This policy on resiliency will be added to the Policy and Program Recommendations section of the Freight Plan

Resiliency

This plan will have a broad policy to build resiliency into the freight system. Resiliency can generally be defined as the ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, respond to, recover from, adapt to, and prevent adverse events. The greatest risks are related to weather events such as extreme storms, flooding, landslides and wildfires that cause roads to wash out, crack or cave, signal systems to fail, and vehicles to crash. However, non-weather events such as hazardous chemical spills and catastrophic crashes can be just as impactful. These disruptions can have significant economic impacts on freights services, producer industries and communities. This plan recommends that resiliency be built into all freight investments, policies and coordination.

Institutional coordination and awareness are very important. In general, resiliency should be a recurring issue for the newly formed Regional Freight Stakeholders Advisory Council (RFSAC). The Council and state, regional and local agencies, and the private sector should consider resiliency in all of their policy approaches, planning, and investments, and in their relationship and coordination with one another. There are three specific recommendations:

- Plan for disruptions – The region needs to plan and practice the activities that need to take place to close, reroute and repair roads and adjacent infrastructure. Agencies can take advantage of small scale disturbances to prepare for larger disruptions and to assess what changes need to occur to avoid future disturbances.
- Develop tools to assess the dynamic performance of the transportation system – The regional travel demand model could build the capability to show the impacts of incidents and the subsequent mitigation of those impacts through infrastructure and operational improvements.
- Support prevention programs and policies – The MPO should support programs that reduce crashes, freight mishaps and chemical spills, and policies that encourage the construction of an infrastructure that is resilient to the increasingly frequent and violent weather events.