

December 4th, 2019

Mr. Craig Hutton, Director General, Strategic Policy
Mr. David McNabb, Director General, Surface Transportation Policy
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON
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Via Email

Re: Commodity Supply Chain Table

At the Commodity Supply Chain Table (CSCT) held on November 19th, 2019 in Ottawa, participants were encouraged to provide perspective and comments regarding the future of the CSCT and reflect upon “where do we go from here”? Several of the long-term participants from the grain sector that have attended since the inception of the CSCT have discussed the questions raised by Transport Canada and offer the following comments.

The CSCT needs to remain a ‘neutral’ forum for multi-party discussion of supply chain initiatives and developments while ensuring that any one particular interest is not provided a platform for self-promotion. It is unsettling to have this forum serve as an opportunity for such activity, and wholly inappropriate for individual participants to be approached for business development purposes in subsequent communications.

The CSCT initiative to launch the third phase of ‘Collaborative Forward Planning’ is supported. The examination and discussion of specific issues through the constructive work of small groups with a particular interest in a topic is well received. This will work to ensure the ongoing participation and engagement of our industry representatives. We will be reaching out to the appropriate Transport Canada staff to discuss participation in the proposed Phase 3 projects. Of particular interest for the grain sector is the proposed supply chain metrics: definitions and methodologies project. The grain sector has long been a leader on the development of supply chain metrics and look forward to achieving tangible progress on this issue through the Collaborative Forward Planning process.

The current CSCT term of reference (TOR) remains a solid foundation to orient the group and the semi-annual meeting frequency and rotation from east to west should continue. We appreciate the inherent challenge for Transport Canada to design a semi-annual agenda and program that facilitates the convening of a disparate group of participants, while addressing issues of relevance and providing the greatest ‘value-proposition’ to maintain participation of knowledgeable industry and association representatives. The attempt to draw in more industry participation through the approach of panel discussions was a good step towards better meeting the four objectives of the CSCT as outlined in the TOR.

We look forward to ongoing participation in the evolution of the CSCT.

Sincerely,

CSCT Participants from:

Western Grain Elevator Association (WGEA)
Canadian Oilseed Processors Association (COPA)
Pulse Canada
Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA)