# Delmarva #FreightFriday Freight Operations

# June 12, 2020

Presented by the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration in partnership with: Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), Dover/Kent County MPO, Salisbury/Wicomico MPO, and WILMAPCO



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# <u>Agenda</u>

## Delmarva Central Railroad: Operations Update and Seaford Transload Case Study

Cliff Grunstra, Chief Marketing Officer, Delmarva Central Railroad

#### **Revised Hours of Service Regulations**

Philip Strohm, Delaware Division Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

#### **Traffic Impacts of the COVID-19 Shutdown**

Dan Blevins, Principal Planner, WILMAPCO





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#### Delmarva Central Railroad ABOUT DCR: START UP

On December 17, 2016, Carload Express subsidiary Delmarva Central Railroad (DCR) took over 162 miles of Norfolk Southern Trackage on the Delmarva Peninsula in Maryland and Delaware.

	START-UP				
48	Hours to transition operations				
12	Locomotives moved into place				
20	Contractors mobilized for support				
5	Offices established (IT, Communications, Etc) Dispatch Radio Bases Transitioned				
9					
1,000+	Locks Changed out				
CTC & TWC	Cutover of operating control systems from NS to DCR including Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) and Track Warrant Control (TWC)				
45+	Customers seamlessly transitioned from NS to DCR				

#### Delmarva Central Railroad, 2016





#### Delmarva Central Railroad ABOUT DCR: FIRST THREE YEARS OF GROWTH



#### **Major Milestones**

- Invested over \$10.0 million
- Over 60,000 ties installed since 2016
- 13 locomotives acquired & refurbished
- Over 40 grade crossings resurfaced (track & highway)
- Expanded operations over two additional lines, bringing total network to 188 miles
- Added 6 rail-served customers
- Operated 1<sup>st</sup> Unit Trains for an Agricultural Customer in over 17 years
- Improved unit aggregate train cycle times by over 30%
- Grew corn traffic 128% since 2016
- Worked closely with propane customer to double track capacity in their facility
- Invested over \$1.5 million to develop multi-commodity rail-to-truck transload facility in Seaford, DE



2019 MILESTONE: Grew Aggregates Volumes 39.5% over 2018!

5/12/2020



In 2018, DCR purchased the vacant former BASF bulk liquids facility at Seaford, Delaware. DCR parent company Carload Express makes strategic investments in vacant rail-served real estate in order to secure properties as future rail customers.







In 2019, DCR redeveloped the facility and opened it as the new Seaford Transload Terminal. By leveraging existing relationships and through extensive research, DCR generated two new lanes of steady rail business at the Seaford Transload Terminal.



- Through deep discussions with existing customers, it was uncovered that certain liquid ingredients, vital to the manufacture of chicken feed, were being trucked in from beyond the Delmarva Peninsula.
- DCR approached the market leaders and partnered with these suppliers via long term agreements to ship railcars of liquid feed ingredients to the eastern shore of Delaware, Maryland, & Virginia for transloading at the previously-acquired facility in Seaford.
- Significant investments were made to the site to allow for the efficient handling of this new rail traffic that was a
  pure 100% conversion from long-haul trucks. DCR coordinated with multiple departments of the City of Seaford
  to make this vision a reality.





A roadway was built adjacent to an existing rail siding in the facility to allow direct railcar-to-truck transloading of liquid feed ingredients. Railcars are loaded in Texas and are spotted at the Seaford Transload upon arrival. This system gives the customers trucks 24/7/365 access for transloading activities.

DCR subsequently added a complete pump, pipe, tank and truck loadout system to allow a second new Fortune 50 customer to ship railcars of liquid feed ingredients to the DCR. These cars originate in the Midwest and the DCR transloads the railcars into the tanks so truckers can load at the Seaford Transload Terminal on-demand to serve our mutual customers. The entire liquid transloading and storage system is heattraced and insulated and was designed and 100%-funded by DCR to secure this long-term business.



6/12/2020



As a result of these two projects, DCR secured several hundred new railcars of highly-consistent traffic per year. These liquid feed ingredients are critical to the chicken industry on the eastern shore, and now they are available in quantity at a centralized location, eliminating the unpredictability and risk associated with sourcing this highly valued material via long-haul trucks.





The DCR uncovered an opportunity, provided unique solutions, invested in that vision, and created a new innovative supply chain that has boosted the local economy, strengthened relationships with some of our most important customers, put a previously idle industrial site to use, and created long-term value for all stakeholders (suppliers, receivers, community and the railroad).





# Delmarva Central Railroad

Cliff Grunstra Chief Marketing Officer

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# Hours of Service

What's new in the final rule published June 2020



# Hours of Service (HOS) Final Rule

- FMCSA published a revised HOS final rule on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Drivers must operate under new rule starting on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, not before
- HOS final rule changes the following 4 provisions



# Why did the HOS rule change?

- Developed based on the direct input from truckers, industry, safety advocates, Congress, and the American people.
- Rule will result in critical regulatory savings of over \$270 million—which will help create more jobs and strengthen the motor carrier industry.



Rule aims to provide drivers with greater flexibility while maintaining safety on our Nation's roads

# **Engaging Stakeholders in HOS Rulemaking**



0 Notice of Proposed 1 Rulemaking

2

Seek input on five specific changes to HOS provisions

2,800+

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

# **Understanding the HOS Changes**



CDL carriers using the short-haul exception are not required to use a RODS or ELDs, or take a 30-minute break (§395.1(e)(1))

#### HOS final rule:

- Extends maximum driving distance allowed under the short-haul exception from a 100 to a 150 air-mile radius
- 2
- Extends maximum duty period from 12 to 14 hours

#### EXAMPLE

Under the previous rule, a driver based in Peoria could not service Chicago and St. Louis. The new rule allows the driver to service those two cities, as well as an additional 2 hours to do so

#### Previous rule:







CDL carriers using the short-haul exception are not required to use a RODS or ELDs, or take a 30-minute break (§395.1(e)(1))

#### HOS final rule:

- Extends maximum driving distance allowed under the short-haul exception from a 100 to a 150 air-mile radius
- 2
- Extends maximum duty period from 12 to 14 hours

#### EXAMPLE

Under the previous rule, a driver based in Dover, could not service New York and Richmond. The new rule allows the driver to service those two cities, as well as an additional 2 hours to do so.



# **Short-Haul Exception**

- · No other provisions of the CDL short-haul exception changed
- New HOS rule does not change the non-CDL short-haul exception in §395.1(e)(2)

#### To be able to use the short-haul exception, the CMV driver must:

- Operate within a 150 air-miles radius
- Not exceed a maximum duty period of 14 hours
- Start and end shift in the same location
- · Have at least 8 (passenger) or 10 (property) hours off between shifts
- Include the start and end times for the day and the total hours on-duty on the time record for the day

# **Short-Haul Exception and Logs**



While operating under the short-haul exception, drivers are not required to fill out a log with a graph grid or use an Electronic Logging Device (ELD), they can use a time record instead

- Motor carrier must record the driver's time in, time out, and total # of hours per day
  - Time must include the total time for the 7 preceding days
  - Records must be maintained for 6 months
- When a driver no longer meets the exception, (drives too far/works too many hours), the driver must complete a regular log or use an ELD for the day (§395.8)
  - If driver is required to complete a log:
    - 8 or fewer days within the last 30 days ► driver can use paper log with a graph grid
    - More than 8 days within the last 30 days ► driver must use an ELD to record time for that day



# **Adverse Driving Conditions Definition**

#### Previous

Adverse driving conditions means snow, sleet, fog, or other adverse weather conditions, a highway covered with snow or ice, or unusual road and traffic conditions, none of which were apparent on the basis of information known to the person dispatching the run at the time it was begun

#### New

Adverse driving conditions means snow, ice, sleet, fog, or other adverse weather conditions or unusual road or traffic conditions that were not known, or could not reasonably be known, to:



**a driver** immediately prior to beginning the duty day or immediately before beginning driving after a qualifying rest break or sleeper berth period, or



a motor carrier immediately prior to dispatching the driver



# **Adverse Driving Conditions Exception**

Under the previous rule, drivers were granted an exception to the 10- or 11-hour driving limits when <u>unforeseeable</u> adverse driving conditions affected their route

#### HOS final rule:

- Extends the duty day by 2 hours when adverse driving conditions are encountered
  - In addition to the 2 hours of driving time already allowed, and applies to both:
    - Property carrier 14-hour driving window (§395.3(a)(2)) and
    - Passenger carrier 15-hour on-duty limit (§395.5(a)(2))

Updates the adverse driving conditions definition to include the role of the driver

# **Adverse Driving Conditions Exception**

#### EXAMPLE

A driver is 15 miles from his destination when there is a gravel spill on the bridge ahead (the bridge is the only access to the destination)

- Driver has 1 hour left of driving time and 1 hour left in the driving day
- Driver can stop at the next exit (for up to 2 hours) until the road is clear, and still have time to get to the destination without violating HOS rules

Drivers should annotate, and include details about, the adverse driving condition in their log or Electronic Logging Device (ELD)





Under the previous rule, property-carrying drivers were required to take a 30-minute break after 8 hours **on-duty** §395.3(a)(3)(ii)

#### HOS final rule:





30-minute break can also be satisfied by an "on-duty not driving period"

#### Previous 30-minute break can be satisfied by: Off-duty Sleeper birth



# **30-Minute Break Requirement**

EXAMPLE

The examples on this slide assume the driver has driven for 8 hours and needs to take a 30-minute break

- Previous Rule: only the top log is compliant
- New Rule: both logs are compliant



Short non-consecutive periods cannot be combined to reach 30 minutes of non-driving time. 30 minutes must be consecutive.







Allows drivers to split 10-hour off-duty period, as long as:

- One off-duty period (whether in or out of the sleeper berth) is at least 2 hours long, and
- The other involves at least 7 consecutive hours in the sleeper berth

When used together, neither period counts against the 14-hour driving window

 8-hour sleeper-berth period by itself can no longer be excluded from the 14-hour driving window

Note: Short-haul drivers are still exempt from requirement



## **Sleeper Berth Provision**

#### EXAMPLE

The example on this slide assumes the driver starts day 1 having just completed 10 consecutive hours off-duty

- None of the 4 break periods count against the driver's 14-hour window

#### Day 1: Driver used a 7/3 split

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#### Day 2: Driver used an 8/2 split



## When do the changes take effect?





# **More Information & Resources**



For information and example logbooks, visit: <a href="https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hours-of-service">https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hours-of-service</a>



Travel Impacts of the CoVID-19 Shutdown: The Delaware Perspective





# Measuring the Impacts

- Easier than ever before!
- Use of new tools and technology
- Capture more data with quick turn around

#### Streelight<sup>©</sup>



#### Permanent Counters



#### Archived Travel Time Data (NPMRDS)

#### NPMRDE Analytics 📰 🚺 🚼 😭 🔯 📰 🎫

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# Measuring the Impacts...Why does it matter?

- · Estimating revenue forecasts which are based on tolls/fuel taxes
- Timing of future data collection efforts (i.e. turning movements, AADT) for use in future traffic analysis
- What does the a new "normal" look like for freight???



# Measuring the Impacts...Why does it matter?

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- What does the a new "normal" look like for freight???

# Curbside pickup is here to stay.

Because convenience plays a large role in customer satisfaction, and now safety too, retailers need to adjust quickly. Providing more ways for contactless shopping gives physical stores the ability to provide what a customer needs quickly while reducing shipping costs and increasing brand loyalty. 59% Of consumers said they are more likely to use curbside pickup following

the coronavirus outbreak

COVID-19 Shopping & Delivery Trends

Results from CommerceHub Consumer Survey

#### Over 1,500 respondents

CommerceHut

75%

to multiple delivery services (including Amazon Prime), said they were still likely to opt for curbside delivery once the pandemic subsides.

# Measuring the Impacts...Why does it matter?

- Estimating revenue forecasts which are based on tolls/fuel taxes
- Timing of future data collection efforts (i.e. turning movements, AADT) for use in future traffic analysis
- What does the a new "normal" look like for freight???

#### COVID-19 Shopping & Delivery Trends

Results from CommerceHub Consumer Survey

#### Over 1,500 respondents

CommerceHub



# Measuring the Impacts...Overall Travel

 The chart below tracks the measured daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in New Castle County leading up to and after the CoVID-19 emergency declaration. The darker blue bars indicate weekends.

#### Average Daily VMT by Week - New Castle County



# Measuring the Impacts...Overall Travel

 The chart below tracks the measured daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in New Castle County leading up to and after the CoVID-19 emergency declaration. The darker blue bars indicate weekends.

#### Average Daily VMT by Week - New Castle County


#### Measuring the Impacts...Overall Travel

 The chart below tracks the measured daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in Sussex County leading up to and after the CoVID-19 emergency declaration. The darker blue bars indicate weekends.

#### Average Daily VMT by Week - Sussex County



#### Measuring the Impacts...Overall Travel

 The chart below tracks the measured daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in Sussex County leading up to and after the CoVID-19 emergency declaration. The darker blue bars indicate weekends.

#### Average Daily VMT by Week - Sussex County



Changes in weekly traffic volumes between 2019 and 2020







Changes in weekly traffic volumes between 2019 and 2020



Avg. Daily Volumes I-95 near SR 1



Changes in weekly traffic volumes between 2019 and 2020





#### Avg. Daily Volumes US 202 near PA line

Changes in weekly traffic volumes between 2019 and 2020





#### Avg. Daily Volumes US 202 near PA line

#### Measuring the impacts...Travel Time

- Use of NPMRDS hourly travel time data along pre-determined key corridors
- Comparison of travel times (avg. of both directions) from the same time period in 2019 to 2020 beginning in the last full week in February
- AM Peak period is measured from 7am-9am.
- PM peak period is measured from 4pm-6pm.

#### Corridors Currently Monitored:

- All Interstates & US Routes (collectively)
- Kirkwood Highway
- US 40
- 1-95
- US 202
- US 9 (Sussex)

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#### Measuring the impacts...Travel Time

Comparison of combined travel times for all routes Interstate / US Routes (see map) from the same time period in 2019 to 2020.

NCC Interstates and US Routes



Departures in Travel Times: March 2020 vs. March 2019 Peak Periods



## I-95: DE Line to MD Line

Comparison of combined travel times average for both directions(see map) from the same time period in 2019 to 2020.



Approx.22 Miles

Typical 2019 PM Travel Time : Approx: 29 minutes

## I-95: DE Line to MD Line

Comparison of combined travel times average for both directions(see map) from the same time period in 2019 to 2020.



Typical 2019 PM Travel Time : Approx: 29 minutes

Approx.22 Miles

Neekdays	Travel Time	Trave I Time	Change in Minutes
Feb. Week 3	27.5	26.6	-0.9
Feb. Week 4	27.8	27.4	-0.4
March Week 1	28.9	28.5	-0.4
March Week 2	27.1	26.1	-1.0
March Week 3	29.0	23.4	-5.5
March Week 4	28.9	23.6	-5.3
April Week 1	24.6	21.6	-3.0
April Week 2	33.3	21.6	-11.7
April Week 3	30.9	21.6	-9.2
April Week 4	28.8	21.7	-7.1
April Week 5	25.8	23.8	-2.0
May Week 1	25.9	22.1	-3.8
May Week 2	27.0	24.5	-2.6
May Week 3	27.7	24.2	-3.5

25.8

22.0

-3.7

26.7

25.8

24.6

May Week 2 May Week 3

May Week 4

26.8

23.7

22.3

0.1

-21

-23

May Week 4

Avg. 2019 Avg. 2020





### Kirkwood Highway; Newark to Wilmington

Comparison of combined travel times average for both directions(see map) from the same time period in 2019 to 2020.



Departures in WEEKDAY Travel Times: 2020 vs. 2019 Peak Period



## Kirkwood Highway; Newark to Wilmington

Comparison of combined travel times average for both directions(see map) from the same time period in 2019 to 2020.



Departures in WEEKDAY Travel Times: 2020 vs. 2019 Peak Period



#### Measuring the Impacts...Next Steps

- Continue to chart changes
- Begin focus on hourly, peak period changes
- What does the a new "normal" look like for freight
  - How does this impact freight movement with possible lower peak volumes?
  - How does this change capital improvements designed to address peak hour congestion?
  - Does congestion get WORSE during peaks due to drop in mass transit usage?



#### US 40 @ Scotland Drive Volume Changes Avg. April Volumes

#### Thank You!

For more information about upcoming projects, please contact Dan Blevins: dblevins@wilmapco.org (302)737-6205 x121



## **#FreightFriday Updates and Schedule**

#### **Complete evaluation for today's session**

#### **Next Live Webinar June 26 - Market Trends**

- Presentations from:
  - Gulftainer USA Wilmington
  - Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission



## **#FreightFriday Updates and Schedule**

- Recorded Shipper Updates Targeted for June 19
  - Interviews
    - Dot Foods
    - More to come
  - Presented on IPA's *First State Insights* podcast (soundcloud.com/first-state-insights/)





# Contact me with questions, comments, and offers to be involved

#### **Troy Mix**

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## Delmarva #FreightFriday

Thank you from your host and Delmarva Freight Working Group partners!

**UD Institute for Public Administration** 

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