

## How to Take Action on a Local Level for Truck Parking

During the Hanover, Maryland Truck Parking Regional Meeting held on June 12, 2016, some suggestions on how to specifically take action locally was discussed.

Following the meeting I asked Nicole Katsikides to help truck drivers put into words how we can all begin to engage our local communities and states officials in this discussion. Nicole is currently the Deputy Director in the Office of Planning and Preliminary Engineering and Data Services Engineering Division at the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration. She also worked at the Federal Highway Administration Office of Freight Management and Operations. She has become deeply knowledgeable about “Jason’s Law” and the truck parking shortage issue.

We all have a voice that can help move this discussion further into our communities by taking the time to ask questions. Here are the suggestions that have been offered and our organization REAL Women in Trucking will be following these steps. We encourage others to do the same.

Request more information from state agencies by doing the following:

1. Send a letter to the agency heads informing them of the [FAST Act](#) requirements which says that each state must have an approved freight plan and freight network in place by December 2017 in order to continue to use their freight formula funds that were made available in [FAST Act](#). See Link: [The FAST Act: The Freight Provisions](#)
2. Identify to these agency heads in the letter that the funds can be used on eligible projects until December 2017. After that, they can only use them if they have their freight plan in place. Eligible activities include truck parking and ITS type systems for information sharing and notifications.
3. Make contact with state Motor Carrier Associations to make sure they understand what is in the FAST Act, and that truck parking is an eligible project. They should be asking “**What’s in the freight plan?**” to their State and make sure they come away with an awareness for truck parking needs.
4. Get involved in State and MPO area freight advisory committees. If you have questions about who to contact, you can find out by searching Google

for your State. I have emailed for some contact information and the reply is below.

a. **Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)**

AMPO is a nonprofit, membership organization established in 1994 to serve the needs and interests of “[metropolitan planning organizations \(MPOs\)](#)” nationwide. Federal highway and transit statutes require, as a condition for spending federal highway or transit funds in urbanized areas, the designation of MPOs, which have responsibility for planning, programming and coordination of federal highway and transit investments. <http://www.ampo.org/>

b. **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)**

AASHTO is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It represents all five transportation modes: air, highways, public transportation, rail, and water. Its primary goal is to foster the development, operation, and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system.

c. AASHTO works to educate the public and key decision makers about the critical role that transportation plays in securing a good quality of life and sound economy for our nation. AASHTO serves as a liaison between state departments of transportation and the Federal government. <http://www.transportation.org/>

d. **National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)**

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues.

e. NARC's member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. <http://narc.org/>

5. Google [FHWA's Talking Freight](#) and see if they are doing any webinars on truck parking or freight planning, call in while you are on the road (hands free) and offer your insight. These are usually attended by state planners for freight.

6. Ask your State what they have done to improve on Jason's Law data since the report was published. For Instance: In Maryland, they are doing a number of things including purchasing valuable truck probe data from ATRA to help them understand where the issues are occurring and where they should target truck parking development of operational improvements like ITS.

Final Advice: Persist with asking questions about “What is in your freight plan?” be tenacious but polite about getting answers.