

## **Identifying Number MPC-356**

### **Project Title:**

Truck Size & Weight Education

### **University:**

North Dakota State University

### **Principal Investigator:**

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### **Description of Research Problem:**

Trucks are the lifeblood of North Dakota businesses and farming community. Trucks are the first and last method of transportation of most raw material and finished goods moving into, out of, and within the state.

Improperly loaded trucks damage roadways which must be repaired with taxpayer dollars. It is imperative that all involved with the motor carrier industry understand the laws and regulations and the reasons behind them.

It is beneficial for those operating trucks on our public roadways to know the regulations and rules governing motor carriers in the area of size and weight. A better understanding of truck size and weight regulation results in benefits for truck drivers, trucking companies, and others involved with the motor carrier industry.

Commercial vehicle truck size and weight regulations are complex and difficult to interpret. Knowledge will encourage compliance while reducing damage to the infrastructure, reducing out of service issues and/or fines for the motor carrier, all while providing a safer environment for all.

Efficiency in the motor carrier industry is critical while at the same time protecting the highway infrastructure is also crucial. Because of the complexity of regulations governing the motor carrier industry, many times trucking companies and truck drivers are not clear on what is a legal load.

**Research Objectives:**

Disseminate information on truck size and weight regulations in North Dakota to motor carrier operators and drivers and others to increase efficiency in motor carrier operations increasing voluntary compliance with the regulations thereby protecting the state's public infrastructure.

**Research Approach/Methods:**

Organize materials for truck size and weight compliance course. Hire law enforcement liaison to help develop curriculum. Disseminate the class to the NDDOT for critique and approval. Access information from DOT District offices as to where seminars should be held and who should be invited. Advertise and provide the class to truck drivers, trucking companies, farmers and others needing training in motor carrier truck size and weight compliance. Hold classes and evaluate results.

**MPC Critical Issues Addressed by the Research:**

1. Heavy Vehicles & Commercial Trucks
2. Infrastructure Longevity
3. Traffic Operations & Management

**Contributions/Potential Applications of Research:**

This course will help provide knowledge to industry and regulators of motor carriers. The complexity of truck size and weight issues may provide confusion and inaccurate interpretations of truck size and weight regulations and providing education and refresher courses will provide knowledge to those responsible for motor carrier operations.

**Potential Technology Transfer Benefits:**

1. The project report will be shared with interested DOT's and county agencies in the MPC region.
2. A presentation/seminar will be developed for the TLN.

**Time Duration:**

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

**Total Project Cost:**

\$104,128

**MPC Funds Requested:**

\$49,776

**Source of Matching Funds:**

RTSSC, LTAP, NDDOT and ND Highway Patrol: \$54,352

**TRB Keywords:** Truck Size & Weight, Traffic Safety, Motor Carrier Economics, Rural Transportation, Transportation Systems.

**References**

Greg Hayes  
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