

Genesee County

*"Shaping our Transportation Future Together"*

2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

# **Intermodal Freight Technical Report Summary**

Intermodal freight is freight which travels by two or more means of transportation. As Genesee County lies at the crossroads of I-69/I-75/US-23 and also contains the Bishop International Airport, the travel of freight through this county is high. The intermodal network in Genesee County includes trucking, aviation, railroad and marine services. Each of these important pieces of the network is examined and the current status is discussed in the following report.

The fact of the matter is that the amount of freight that is shipped to and from Genesee County will continue to increase in the future. There has been great effort to take advantage of the location of Genesee County through investments in Bishop International Airport. Bishop International Airport (FNT) is currently in the process of developing a \$33.7-million intermodal hub designed to move cargo and other goods through the facility. Bishop is partnering with the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce to foster increased job opportunities and economic diversification through the development of the intermodal hub. This is expected to increase the area's global competitiveness and foreign trade zone designation.

The intermodal hub will service trucking by providing terminals and local cartage/drayage companies; aviation/trucking by providing terminal facilities to unload air express containers; rail/trucking by providing a bulk transfer terminal for materials such as coal or salt, bulk unloading facilities, rail/truck transfer

centers, and a terminal for the transfer of trailers between rail and truck. The hub will also include transportation related businesses which will provide warehouse space, docking capabilities, packaging, loading, and sorting facilities, as well as office space for logistic providers, customs, and sales. See attached Illustrative Intermodal Trade and Transportation Center diagram.

Intermodal hubs can help to distribute freight more efficiently on the air, roadway, and railway transportation networks. This is important as our roadways are reaching capacity while our air and railway facilities are operating under capacity.

The transportation model developed for the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan includes a freight component that predicts freight related trips on the roadway network in Genesee County. The transportation model projected a 6% increase in freight related trips between 2005 and 2035. This is reflective of projections at the state and national level.

## **Recommendations**

- Continue to monitor railway incident data and improve safety at grade crossings.
- Continue to monitor roadway and railway capacity. National data sources need to be updated to better monitor freight flows.
- Continue to invest in intermodal facilities in Genesee County. This will help to better distribute freight to various modes of transportation optimizing the capacity of the air, roadway and railway transportation networks. Intermodal facilities will also help to encourage economic development in Genesee County.
- Invest in improvements to the roadway system in Genesee County to better address the needs of freight and intermodal facilities.
- Continue to develop the freight component of the transportation model.