



# Thoughts on the Future of the Inland Waterway System

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Waterborne Transportation

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# What Is ITTS?

- Evolved from LATTs Studies
- 12 State Departments of Transportation
  - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia
- “Forward Thinking” on freight planning and policy needs

# Outline

The background of the slide features a light gray globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Overlaid on the globe is a stylized compass rose with four large, light gray directional markers pointing towards the cardinal directions.

- The Waterway Message
- Thoughts Going Forward

# The waterway message?

- We can handle more, greener
- We have no money
- Who is our audience?
  - Shippers
  - State and Local planners
  - Politicians

# The Shipper

- Demands low-cost, reliable service
- Mode and geographically neutrality
- Wants “just in time” services – does not want or care about your “problems” (carrier or infrastructure)



# Closures Cost Money!

## NETS (IWR-USACE)

- Greenup 2003 Closure (52 days)- \$42 Million
- Hannibal Locks 2005 Closure (5 days)-\$5 Million
- Lock 27 Closures
  - (August 2007)-\$3.9 Million
  - (Oct 2005-Feb 2006)- \$2.7 Million
- McAlpine (August 2004)-\$6.3 million
- 2008 Flooding in Upper Miss?

## GLOBAL Insight – Upper Miss 90 Day Closure

- \$118.6 million for Waterway freight
- \$482.8 million by rail
- \$1.50 billion by truck

# State and Local Planners?

GOOD

Homepage | GOOD Video | GOOD Blog

## THE STREET OF THE FUTURE IS A LIVABLE STREET

by CARLY CLARK and AARON NAPARSTEK

BEFORE AFTER NOW WHAT?



See any trucks, railcars, barges or planes?

# Other Recent Studies Crossing Non-Traditional Boundaries

- Black Warrior Tenn-Tom Waterway System
- Minnesota Bridge Collapse
- Business Realignment Estimates - FHWA
- (NCHRP) Report 586: Rail Freight Solutions to Roadway Congestion
- Lock and Dam Closures
  - Chickamauga Locks
  - Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery
- Marine Highway Program

# The Political Debate?

- National or Local?
- Equity or Efficiency?
- Are waterways pork?
- Are they worth political risk-exposure?
- What is my relationship to the water?



# How much will an improved freight system cost?

- ASCE 2005 (first issued in 1988)
- AASTHO Freight Bottom Line
- Chamber of Commerce on Port Needs
- FHWA – Condition and Needs for Highways
- USACE – IWR – Dredging Needs Studies
  
- No consistent National Investment Model
  - various numbers, forecasts, etc., distort message
  - who blinks first and “loses”

# Can We Help People Make Better Decisions?



*Sometimes this is what it feels like...*

# Technology Can Help Promote the Waterway Industry

- Demonstrate Economic Importance
- Demonstrate Waterways Reliability
- Improve Safety and Emergency Response
- Equipment management
- Use Better Information to Manage and Gauge System effects of closures

# PIANC?

- World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure
- USACE – National Section
- INCOM, MARCOM, RECOM, ENVICOM, YPCOM

# Objectives of WG32

- Intermodal applicability
- Comparability with other transport modes
- Performance measurement system appropriate for all kind of inland waterways
- Standardized approach (reference model)
- Internationally accepted and applied guidelines
- Standard reference document used by national administrations

# Performance Indicators Categories

- A.1. Infrastructure
- A.2. Ports
- A.3. Environment
- A.4. Fleet and Vehicles
- A.5. Cargo and Passengers
- A.6. Information and Communication
- A.7. Economic Development
- A.8. Safety
- A.9. Security

# Smarterivers



- New Orleans, LA
- Sept 13-16, 2011
- Call for abstracts out now
- Previous locations -Pittsburgh, Brussels, Louisville, Vienna

Freight In the Southeast Conference, February 9-11, 2011



## Thank you

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