

HISTORY OF THE GREATER METROPOLITAN AREA FOREIGN TRADE ZONE COMMISSION

1976 - Don Risk at the Minneapolis Industrial Development Commission surveyed interest in creating a foreign trade zone in Minneapolis.

1982 - The Minnesota Legislature passed enabling legislation that allowed Minnesota port authorities to apply to the U.S. Department of Commerce for foreign trade zone status.

1982 - The Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce did a follow-up survey.

1983 - The City of St. Paul joined with Minneapolis to promote the establishment of a foreign trade zone. Twin Cities Foreign Trade Zone, Inc. was formed and letters of support from local business and government were solicited as part of the application to the U.S. Department of Commerce to establish an FTZ.

1983 - The City of Bloomington requested to be part of the application process and the name of the organization was changed to the Greater Metropolitan Area Foreign Trade Zone Commission (GMAFTZC).

1984 - The GMAFTZC submitted an application to the Foreign Trade Zones Board at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

1985 - The Grant to establish, operate and maintain a foreign trade zone in the Minneapolis-St. Paul port of entry area was received from the Foreign Trade Zones Board.

1988 - Agreement signed with Murphy Warehouse Company giving them exclusive authority to operate their facility as a foreign trade zone for twelve years.

1988 - Administrator hired by the GMAFTZC.

1996 - The St. Paul Port Authority withdraws from GMAFTZC.

1996 - New agreement signed that has Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Airports Commission joining the Cities of Bloomington and Minneapolis as GMAFTZC members.

2000 - New agreement signed with Murphy Warehouse Company that no longer gave them exclusive rights over operating a public warehouse as a foreign trade zone.

2000 - GMAFTZC approved Freightmasters as additional public warehouse operator.

2004 - City of Rosemount joins the GMAFTZC.

2005 - Minnesota Legislature makes the GMAFTZC responsible for establishing a regional distribution center for air cargo.

2006 - Dakota County joins the GMAFTZC.