

Minnesota Statewide Truck Parking Study

Truck parking is a top concern of the freight industry. Truck drivers are often faced with a tough decision: To find a safe parking location before exhausting their allowed Hours-of-Service (and lose productivity) or to risk proceeding with uncertain parking expectations. If parking is unavailable when their hours elapse, drivers often park in unauthorized locations. Trends driving this challenge:

- **More Trucks** – In the past ten years, overall tonnage carried by trucks increased 24 percent.
- **Hours of Service** – Increased limitations on the consecutive hours a truck driver can drive.
- **Electronic Logging Devices** – Federal law required trucking operations shift from a paper to electronic logbooks
- **Productivity Expectations** – Rising customer expectations for delivery times and an increasingly cost competitive marketplace have pressured truck drivers decisions

This data-driven study will be informed by stakeholder input to better understand how truck parking issues impact Minnesota and identify what potential solutions could be undertaken. Ultimately, the study will develop a 10 year truck parking vision and specific strategies to achieve that vision.



INVESTMENT CASE FOR TRUCK PARKING



Based on past experience and feedback previously provided by the Minnesota Truck Association, MnDOT developed a series of “worst-case” scenarios that could develop from underinvestment in truck parking. While these scenarios are extreme, they are based on real events across the nation and underline the importance of truck parking along Minnesota’s roadways.



SUDDEN MAJOR WINTER WEATHER EVENT

In late December, a **sudden major winter weather event** takes place, which cripples transportation throughout the region. Conditions deteriorate rapidly. Roads become increasingly impassible. Holiday travelers and truck drivers compete for parking spots. The Minnesota National Guard is activated and begin rescuing stranded travelers. While they save many, other trucks are stranded leaving their drivers exposed to the weather and are found at the conclusion of the event.



TRUCK DRIVERS REFUSE TO PARK IN UNAUTHORIZED AREAS

Following a **series of violent attacks**, truck drivers **refuse to park in unauthorized areas** and begin parking in lighted, populated areas. Once rest areas and truck stops are at capacity, drivers begin to locate in parking lots for shopping centers, schools and office parks.



TRUCK DRIVERS DIVERTED FOR SIGNIFICANT DISTANCE

A major crash along a heavy used, rural interstate corridor causes a bridge to become impassible. While an interim solution is constructed, **truck drivers are diverted for a significant distance on the Truck Highway system**. Truck drivers approaching their Hours of Service limits find unique parking solutions near rural hamlets and towns to the dismay of local residents.