

Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program



In fall 2015, the Iowa DOT has a one-time funding source of \$2.6 million for the new Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System (LIFTS) program. This funding will be used for an initial round of project solicitation and awards that will demonstrate the demand and value of the LIFTS program to support future investments.

Linking Iowa's Freight Transportation System Program will provide flexible funding to address freight transportation needs wherever they are and encourage partnerships to leverage federal, local and private funding.

The purpose of the program is to:

- Enhance economic development by improving the multimodal freight transportation system. A strong multimodal infrastructure makes Iowa more attractive to new business development.
- Provide flexible funding for the changing demands of the freight transportation system. Flexible funding allows creative solutions for Iowa's unique infrastructure needs.

- Enhance the ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods. Today's companies are demanding the multimodal infrastructure needed to remain competitive in a global marketplace.
- Provide incentives to alternate modes for economic development partnership opportunities. Funding not tied to a specific mode will allow Iowa to leverage limited or more specific funding.

Examples of the types of projects that may be funded include:

- Transload facilities where products can be transferred between rail and truck
- Capacity improvements at barge terminal facilities
- Intermodal facility in partnership with private industry
- Barge transload facilities where products can be transferred from barge to rail or truck
- Remove height or width restrictions on existing infrastructure

- Ramps or docks for loading/unloading air cargo
- Increase weight capacity to use heavier 286,000 lb. rail cars
- Expand or reconfigure rail yards to increase capacity or reduce dwell time
- Rehabilitate rail, barge or air freight infrastructure to improve condition or capacity to meet needs of Iowa business or industry
- Safety improvements to increase freight capacity



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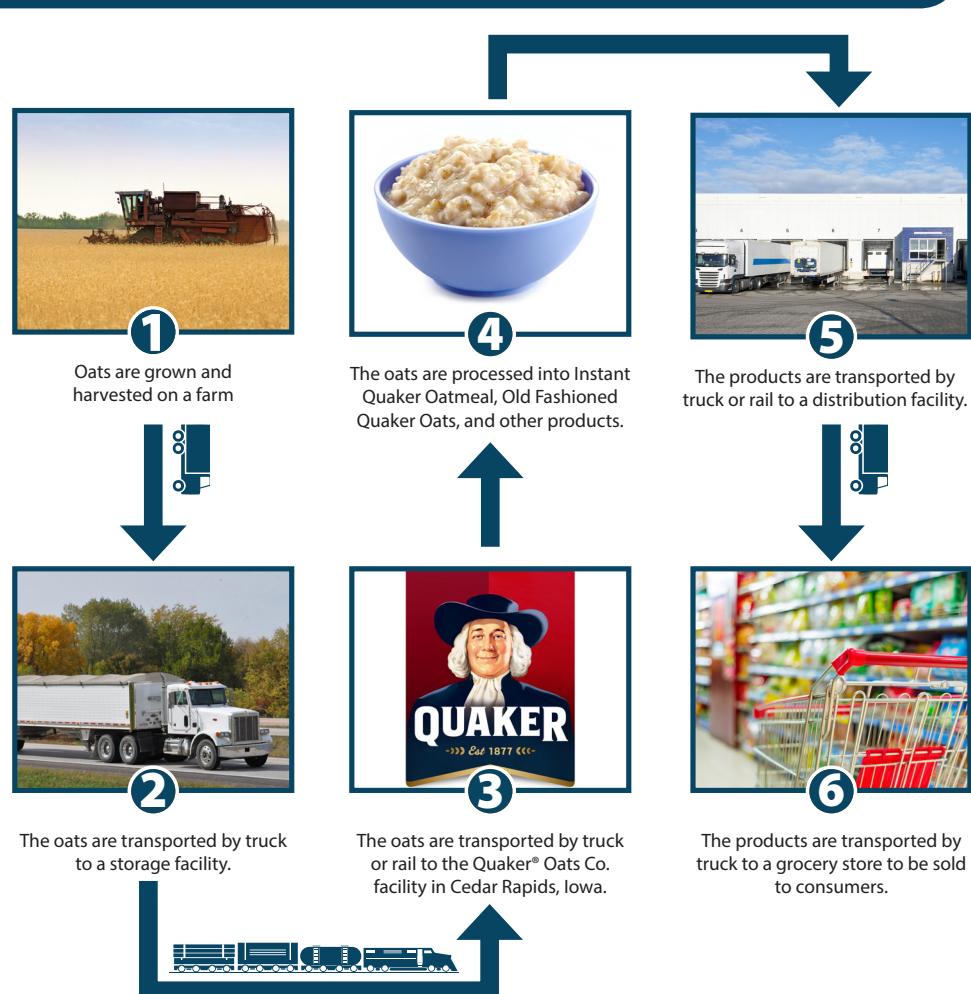
matters to you...

How does your morning bowl of oatmeal reach your breakfast table?

Almost every product you consume came to you courtesy of a global, multimodal, interconnected freight transportation system.

Today's supply chains for products can span the globe. To reach you, the consumer, a combination of transportation by truck, train, barge, ocean liner, or airplane may be needed to transport raw materials and the finished product to you.

Iowa is a producer state. Products grown and made here take a journey on multiple modes of transportation to destinations around the U.S. and the world. Efficient and cost effective freight transportation is critical to the health of Iowa's businesses, communities, and economy.



Freight shipments continue to grow. As a result, all modes of transportation need to adjust capacity and/or efficiency to accommodate freight trends. Multimodal transportation is more important than ever to keep Iowa's businesses competitive. But just as important, are the links between these modes. Today, funding sources for modes other than highways are limited or underfunded. As are the links that connect the various modes. In the fall of 2015, a one-time funding opportunity exists.