MEETING MINUTES

THE INTERMODAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA MAINTENANCE & REPAIR COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 18, 2019
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Pike Ballroom, Renaissance Long Beach

Call to Order

The meeting was brought to order at 1:30 p.m. by committee Chairman Martin Summers of Consolidated Chassis Management. Vice Chairman Brett Hugo of STEMCO provided the safety briefing. IANA General Counsel, Mark Blubaugh, read the antitrust guidelines, and determined there was not yet a quorum of voting members.

Task Force & Working Group Reports

Telematics for M&R Applications Task Force

Gary Cornelius of TCW said that the 4 task force's working groups have each focused on 1 area: tires; brakes and wheel ends; lights and electrical; and current pilots and usages. Each group is looking at opportunities to reduce failures and FMCSA violations, as well as occasions to identify telematics solutions that provide proactive means to help users know when the items are failing.

Mr. Cornelius said that the working groups have identified potential solutions in the areas of tire pressure, tread depth and tire temperature; the life and health of electrical units; and non-functioning service and parking brakes.

The working groups’ challenge thus far has been finding companies piloting or using the solutions that are effectively managing, using or disseminating the data that has been collected.

There was a lot of difficulty, Mr. Cornelius said, in finding pilots that the task force could glean data from. But he added that the task force has made too much progress to stop now due to the challenge. They have decided to break their work into 2 parts, the first is to identify functional requirements and benefits of the various solutions. The second task would then be to identify data that could be shared with the task force, sanitized and assembled to look at establishing some measures and ROI.
He asked members who may currently be in a pilot program to consider anonymously sharing the data they have assembled through IANA, which could then be aggregated so that the value can be determined. He also asked if any committee members are interested in pilot testing telematics solutions and sharing the data with the task force.

Mr. Cornelius said the task force would continue because the issue is an important one for the industry and that there are huge opportunities for its usage in the industry.

**Approval of the May 2, 2019 minutes**

Following the presentation, Mr. Blubaugh determined that a quorum had been established, and Vice Chairman Hugo asked for a motion to approve the May 2, 2019 meeting minutes. Jon Poelma of Consolidated Chassis Management made the motion; it was seconded by EJ Bronwasser of Milestone Equipment Holdings. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Intermodal Equipment Reference Library Task Force**

Shelly Sheagley of Aurora Parts & Accessories updated the status and timeline of the task force by saying that a number of quick responses were received from parts and component manufacturers regarding information needed for compiling the reference library, but it’s been challenging getting equipment manufacturers to provide information.

She said that through outreach, the task force was continuing to collect the information. The group is seeking publicly available information, such as products that have gone through a NHTSA recall or information that is freely available on websites, not private company data. They are looking for this information to be collected and organized in a centralized location with accessibility to all.

Ms. Sheagley said the goal is to finalize the work of the task force within 8 months and come to a final determination by May 2020.

She added that in the month or so following the committee meeting, follow ups will be done to try gathering more information for the task force. So far, submissions have included warranty policies, installation instructions and manuals, user guides, tech tips and product guides, all from component manufacturers.

She also asked for help to continue building the library contents and said the task force will try to acquire documents for review up until the end of the year.

**Mechanics Training Working Group**

Bill Fluke of Columbia Group, said that since the task force has completed its mission as detailed during the May 2, 2019 committee meeting, the mechanics task force has been dissolved and the training working group is reporting to the full committee, with meetings to take place on an as-needed basis.
Mr. Fluke said, since May, several conference calls and meetings have been held to discuss the mechanics training guidelines to include a guide for the development of classroom and hands-on instruction for new mechanics that have no experience within the industry.

Also being worked on is a test-out option for mechanics with less than a year of experience; they would need to take an assessment and be observed performing inspections and repairs. If they were to fail any of the training module assessments, they would then have to take that training module(s) and pass the assessment and practical exercise.

Next steps, Mr. Fluke said, include recommending the submission of an exemption application to the FMCSA asking that chassis inspection and brake inspection mechanics be exempt from one-year training experience requirements to be qualified inspectors if they can complete a training program based in part on the IANA Intermodal Recommended Practices Guide. The group also is working with potential training providers to offer them guidance and input.

Mr. Fluke then asked for a motion for the M&R committee to approve a recommendation that IANA should submit an exemption application to the FMCSA. The motion was made by Ed Smith of Webb Wheel Products and seconded by Bernard Vaughan of FlexiVan. The motion was approved unanimously.

IRP Maintenance Working Group

Ed Smith of Webb Wheel said the committee has set things up so that it reviews the entire IRP manual within every 3–5 years, and that it plans to update the electronic version of the book after any revisions or additions are approved. It is recommended that the manuals be reprinted every 5 years, he said.

Still being worked on, he said, is a radial tire repair IRP, which should be edited and ready to be voted on at the Spring 2020 meeting.

Road Service Working Group

Chris O’Hea of C&K Trucking proposed that a survey be formulated for motor carries, IEPs and road service providers to get data regarding road service issues, and that recommendations be provided to the committee during its next meeting in Spring 2020.

Mr. O’Hea said the survey would list 13 items with respondents asked to rate them in the order of severity. It would be similar to a smaller-scale survey that was sent out earlier this year to 20 companies, he said.

A motion was made by Mr. Fluke to create a survey; it was seconded by Mr. Bronwasser. The motion was approved unanimously.

Good Order Chassis Working Group
Carl Francis of Consolidated Chassis Management, said that since the 14-member working group was established in May, it has been accumulating information about the issue of chassis roadability, but it still is seeking to gain at least one BCO member to gain their perspective.

To date, the group has had 9 meetings – 8 phone calls and 1 in person, Mr. Francis said – as well as 1 webinar.

So far, Mr. Francis said, 3 tangible issues to be addressed have been identified: preventing damage before it happens; ways to report bad equipment; and recommended practices for preventative maintenance.

Next steps, he said, will be to continue conducting research, continuing to reach out to stakeholders and generating more ideas. Recommendations on the issue and potential next steps will be provided to the M&R Committee during its Spring 2020 meeting.

New Business

Tire Issues

Mr. Summers said the committee was recently contacted from a member regarding their concerns regarding tires, specifically slide flats and ABS. He further noted that the leadership has been considering bringing up tire issues for committee consideration for some time, since lights and brakes have been recently discussed. This led to a discussion on how communications regarding certain circumstances and complaints concerning tire issues should be handled. He further noted that there already is a mechanism in place through the UIIA for people to appeal a ruling if they feel that they are wrongly charged for something and it was not the committee's place to discuss those commercial issues.

Mr. Summers asked if any members have any tire maintenance issues to discuss and if there are any actions the committee could or should consider regarding tires. No other members spoke regarding the issue.

Open Choice Discussion from Operations Committee Meeting

Mr. Summers asked the membership if there was anything on the topic of open choice from the Operations Committee meeting that should be discussed in the Maintenance & Repair Committee meeting. No members had any questions or responses.

Open Discussion on M&R Issues

Mr. Summers opened the floor for discussion on current maintenance and repair issues, and no members spoke up. Mr. Summers thanked everyone for participating in the committee, as well as the various work groups and task forces and asked FMCSA field administrator Darrell Ruban if he’d like to make any comments.
Mr. Ruban then gave an update on the FMCSA's investigative process, saying that IEP reviews and engagement is now being handled from a regional perspective and that at least 8 IEPs are visited per year, with the eighth for 2019 finishing up within a couple of weeks after the committee meeting.

Of those 8 visits, Mr. Ruban said, the FMCSA typically does 20 inspections on site in conjunction with the review, beyond the data it already has on the IEP’s equipment. This year, the majority of FMCSA visits had 0% out of service with the on-site inspections.

Two basic findings that continue in the reviews, Mr. Ruban said, are lack of communication regarding chassis problems when they're brought back, and lack of regular systematic maintenance programs.

**Housekeeping and Adjourn**

IANA's Hal Pollard took a moment to thank colleague Jim Morrow for his role in the committee program over the last several years. There was a round of applause for Mr. Morrow.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Smith and was seconded by Mr. Fluke. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.