



AMERICANS FOR MODERN TRANSPORTATION

A Fact: Twin 33s are Safe

The topic of safety is central to many conversations surrounding transportation policy changes. When it comes to modernizing the national twin trailer standard from 28 feet to 33 feet, safety should be a paramount consideration.

A modest five foot extension on each trailer would improve stability, reduce the number of collisions and enhance safety for all highway users.

Nationally, twin-trailer trucks have crash rates that are among the lowest in trucking, and among all types of motor vehicles. In 2014, large trucks traveled 9.2 percent of all U.S. vehicle miles, while only accounting for 2.9 percent of accidents involving injury and 4.5 percent involving property damage. For fatal crashes, larger trucks account for 8.3 percent, once again below the percent miles driven by large trucks.

Research has shown that truck length and crash rate actually have an inverse relationship. In a university analysis in Sweden, long units (double or triple trailers) had the lowest crash rates among all those examined, followed by medium, and then short-length trucks.

Twin 33s are not only more stable and less likely to roll over or jackknife, but also their widespread adoption would reduce truck miles driven by 3.1 billion, avoiding 4,500 accidents per year. Furthermore, a shift to Twin 33s would reduce congestion, decreasing total travel delay time by 53.2 million hours.

AMT supports legislation that requires all tractors pulling twin 33s to be equipped with the following advanced safety technologies:

- Collision mitigation systems engage in the event of dangerous roadway obstructions or manual failures.
- Electronic stability control systems utilize strategic braking and engine control to protect against roll and lateral jackknife.
- Speed limiters control the maximum speed at which a vehicle may travel.
- Blind spot notifications and emergency braking systems can act autonomously to prevent accidents.
- Lane departure warning sensors alert drivers if the vehicle drifts out of the intended path.
- Predictive maintenance technologies ensure equipment is fully functional so drivers are safe behind the wheel.
- Tire pressure monitoring systems ensure equipment is safe for our roadways.
- On-the-road diagnostics allow truck operators to optimize driving behaviors for safety and maximum fuel efficiency.

Twin 33s are currently allowed to operate on certain highways in 20 states and have traveled millions of miles safely.

Now is the time to introduce a new era of efficiency and safety to the market through use of extended twin trailers. More capacity means fewer trips, fewer trucks and less congestion, resulting in safer roads.

