

TRIP PLANNING

Set the Scene:

- You have unloaded your load on Monday in Lima, OH. at 11AM EST.
- You have 60 hours on your 70 hour clock, 7 hours left on your 14 hour clock and 5 hours left on your 11 hour drive clock.
- Your next load is in Columbus, OH, weighs 44,000 pds and they will load you as soon as you get there.
 - Do you want to fuel before picking up the load?—
 - **No, Depending on how the load is loaded, you could have overweight issues.**
 - When will you be in Columbus?
 - **Should be there by 1PM**
- The load goes to Phoenix, AZ. And dispatch has a return load for you when you get there.
 - When can you be in Phoenix? **Thursday 2PM with 2 hours to drive and 12 hours on the 70 hour rule**
 - What route will you take to get there?
 - **I-70W, I-465S around Indianapolis, I-70 to St. Louis, I-255S around St. Louis, I-44W to Oklahoma City OK, I-40W to Flagstaff AZ, I-17S to Phoenix AZ**
 - How much time will you have on your 70, 14 and 11 hour clocks after delivery in Phoenix? **2 hours on the 11 hour clock, 3 hours on the 14 hour clock, and 12 hours on the 70 hour clock.**

Facts about the trip:

- Dispatch tells you it is 95 miles from Lima to Columbus.
- It will only take you 1 hour to get loaded in Columbus.
- It is 1924 miles from Columbus OH to Phoenix, AZ.
- The route has tolls.
 - Where are they? **The Oklahoma Turnpike—the Will Rogers and Turner Turnpikes**
 - How much are they? **Will Rogers \$20.50, Turner \$30.00**
- It is February
 - Could weather be an issue? **Yes**
 - What additional gear do you need? **Extra warm clothes, blankets, non-perishable foods Chains etc.**
 - Will knowing the route help in determining potential weather issues? **Comparing your route to weather apps can give you an idea if delays are in your future. Remember, Adverse Driving Conditions cannot be used if the weather was known at the time of dispatch. With the technology that is available, not knowing the weather is highly unlikely.**

Additional Questions:

- Where will you end your days?
 - **Roughly—After loading, you will have 5 hours to drive and you are leaving Columbus at 2PM. Using the 50MPH rule you have about 250 miles of driving available.**
 - **It is 175 miles to Indianapolis and you will be there about 5PM. After getting through Indy, you will have about an hour left. It is getting later in the day so it will be time to start looking for a place to stop. Use a Truckstop guide whether it is print copy or app and determine your stopping point. There is a Loves at Exit 59 and Pilot at Exit 23. Let's use the Pilot at Exit 23, in Brazil, IN for calculation purposes. You are done driving at 6PM.**

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- Day 2—A total driving day. Full hours on the 11 and 14 along with 46 hours on the 70. Let's start our day at 5am. This will lessen the potential issues with parking later today. You have 550-600 miles of range. Where are you ending? Use the mileage directory in the back of the Atlas as a guide.
- It is 636 miles from Indianapolis to Tulsa, OK. Take into account you were able to make it 40 miles out of Indy when you stopped in Brazil, IN on Day 1. By checking this when you are done at the end of day 1, you now have a target for the end of day 2. We will use the Flying J in Tulsa as our ending point.
- Day 3—Full hours on the 11,14 and 34 on the 70 hour rule. Once again we will start at 5EST. This is 4am CST. This is important because it will get you through Tulsa and Oklahoma City BEFORE rush hour. Save Time!! You have 550-600 mile range today. Where are you ending your day? Tulsa to Albuquerque is 648 miles. That may be just out of reach. Use the Atlas to back it up about 40 miles and see where that ends...It looks Moriarty, NM. Remember when you get out west, the cities are further apart. It may be necessary to end your day earlier than you would like because you don't have enough time to make it to the next city.
- Moriarty NM has a T/A Truckstop and right at 600 miles. You have ended your day early and parking isn't an issue.
- Day 4—Important day for planning. You have full hours on your 11 and 14. You have 22 hours on your 70 hour clock. You leave the Truckstop at 6AM Est (4AM MST) to avoid any traffic delays in Albuquerque. You have been updating dispatch the whole trip on your progress. Now you can tell them you 9 hours to go until Phoenix. You will arrive at 2PM with 2 hours on your 11 hour driving rule and roughly 12 hours on your 70 hour rule.
- How many miles are left at the end of each day? Day 1- 1,674. Day 2- 1,074. Day 3- 474
- How many state scales will you come across? 10
- What tools can be used to answer these questions? Rand McNally Atlas, Truckstop Guide, Weather apps, Google Maps
- Will you have parking issues due to when you are ending your days? The earlier you start, the less there is of parking issues.

Helpful Tips:

- Use 50MPH for trip planning purposes
 - This allows for breaks, fueling and some potential slow downs along the way.
- Most of these questions can be answered in a Rand McNally Atlas. Review the first 50 pages for invaluable information that you will need.
- Use the by-passes around major cities. These are identified by a 3 digit interstate number starting with an even number. Such as I-465 is the loop around Indianapolis. A 3 digit interstate number starting with an odd number is spur directly to the center of the city.