. Work with cities/counties to develop strategies to preserve threatened industrial land use zones, manufacturing facilities, and intermodal/warehouse terminals.
 2. Develop guidelines for and encourage consideration of freight needs and impacts for use by cities/counties in comprehensive plans.

Congestion and Freight Moved by Truck

Key Findings

- Highway congestion increases freight shipping costs in the Twin Cities.
- There is need to determine where/when trucks are most impacted by highway congestion and a lack of related truck data.



Congestion and Freight Moved by Truck

Key Recommendations

- Develop a “Freight Advantages” working group of MnDOT/Met Council staff to:
 1. Identify specific truck issues and needs
 2. Develop cost-effective, operational solutions to improve travel time reliability for trucks
- Form interagency and private sector ad hoc freight groups to work with “Freight Advantages” group in addressing specific truck issues and solutions.

Next Steps

- Convene “Freight Advantages” work group
- Improve truck data collection scope/methods
- Update Statewide Freight Plan
- Draft goals and objectives for TPP Update
- Convert recommendations to TPP strategies and work plan