

THE Messenger

Celebrating transportation

Trucks, trains and planes keep the economy moving

We are now in the midst of National Transportation Week, an annual celebration of all the things that keep people and goods moving in this country.

This celebration of the transportation industry has taken place each May since it became a permanent event in 1962. An annual observance taking note of this vital industry's importance to the nation dates back to the 1950s.

That makes this an appropriate time to remind readers of the importance of a first-class transportation system to the economic future of Fort Dodge and all of north central Iowa. Roads, rail service, air travel and trucking are all part of the story.

Progress in turning U.S. Highway 20 into a statewide, four-lane thoroughfare was a local priority for decades. That major project was completed in October 2018. That's good news for the economy of all of northern Iowa and is a sensible investment in long-term prosperity.

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The local rail infrastructure

featuring two major railroads — Canadian National and Union Pacific — is a key factor in marketing this region to potential corporate investors.

The Fort Dodge Regional Airport is an asset that also helps keep major businesses in this region and makes it more attractive as a relocation venue. Non-stop flights are now offered to Chicago O’Hare International Airport, where passengers can get connecting flights to destinations all over the country and the world.

Fort Dodge is the base for a major trucking company – Decker Truck Line Inc. — and a number of smaller trucking enterprises. It would hardly be an overstatement to call it the trucking capital of Iowa. These vibrant businesses help keep the region prosperous.

As Fort Dodge builds for an exciting economic tomorrow, National Transportation Week is a good time to recognize and pay tribute to this key industry’s role in shaping the region’s future.

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