



INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

PROMOTING REGIONAL AWARENESS FOR IMPROVING FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

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NEWS UPDATE

Over the past few months, ITTS has been engaged in many different outreach efforts and support to member states.

I visited to the State of Missouri, where I spoke about the Panama Canal and Missouri's linkages to global markets for the Missouri Chamber of Commerce. I met with Missouri DOT Staff, where I outlined the work that ITTS preforms for the member states.

I also conducted a presentation at TRB on Container on Barge in the United States, which was repeated for the AASHTO Standing Committee on Water Transportation in February. (I would also recommend two recent studies that came out on inland waterways that represent a complement the discussion on inland navigation: Inland Navigation in the United States by the University of Kentucky and the University of Tennessee, and NCFRP Report 32- Integrating MTS Commerce Data with Multimodal Freight Transportation Performance Measures to Support MTS

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VISIT THE ITTS BLOG AT
<http://www.ittsresearch.org/blog/>

ITTS Freight in the Southeast Conference

The annual ITTS Freight in the Southeast Conference will soon be upon us. With the Mississippi Department of Transportation, I want to invite you to join us along the coast to discuss the importance of freight activities. This conference is open to anyone (public or private sector) interested in looking at issues related to transportation, trade and economic development including planners, local officials, economic developers, and firms involved in logistics and freight shipments. We will focus on a wide variety of topics that influence freight shipments in the Southeast, and still relevant throughout the nation. The meeting is panel-oriented, which has always generated engaging dialogues between the speakers and attendees. (You can also view information about previous conferences on the ITTS website!) Please note that the Tour to Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula is on a first come first serve basis. Once the tour is full we are unable to offer an alternative.

FREIGHT IN THE SOUTHEAST

Moving Our Region's Business



MONDAY, MARCH 16

All Events on Monday will be held at the Sheraton Four Points

- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm The Economics of Multimodal Freight Corridors
- 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm The Corps of Engineers approach to navigation planning
- 7:00 pm Welcome Reception sponsored by the Mississippi World Trade Center and Waggoner Engineering with a beer tasting from Crooked Letter Brewery

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

7:00am Assemble for Tour of Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula (Sheraton)

All other events are at the Biloxi Visitors Center

- 11:30am Mississippi Freight Advisory Council meeting/ luncheon
- 1:00pm Opening Remarks
- 1:30pm Economic Development and Transportation
- 3:30pm Inland Waterways and Container on Barge operations

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

8:00 am - 9:30 am Where is the Economy Heading?

10:00 am..... CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Track 1- The Automotive Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
- Track 2- Performance Measures for Transportation Agencies

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Track 1- The Future of Trucking
- Track 2- Prioritizing Freight Investment

3:30 pm CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- Track 1- The Future of the Federal Aid Program
- Track 2- Trends in International Business and Trade

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 (BILOXI VISITORS CENTER)

8:00 am - 9:30 am Discussion on Freight Data for local and state analysis

10:00 am - 12:00 am ... Using Freight Data to communicate to stakeholders

12:00pm - 2:00 pm ITTS Working luncheon (by invitation only)



More information on page 2

Website: http://ittsresearch.org/ITTS_2015_conference.html



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The Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies provides research data and expert opinions to its members concerning the effects of commercial freight movements on domestic and international activities, with reference to infrastructure and transportation needs, and safety implications.

The ITTS members include the:

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Florida Department of Transportation

Georgia Department of Transportation

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

Mississippi Department of Transportation

Missouri Department of Transportation

Virginia Department of Transportation

West Virginia Department of Transportation

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▶ LAMBERT'S LAGNIAPPE

la-gniappe |lan'yap|:
something given as a bonus or extra gift.

Earlier this year I turned 50. I would still like to think of myself as a young man, yet the color of my hair reminds me otherwise. When reflecting on this, I was jokingly referred to the fact that I have reached the design life of the nation's infrastructure. I am now as old as the "youngest" section of I-70 across Missouri.

I recognized that I probably need to make some changes to my life. But what should I do? Should I change my hair color/style (restriping, landscaping), cosmetic surgery or get a tattoo (resurfacing), new clothes (signage), and/or some surgery to my aching joints (rehabilitation). Maybe I should invest in new computer equipment, such as google glasses and wearables (connected streets). Should I just slow down (road diets), or simply just go off the grid (decommission)? Obviously, I can get in shape (capacity expansion) or just try to maintain the status quo (system preservation).



Just like any other infrastructure, I have significant investments in others and activities over time. This results in an abundance of connections in my life that provide meaning, while at the same time, may limit how flexible I can be when presented with other options. And sometimes, these obligations can result in too many demands at one time (congestion).

As one of Missouri DOT Staff told me, "welcome to the decade". It is one I am looking forward to living. I hope that I can remain as productive as the nation's waterways, railroads and highways, given we are roughly the same age, and in many cases, the system is much older than me. Over time, I will have to make some tough choices concerning my priorities, much like transportation providers are doing now. But there is one thing I know: if I am as old as the interstate, I should be around for a long time, although there may be still be senior moments (system failures)! ■

What is ... Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey

At TRB USDOT announced that they are planning on doing a new Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey. DOT is leading a group to restore the VIUS to assist in analytical studies concerning truck operations, such as for-cost allocation, and to assist in freight planning efforts.

The first Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey was conducted in 1963 to better understand national and statewide information on truck utilization, and was last conducted in 2002. The survey featured on information on both physical characteristics, such as body type, models, loaded or empty weight, configuration and engine size, and operational characteristic, such as primary jurisdiction, operation type, annual miles traveled, and fleet size. Questions from earlier surveys are available at <http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/vius/questionnaires.html>.

To learn more about VIUS and to provide comments, visit www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight. ■

ITTS Freight in the Southeast Conference – Continued from page 1

Registration for the full event holds a flat rate of \$300, which includes tours, panel discussions, networking events, and meals. The rate for attending a single day is \$175.

Venue Location: On Monday, the events will be held at the Sheraton Four Points. All the events on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will be held at the Biloxi Visitors Center at 1050 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Accommodations: We have arranged for rooms at the Four Points by Sheraton Biloxi Beach Boulevard, address 940 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Mississippi, 39530, Phone: 228-546-3100. **You have to call the hotel to get the conference rate** (under University of Southern Mississippi Transportation) of \$88.

Sponsorships are available at \$400, \$800 and \$1200 levels. Please contact Bruce Lambert if you want more details on being a sponsor or visit the conference website.

ITTS would like to thank the following for their assistance:

- Gulf Regional Planning Commission
- MS Engineering and Development, LLC
- Mississippi World Trade Center
- Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation (CLTT) at The University of Southern Mississippi

► Trade Profile – Caribbean Free Trade Agreement

Given the discussion on additional trade promotions, the Southeastern U.S. has been the largest beneficiary of the Caribbean Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) during the first ten years of its existence. CAFTA-DR was proposed in 2002 and signed in 2004 with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The agreement was expanded to Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic in 2006. The six countries of the CAFTA-DR Region are: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Together, these six countries form a sizeable market in Central America and the Caribbean with a total combined GDP of \$358.62 billion.

Over the past few years, trade between the CAFTA-DR region has increased. U.S. exports increased from \$15.8 billion in 2004 to almost \$30 billion in 2014. During the same period, imports grew from \$17.7 billion to \$30.1 billion in 2014. While information on state specific flows are not available over the same period of time (state specific import data was not released prior to 2008), the same growth trends are evident among the ITTS States.

Every ITTS state experienced a net growth in trade (with the nine ITTS states accounting for roughly a third of the total U.S. exports to the region). Of the ITTS states, Florida enjoyed the most trade activity with the CAFTA-DR region, while Louisiana and Georgia are ranked second and third.

The top commodities traded between the ITTS member states and the CAFTA-DR countries in 2013 included fuels, machinery, electronics and food products. Imports tended to focus on light manufacturing items, such as apparel, electrical machinery, edible fruits and nuts, and tobacco.

In summary, states have seen their trade with our CAFTA-DR southern neighbors increase over the past ten years, although a few commodities dominate the trade flows in both directions. Like all such agreements, there are always questions about

Commodities Traded Between CAFTA-DR and the ITTS States, 2013

Exports to CAFTA-DR (in \$US millions)		Imports from CAFTA-DR (in \$US millions)	
Mineral Fuel, Oil Etc.;	1,842	Apparel Articles And Accessories, Knit Or Crochet	1,685
Industrial Machinery, Including Computers	1,296	Electric Machinery Etc; Sound Equip; TV Equip; Pts	1,653
Electric Machinery Etc; Sound Equip; TV Equip; Pts	1,228	Edible Fruit & Nuts; Citrus Fruit Or Melon Peel	736
Food Industry Residues & Waste; Prep Animal Feed	624	Tobacco And Manufactured Tobacco Substitutes	527
Cereals	605	Apparel Articles And Accessories, Not Knit Etc.	368
Other	5,358	Other	2,886
Total	10,953	Total	7,855

changing trade patterns, such as questions related to near-shoring, west coast disruptions and its potential implications regarding sourcing patterns, and the emergence of Cuba/Haiti and other regional competitors for certain products. ■

Description	Exports to CAFTA-DR from ITTS (in \$US millions)		Imports from CAFTA-DR from ITTS (in \$US millions)	
	2004	2013	2008	2013
Arkansas	37	176	59	57
Florida	3,249	5,232	2,924	5,062
Georgia	667	958	731	1,167
Kentucky	164	226	563	482
Louisiana	1,174	3,070	506	444
Mississippi	224	766	344	349
Missouri	62	87	56	55
Virginia	153	434	135	227
West Virginia	3	6	13	12
TOTAL ITTS	5,732	10,953	5,330	7,855
Total US	15,754	29,644	19,351	30,130

M-55/M-35 State DOT Workshop March 5-6, 2015

The Missouri DOT and MARAD are hosting an M-55/M-35 Marine Highway Workshop for state DOT staff as part of the M-55 Marine Highway Corridor Study on the afternoon of March 5th and the morning of March 6th at the Doubletree Hotel at Union Station in St. Louis, MO. The mayors from MRCTI (Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative) along with the proposed shippers and navigators for M55 have scheduled a meeting with Secretary Foxx on March 19th in Washington DC to identify the resources needed and sources for those to push the container on barge further north on the Mississippi River.

This workshop is intended to brief the state DOTs in advance of the March 19th meeting, allowing each state the opportunity to identify assets to move container on the barge project forward. This identifies the resources needed by DOTs and industry to make container on barge service reality. In addition, MARAD will be hosting PortTalk sessions on the second day, discussing better understanding of the program's benefits to respective ports.

Please contact Cheryl Ball, cheryl.ball@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-5578 or Barbara Nelson at MARAD barbara.nelson@dot.gov for additional information. ■

▶ ITTS CALENDAR

This list highlights upcoming conferences related to transportation that may be of interest to the ITTS member region. For any corrections or suggestions, please contact Bruce Lambert at bruce@ittsresearch.org.

🌐 [ITTS participation or speaking engagements](#)

February 25-27, 2015

2015 AASHTO Washington Briefing
Washington, DC

March 31-April 1, 2015

Georgia Logistics Summit
Atlanta, GA

April 29-30, 2015

Arkansas Transportation Planning Conference
North Little Rock, AK

May 13-15, 2015

2015 AASHTO Spring Meeting
Cheyenne, WY

April 7 - 9, 2015

AAPA 2015 Port Administration and Legal Issues Seminar
New Orleans, LA

Sept 1-4, 2015

2015 SASHTO Annual Meeting
Nashville, TN

Sept 14-16, 2015

KTC, TMACOG, MAFC, Indiana, and Ohio Freight Meeting
Cincinnati, OH

News Update

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Maintenance Investment Decision Making.)

🌐 I also participated in the February Talking Freight Session, where I discussed multiregional freight corridors. As with all my presentations, the files have been posted online.

🌐 I also attended the Mississippi Intermodal Council meeting in Jackson, MS.

🌐 Finally, work continues on the ITTS Conference, and I hope to see you in Biloxi in March!

National Freight Cooperative Research Fund Survey

The National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP) conducts research and disseminates timely findings that will inform investment and operations decisions affecting the performance of the freight transportation system.

NCFRP was not reauthorized in MAP-21, but with reauthorization discussions beginning again, now is an ideal time to learn more about the usefulness of the NCFRP program to the freight community and the issues in freight transportation for which future research is most urgently needed. This survey is being conducted as part of the NCFRP-48 project, which will:

1. Facilitate easy access to NCFRP products by creating a web-based tool that is customized to the needs of freight transportation practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders;
2. Document the use of NCFRP research as input to MAP-21 implementation and other freight planning and programming applications; and
3. Identify future freight research needs.

Please participate in a brief online survey about the National Cooperative Freight Research Program. Survey responses will be used to document how NCFRP research products have been put to use and to develop recommendations for future freight-related research topics.

The link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCFRP48>

If you have any questions regarding NCFRP-48 or the online survey, please do not hesitate to contact the NCFRP-48 Principal Investigator, Jeffrey Ang-Olson (jeffrey.ang-olson@icfi.com). ■

State Update

Missouri has just released its freight plan, which is available online at <http://www.mofreightplan.org>. Missouri maintains the 7th largest highway system in the U.S., with 4200 miles of class 1 tracks, 425 short line rail tracks, 1050 miles of navigable waterways, and 115 intermodal facilities located throughout the state. The study also included several representative supply chains, such as beef, to highlight the importance of goods movement to Missouri's economy. ■

