

**MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
(MTSNAC) MEETING SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2008
ARLINGTON, VA**

The Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC) met at the Sheraton National Arlington Hotel in Arlington, VA on September 17-18, 2008. The meeting focused on:

- Updating and revising the Council's Intermodal Report aimed at improving the Marine Transportation System; and
- Expanding the Council's education outreach initiative to underscore the importance of the national MTS to the various local regions of the United States; and

The Council's Intermodal Capacity and Operations Team reviewed the progress of the update and revision to the Council's 2005 Intermodal Report to the Secretary. It was agreed that although this effort began as an update of the earlier report, the current draft encompasses much more than just intermodal, and as such, it will be called a **MTSNAC Report**. The report will include a total of twelve recommendations, two more than the current Intermodal Report. Support for the continued development of a marine highway system as well as reducing the environmental impact and increasing the efficiency of the marine transportation system have been added to the recommendations. The final report is expected to be completed by November/December of this year.

The Council's Education Team unveiled a power point presentation that underscores the importance of the nation's MTS to the various local regions of the United States. This presentation is intended to assist MTSNAC members when meeting with senior policymakers, both from the private as well as the public sector. This new presentation focuses on the economic benefits that the system brings to the nation's economy, especially in jobs and tax revenues. The Education Team is also working on a more comprehensive version of this presentation that breaks down the system and its economic components by region, thereby demonstrating how the MTS brings value to each region of the country, not just the port and coastal areas.

The Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC) is a chartered, non-federal body, sponsored by the Maritime Administration, whose purpose is to advise the Secretary of Transportation on Marine Transportation System issues. Its membership is comprised of leaders from 30 commercial transportation firms, shippers, state and local public entities, labor organizations, academic institutions, and environmental groups.