

New Jersey Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Research

## Technical Brief



### **Oversize/Overweight Permitting Practices Review – Phase II**

*This study explores a more detailed analysis of the permitting process in the Mid-Atlantic Region and delves into operational practice, and theory and history of the practice among states. The states practices examined in greater detail include Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Information previously gathered in Phase I provided a starting point for this more comprehensive analysis in Phase II including an extensive regulatory review and analysis for each of the states in the study including fee structure, fine structure, escort policy, non-interstate road jurisdiction, and routing considerations. A summary of findings and a series of recommended actions and implementation steps have been provided to assist New Jersey DOT in more closely aligning their regulations and operations to those of the surrounding states in an effort to support industry needs while continuing to prioritize safety in the state of New Jersey.*

### **Background**

Phase II of the Oversize/Overweight Permitting Practices Review represents a more detailed analysis of the permitting processes in the Mid-Atlantic Region and delves into operational practice, and theory and history of the practice among states. The states practices examined in greater detail in Phase II were Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Information previously gathered in Phase I provided a starting point for this more comprehensive analysis in Phase II which includes an extensive regulatory review and analysis for each of the states in the study including fee structure, fine structure, escort policy, non-interstate road jurisdiction, and routing considerations.

The substantial regulatory review and analysis was supplemented by a series of interviews with permit issuing officials from each of the study states. Questions for Phase II interviews were developed from the regulatory review and analysis with focus on filling gaps in available information and provision of clarity on the application of various OS/OW regulations within the selected states. Interviews also yielded valuable anecdotal information on the history and evolution of each participating state's operational permitting practice..

### **Research Objectives and Approach**

The objective of this project (Phase I & II) was to examine oversize/overweight (OS/OW) permitting practices in the United States, with a focus on "best practices" from other states and agencies, and use the lessons learned and the experiences of other

jurisdictions to identify opportunities to support the Department in improving permitting in New Jersey.

In addition to the information gathered in Phase I, a series of topics/issues was identified by agency stakeholders and answering these questions constituted the primary objective of Phase II. Research was conducted to address questions related to routing, local and county permitting, neighboring states' permitting practices, creation of new permits, relationship of freight movements and infrastructure damage, escort policy and fees, fee comparisons, fine comparisons, exceptional hauling permits, permitting compacts and e-permitting system best practices.

## Findings

In order to most effectively compare the operational, regulatory/statutory, and policy procedures of New Jersey DOT's permitting practices to other states in the Mid-Atlantic region each section of this document (where applicable) categorizes participating neighboring Mid-Atlantic states based on whether, or not, the state has Federal authority to issue divisible load permits on interstate routes within their state boundaries.

This distinction allows for a direct comparison of like permit types among all of the states in both categories (divisible and non-divisible). For states that do not possess statutory authority to issue divisible load permits (including New Jersey) their method for accommodating overweight divisible loads is documented in cases where a method exists in statute or regulation for the state to permit a particular oversize/overweight movement. Research findings are reported in the following topic areas – Permit Types and Categories, Permit Routing, Permit Fees, Permit Automation, Escort Practices and Policies, Size and Weight Fines; and Regional Permitting. It should be noted that findings pertaining to Permit Types and Categories is particularly important in providing a statutory baseline for the comparison of permitting practices in the states surrounding New Jersey.

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A final report is available online at: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/>. If you would like a copy of the full report, send an e-mail to: [Research.Bureau@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:Research.Bureau@dot.state.nj.us).

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