

## **Summary:**

There is a nationwide shortage of truck parking in the United States. The federal government and industry stakeholders both have a role in addressing this problem.

OOIDA believes the following ideas have potential as future solutions. We encourage you to use these ideas, as well as your own, as you participate in this meeting.

### ➤ **Capacity Expansion**

- Expand the actual number of truck parking spots at truck stops, rest areas, and other locations.
  - The rest areas on I-65 in Horse Cave, KY, and on I-35 just south of Hillsboro, TX, are prime examples of good projects that created new capacity.
- Reopen closed rest areas and/or convert antiquated rest areas and weigh stations to provide truck parking.
  - Missouri DOT has more than doubled the number of truck parking spaces by converting old facilities at a reasonable cost.
- Work with communities to construct a truck parking lot where it's most needed.
  - The City of Elmira, NY, constructed a truck parking lot that truckers pay a reasonable fee to use on an hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly basis.
- Work with states to allow trucks to park at existing weigh stations that are currently in operation.
  - This action should be accompanied by a clear policy of non-harassment by law enforcement.

### ➤ **Funding**

- Financial resources need to primarily focus on projects that actually add capacity.
- Thereafter, funding can be used to:
  - Provide assistance to state and local communities for projects that require minimal investment.
    - See the I-80/I-76 project in Nebraska, which is in a right-of-way and is a cost-effective way to create new truck parking capacity.
  - Raise awareness about the need for truck parking to promote compliance and improve safety.
  - Support projects that help truckers identify existing parking spots that are not being utilized.
  - Identify opportunities to provide a financial incentive for businesses to make additional investments in truck parking.

### ➤ **Technology**

- While adding capacity is the most important goal of OOIDA, technology can help truckers find underutilized parking spots and existing spots that are available in real-time.
- If technology – such as electronic roadside signs – is deployed, it needs to be cost-effective, trucker-friendly, and located in areas where it's needed the most.
- In a more recent concept, it might be possible to utilize radio channels for parking information, much like it's already being used for traffic and weather.

➤ **Government Coordination**

- The government and industry stakeholders can work together on a variety of truck parking issues, including:
  - Promoting the need for increased capacity, the reopening of permanently closed rest areas, and finding ways to increase the viability of both public and private truck parking.
  - Ensuring that truck parking spots are not being improperly used by other vehicles, such as buses, campers, RV's, and road construction equipment.
  - Working with state partners to make sure their rest areas are maintained and rehabilitated efficiently.
    - Meaning, if maintenance work needs to be done on a series of facilities along a major route, try to schedule such work so that the rest areas are not all closed at the same time.
      - See Virginia on I-95 as an example of what not to do.