

West Midway – Facts about jobs and acreage

Railroads and trucks defined the early decades of the West Midway and, while shipping goods remains a critical component of the area's economy, the types of businesses now operating in the West Midway are far broader than its historic roots.

Freight and Saint Paul Intermodal Facility

The Minnesota Intermodal Railroad Terminal Study, prepared by the Metropolitan Council in the mid-1990s, determined that 75 percent of the freight coming in and out of the Twin Cities went through the Saint Paul intermodal facility. Since then, according to Jim Barton, the Metropolitan Council staff who worked on the study, the Shoreham yard in northeast Minneapolis expanded its acreage and, consequently, the Saint Paul facility likely handles about 70 percent of the freight in the region.

Jobs in the West Midway

There are more than 22,000 jobs in the West Midway, according to 2008 figures from the U. S. Census Bureau. The attached “**On the Map Workforce Report**” includes jobs data for both the study area and the three Central Corridor station areas. It breaks out these jobs according to NAICS codes:

- Goods-producing industries account for almost 4,000 jobs, or 17.3 percent of the total.
- Service-producing industries account for almost 19,000 jobs, or 82.7 percent of the total.

Interestingly, while the intermodal facility handles the vast majority of the region's freight, transportation and warehousing account for about 700 jobs, or 3 percent of the total.

Industrially-zoned land in the West Midway

Because of its size, its continuing role in freight shipping, as well as its location along two major highways and a major thoroughfare, the West Midway generates a citywide impact.

There are more than 1,500 acres of industrially-zoned land – I1 and I2 – in the study area, making it the largest area of contiguous industrial acreage in the city. This is about 23 percent of the city's industrial acreage. (See attached “**Acreage Analysis.**”)

The West Midway's comparative size increases when the acreage for Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant (“Pig's Eye”) and Holman Field are subtracted from the total. Under that calculation, the West Midway is 26.6 percent of the city's industrially-zoned area.