



## State Top Industry Issues Report 2021 Louisiana

### 1. Driver Shortage

- Advocate for expedited launch of the DRIVE-Safe Act pilot program to expand interstate CDL eligibility to 18-20 year olds.
- Develop new outreach initiatives targeted toward high school students and young adults.
- Advocate for expansion of the U.S. EB-3 Permanent Work Authorization permit to recruit qualified candidates from other countries.

### 2. Lawsuit Abuse Reform

- Advocate for elimination of “phantom” medical damages.
- Encourage Congress to expand federal court jurisdiction to allow motor carrier defendants to take their highway accident cases into federal court as appropriate.
- Educate motor carriers and law enforcement on how to identify staged accidents and advocate for legislation that makes it a criminal offense to stage an accident with a commercial motor vehicle.

### 3. Insurance Cost / Availability

- Quantify the impact of rising insurance costs on industry operations, safety investments, and driver training.
- Examine the feasibility of an industry-wide insurance surcharge passed onto shippers.
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis on raising minimum insurance levels.

### 4. CSA

- Advocate for FMCSA to regularly review and evaluate the list of crash types available for reclassification as non-preventable.
- Encourage FMCSA to improve internal processes for reviewing Request for Data Reviews (RDRs) to improve turnaround time for RDRs related to the crash preventability determination program.
- Work with FMCSA to update its carrier prioritization methodology, improve its accuracy, and enhance transparency in CSA.

### 5. Driver Retention

- Research and prioritize retention strategies, based on driver feedback and driver tenure data.
- Evaluate the impact of truck driver benefits, including health insurance and retirement benefits, on driver retention.
- Quantify the relationship between safety technology deployment (e.g. cameras, speed limiters, active braking systems) and driver satisfaction and retention.

Issues and strategies are listed in order as ranked by Louisiana-based respondents.

## **6. Diesel Technician Shortage**

- Conduct research to quantify the scope and cause of current technician shortage and develop best practices for technician recruitment and retention.
- Encourage collaboration between motor carriers and local community colleges/tech schools to promote technician training and placement.
- Work with the U.S. Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service to encourage interest among veterans in technician training.

## **7. Transportation Infrastructure / Congestion / Funding**

- Prevent imposition of truck-only taxes.
- Create a new funding program to focus federal resources on truck bottlenecks on major freight corridors.
- Continue to advocate for long-term highway funding through an increase in the fuel tax or other direct user fees, and prevent additional diversion of revenue to non-highway projects.

## **8. Driver Compensation**

- Quantify the relationship between truck driver compensation models and driver satisfaction / productivity.
- Analyze truck driver compensation in relation to other competing employment sectors (e.g. construction).
- Research and prioritize the effectiveness of carrier retention programs that financially incentivize drivers for performance in the areas of safety, fuel economy, and trip productivity.

## **9. Fuel Prices / Fuel Quality**

- Advocate for federal actions which help stabilize the supply of fuel and minimize price volatility.
- Research potential factors that may be affecting fuel quality and engine performance.
- Promote financial incentives for alternative and renewable fuels to support growth and reduce costs during market development.

## **10. Economy**

- Advocate for a repeal of the Federal Excise Tax (FET) on new truck purchases to stimulate modernization of the nation's truck fleet.
- Promote reforming/repealing ineffective and burdensome regulations that add to industry costs without providing benefits.

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