



New Members

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President's Message

While we are barely into February, the Missouri General Assembly has been active during the month of January, with a few issues such as Ethics and Right to Work already making their way through much of the legislative process. In fact, on Thursday, February 2, SB 19 (Right to Work) received final legislative approval of the House and is on its way to Governor Greitens' desk where he is expected to sign it into law in the coming days.

Many readers of this article will remember (or remember stories about) the Right to Work issue being put to a vote of the people through the initiative process in 1978, going down to defeat by approximately a 60% to 40% margin. The party and political dynamics in the late '70's were much different. Governor Joe Teasdale was the Democratic Governor at the time, and the Missouri House and Senate were heavily dominated by Democratic majorities. Labor was able to raise \$2 million to fight the ballot issue, an enormous amount of money for 1978. To say that the political climate has changed would be an understatement. Current Republican Governor Eric Greitens now works with Republican super-majorities in both the House and the Senate. Republicans ran and got elected on a platform of enacting Right to Work. And as you see from the first paragraph, we are within days of SB 19 being signed into law in Missouri, making Missouri the 28th state to become a right to work state.

Tort Reform and Ethics Reform are essentially next up on the legislative agenda, with several bills filed on each topic. All told, much of the ethics reform efforts are focused on banning lobbyist gifts either totally or at some nominal level, enacting a more restrictive cooling off period before legislators can become lobbyists, and enacting term limits for all statewide officeholders.

On the tort reform side, the efforts have been focused at reforming many of the issues businesses have been working on for years such as several pieces of legislation aimed at restricting venue shopping, collateral source rule changes, requiring changes in the qualification and use of opinions for expert witnesses, changes in the arbitration agreements, and several other bills to lessen the effect of St Louis' continued listing as one of the top (#1 in 2016/2017 report) "Judicial Hellholes" by the American Tort Reform Foundation.

For trucking specific legislation, the platooning bill is once again working its way through the legislative process, and was heard by the House Transportation Committee on Wednesday, February 1. HB 108, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Davis (R-Webb City) would authorize MoDOT to create a testing program for 2 trucks to operate in a platoon and follow closer than 300 feet. A similar bill (SB 243) has been filed in the Senate by Sen. Dan Hegeman (R-Cosby) and currently is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee. The senate version does not authorize a pilot or testing program, but rather would simply exempt trucks equipped with the connected braking systems from the 300 feet following distance in current statutes. Recall last year a platooning bill passed, but was vetoed by Governor Jay Nixon, and the legislature failed to override the veto in September 2016. During the 2016 session, the platooning bill (HB 1733) was opposed late in April by the Teamsters. In 2017, HB 108 picked up a few more groups in opposition. Joining the Teamsters, were the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

REAL ID is a hot topic, with Missouri as one of the few states that cannot receive an extension from the implementation of the federal law in early 2018. I feel like I could simply cut and past our discussions and descriptions from the past few years on this issue. Not much essentially has changed, but supporters are hopeful we can give Missourians an option to obtain a REAL ID compliant Missouri license so they can travel on airlines or onto military bases after January 2018. For those of you involved in trucking and deliveries to federal facilities, you understand the importance and need for this to be addressed sooner rather than later. At least half a dozen bills have been filed to give Missourians an option, and two of those bills have been combined into one and is expected to be debated on the floor of the Missouri Senate the week of February 6th.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

SCS/SBs 37 & 244, sponsored by Sen Ryan Silvey (R-Kansas City) and Sen Caleb Rowden (R-Columbia) would authorize the MO Dept of Revenue to give Missourians the option of obtaining a REAL ID compliant license or a nonREAL ID compliant license when renewing or applying for a Missouri driver's license.

Tolling is the only form of transportation funding on the horizon in 2017, and the Federal Highway Administration completely based their extension of Missouri's authority to toll I-70 on passage of HB 155 sponsored by Rep Kevin Corlew (R-Kansas City.) Recall in the 2015 FAST Act that states with authority to convert existing interstates into toll roads were given a one-year extension to either use their authority or lose it. States were allowed to apply for a single one-year extension. Luckily for us in Missouri, Missouri has had their authority since 2005, and despite not making progress or even getting a hearing on the same tolling legislation in 2016, the Federal Highway Administration, in their infinite wisdom in the last week of the Obama Administration, granted Missouri's request for an extension, based on the passage of HB 155. If HB 155 doesn't pass in 2017, the extension will die along with its failure.

Because of the extra scrutiny on HB 155 this year, I DO anticipate the bill will get a hearing. Please be on the lookout for Legislative Alerts from MoTA this session for your opportunity to get engaged on this issue and let your legislator know the importance of keeping Missouri toll free.

God bless you if you made it to this point in the article! We have many more legislative issues confronting our industry and I will be expanding on more of those in the coming issues. For those hardcore legislative junkies, I have included a list of the bills we are following with links for you to be able to get copies of the legislation and summaries for each of them. Stay tuned!

2016 MoTA Drivers of the Month

<p><i>January</i> Albert Hockett XPO Logistics</p>	<p><i>July</i> Howard Hall Buchheit Logistics, Inc.</p>
<p><i>February</i> Ralph "Gene" Conduff D & D Sexton</p>	<p><i>August</i> Walter F Dexter "Frank" Gully Transportation</p>
<p><i>March</i> Stan Martin XPO Logistics</p>	<p><i>September</i> Keith Schwent Buchheit Logistics, Inc.</p>
<p><i>April</i> Donald R. Lewis Wil-Trans</p>	<p><i>October</i> Glenn Horack Prime Inc.</p>
<p><i>May</i> Steven Fields YRC Freight</p>	<p><i>November</i> Thomas Miller Prime Inc.</p>
<p><i>June</i> Sid Naramore Buchheit Logistics, Inc.</p>	<p><i>December</i> Nora Black Orscheln Farm & Home</p>

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Trucking Industry Gives Survey

ATA President and CEO Chris Spear announced that ATA has commissioned ATRI to examine and quantify the trucking industry's various charitable efforts, not only how much the industry gives but the types of charities supported by the industry. The results of this survey will allow the industry to better tell its story of how it not only moves the nation's freight but gives back to local communities in a very big way.

The survey is designed for both corporate and individual responses and I hope you will not only complete the survey yourself but encourage your members to respond on behalf of their respective organizations and individually. When ATRI does the analysis, I will provide you with the total charitable giving reported by organizations and individuals from your state – a number you will be able to use with your own state media to demonstrate how much the trucking industry supports local communities.

The survey is available on ATRI's website – www.atri-online.org – using the TRUCKING INDUSTRY GIVES survey icon or by clicking here <https://www.research.net/r/Trucking-Industry-Gives>.

Let me know if you have any questions and thanks in advance for your help in encouraging responses to the Trucking Industry Gives survey.



FHWA Publishes Final Performance Management Rules

On Jan. 9, the Federal Highway Administration posted the last two [final rules on performance management standards](#) required by Congress in the MAP-21 and FAST Act highway bills. The rules establish state and local government performance standards for highway and bridge condition, highway system performance and air quality. The rules include requirements for measuring the reliability of truck transportation on the Interstate System. FHWA will host webinars to explain the rule and address implementation issues; registration is available [here](#).

-ATA Dispatch-

ATRI Looking for Input on Research Advisory Committee Process

ATRI's Research Advisory Committee will meet in March to identify the trucking industry's top research priorities for 2017. In advance of the RAC meeting, ATRI is looking for industry input on potential research topics. If you have a research topic that you would like ATRI's RAC to consider at its meeting in March, please submit your ideas to ATRI through the research suggestion box on ATRI's website www.atri-online.org.

-ATA Dispatch-

Safety Culture and Guidance on Onboard Safety Monitoring Systems

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently released guidance for industry and fleet managers on safety culture concepts, improving safety culture and the use of onboard safety monitoring (OSM) systems. This guidance document is available for download from FMCSA's Web site [here](#).

The implementation of OSM systems involves more than installing the technology in commercial vehicles. It requires detailed planning and involvement from all levels within a fleet to overcome expected criticism and resistance when implementing an OSM device.

FMCSA's goal for making this guidance document on OSM systems available to the industry was to provide a manual for use by fleet management personnel prior to implementing an OSM technology, or to assist motor carriers that have already implemented an OSM device but who are having problems achieving safety results.

This manual is a practical, easy-to-understand reference guide for implementing an OSM program. It includes an overview of safety culture, a step-by-step guide for implementing a behavior-based safety (BBS) program in conjunction with an OSM device, and provides a list of commercially available OSM systems.

For additional information concerning this guidance document, please contact Martin Walker at (202) 385-2364 or via email at martin.r.walker@dot.gov.

-ATA Dispatch-

FMCSA Suspends Effective Date of Unified Registration System

On January 13, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) suspended implementation of the Unified Registration System. FMCSA is suspending the date of implementation because additional information is needed to securely migrate data from multiple systems into a new central database. During this suspension, entities needing to file will follow the same procedures and forms used to submit information to FMCSA as they do today.

-Transport Topics-

ATA CEO Spear Named to Federal Panel on Transportation Automation

On Wednesday, January 11, American Trucking Associations President and CEO Chris Spear said he was honored to be selected as a member of the U.S. Department of Transportation's transportation automation advisory committee.

"I am grateful to have been chosen by Secretary Foxx to serve on this important panel," Spear said. "Trucking is vital to the U.S. economy and an important part of our transportation system, so it is imperative that trucking and this association have a seat at the table when it comes to issues like autonomous vehicles, and we will be driving that outcome."

"While large-scale use of autonomous trucks is years away, the policy framework that will govern this future is being debated and ultimately written today, and I look forward to vigorously participating in those discussions on behalf of the trucking industry."

The Department of Transportation announced that Spear was one of 25 individuals representing a myriad of modes and interests that had been named to this committee. The committee will meet for the first time on January 16.

-Transport Topics-

FMCSA Officials Call for More Traffic Enforcement, Prevention as Truck and Bus Fatalities Rise

A top Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration official issued a "call to action" citing preliminary statistics showing that fatalities in crashes involving large trucks and buses increased 7%-8% in 2016.

"These aren't just numbers," said Daphne Jefferson, FMCSA deputy administrator. "These are husbands and wives, children, mothers and fathers."

There were 4,337 fatalities in crashes involving large trucks and buses in 2015, the latest full data that have been made public and a 1.4% increase over 2014.

"While the number 4,337 is lower than it was 10 years past, say a decade ago, the recent trends are ticking up. Those numbers are way too high, and we need to continue to focus on bringing those numbers down."

Speaking at a session of the Transportation Research Board 2017 Annual Meeting, Jack Van Steenburg, FMCSA chief safety officer, said agency officials and the industry need to focus on prevention.

Van Steenburg said that the high numbers are causing the agency to call on police to step up traffic enforcement, along with roadside inspections.

"We need to slow the truck drivers down," he said. "We encourage law enforcement to conduct traffic enforcement," Van Steenburg added. "Our research shows that traffic enforcement tied with inspections saves a lot more lives than just an inspection."

-Transport Topics-





2016 FREIGHT QUICK FACTS REPORT:

The Federal Highway Administration has posted their 2016 Freight Quick Facts Report which can be found on the FHWA website. This report provides as a source of information about our nation's infrastructure system. The report focuses on a wide range of freight related topics and dives into how the U.S. freight has changed over the past several years.

Sign up for NHTSA Recalls

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) routinely issues recalls involving commercial motor vehicles. Anyone can receive weekly notices regarding recalls, both major and minor by visiting www.nhtsa.gov



PA to Run Tax Amnesty in 2017

Pennsylvania will offer a sixty-day tax amnesty program from April 21 through June 19, 2017, during which the state's department of revenue will waive all the applicable penalty and half the interest owed by eligible delinquent taxpayers on some thirty types of state taxes, provided the taxes are paid during the period.

Generally, anyone with a tax delinquency as of the end of calendar 2016 is eligible for the amnesty, except for those who participated in the state's 2010 tax amnesty program or who are under criminal tax proceedings in Pennsylvania.

For more details, click [here](#).

-State Laws Newsletter-

FMCSA Removes Georgia Medical Examiner

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced Dec. 28 that 26 days earlier it had removed Dr. Anthony Lefteris of Atlanta from its registry of certified medical examiners and intends to revoke all certificates he issued to commercial motor vehicle operators during the past two years.

A criminal complaint in the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Georgia was issued against Lefteris, a Doctor of Chiropractic, on Dec. 1. Dr. Lefteris was charged with making false statements, and making a false entry in U.S. Department of Transportation records.

According to FMCSA, an investigation initiated by USDOT and conducted by the Georgia Department of Public Safety determined that Dr. Lefteris claimed to have conducted a number of medical certification examinations that far exceeded a reasonable number. The purported examinations conducted by Dr. Lefteris at a truck stop in Atlanta exhibited a pattern in which they weren't completed, required tests were not performed, and information on the medical examination form was falsified.

FMCSA is working with State Driver's Licensing Agencies to obtain the contact information for all affected drivers. FMCSA is contacting these drivers and informing them that they have 30 days to obtain a medical examiner's certificate from an examiner with valid certification.

-Transport Topics-

Member Cancellations January 2017

Name of Company	Class	Dues
Lite-Check, LLC	Allied	\$350

Toll Rate Changes for 2017

- [Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission \(PTC\)](#) approved a 6% toll increase for both E-ZPass and cash customers; the increase is set to take effect at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 8, 2017. The most common toll for a Class-5 vehicle will increase from \$9.59 to \$10.17 for E-ZPass and from \$13.60 to \$14.45 for cash. PTC states that the increase is necessary to pay back the borrowing required to meet the PTC's funding obligations: rebuilding and widening the PA Turnpike system and providing funding to the commonwealth to support public transportation.
- [Illinois IPASS / Illinois State Toll Highway Authority](#) – On January 1, large truck toll increased an additional 10 percent from the 2014 rates (total increase of 60% from the 2014 rates). The new toll rated is daytime toll to \$43.20 and the nighttime toll to \$32.50, tollway officials said. This new increase, marks the third increase in Illinois truck tolls since 2014 as part of a congestion relief program approved in 2008, under the Rod Blagojevich administration.
- [Virginia Midtown and Downtown Tunnels](#) – On January 1, the Elizabeth River Tunnels' tolls increased on average 24% for heavy vehicles for Monday thru Friday rates. Peak tolling (Mon. - Fri., 5:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) increased \$7.79 (2016 rate: \$6.00) for EZPass and \$11.09 (2016 rate: \$8.50) for unregistered pay by plate rate. Off-peak tolling increased \$4.94 (2016 rate: \$3.75) for EZPass and \$7.79 (2016 rate: \$6.25) for unregistered pay by plate rate.
- [Chicago Skyway](#) – On January 1, tolls increased for 5-axle vehicles, \$29.40 for peak rate (4am to 8pm) and \$21.00 for off-peak (8pm to 4am).
- [Oklahoma Turnpike](#) – On January 1, tolls increased 12 percent for all drivers on all Oklahoma turnpikes. This increased will be followed by 2.5 percent increase in 2018 and an additional 2.5 percent increase in 2019.
- [Ohio Turnpike](#) – On January 1, tolls for all vehicles increased as part of the 2015-2023 toll rate schedule. Check out the rates [here](#).
- [NY & NJ Port Authority tolls](#) and [New York State Thruway tolls](#) remain the same for 2017! In other words, a lot.



MoTA Photo Album

*Check back . . .
you could be in
our next album!*

