

Iowa companies looking for additional shipping options are invited to explore a new online tool called Container Locator that could help them lower shipping costs.

The website, at [www.containerlocator.com](http://www.containerlocator.com), is a pilot project aimed at taking advantage of thousands of intermodal freight containers coming into Iowa full and leaving empty. With Container Locator, companies can track down these containers, contact the shippers, and negotiate lower shipping rates using containers that would otherwise leave empty. Iowa companies can lower their shipping costs, shippers can increase revenue by filling containers that would otherwise be transported empty, and the end consumer stands to benefit from the overall lower cost of delivering goods.

“We’ve tested the website, and now we are calling on businesses to put the tool to the real test by integrating it with their shipping processes,” International Traders of Iowa President Tim Woods said.

The concept for the Container Locator was hatched in the spring of 2014 through the Freight Roundtable, a forum organized by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to discuss issues related to freight transportation among key stakeholders, including the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the International Traders of Iowa.

A patent is pending for the website. The site will be free to use during its testing phase.

For more information, please visit [www.containerlocator.com](http://www.containerlocator.com) or call the Des Moines Area MPO at 515-334-0075.