

**MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SHERATON NATIONAL ARLINGTON HOTEL
ARLINGTON, VA
SEPTEMBER 17-18 2008**

Members Present:

Agriculture Transportation Coalition	Sheila Bracken
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers	Vicki Streukens
American Association of Port Authorities	Susan Monteverde
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials	Leo Penne
American Trucking Associations	Curtis Whalen
Association of American Railroads	John Gray
Bay Planning Coalition	Ellen Johnck
California Marine and Intermodal Transportation System Advisory Council	Norman Fassler-Katz
Center for Liquefied Natural Gas	Bill Cooper
Chamber of Marine Commerce	Gregg Ward
Florida Ports Council	Val Schwec
Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute	Carol Wolosz
Intermodal Transportation Institute	Theodore Prince
International Longshoreman's Association	John Baker
National Association of Manufacturers	Jon Hixson
National Association of Waterfront Employers	Paul Bea
National Industrial Transportation League	Michael Berzon
National Waterways Conference	Amy Larson
Pacific Maritime Association	Robert Dodge
Passenger Vessel Association	James DeSimone
Permanent International Association of Navigation Congresses (PIANC)	Thomas Wakeman
Rahall Transportation Institute	Dana Robertson
Retail Industry Leaders Association	Rick Gabrielson
Sailors' Union of the Pacific	Gunnar Lundeberg
Shipbuilders Council of America	Herschel Vinyard
South Atlantic Marine Transportation System Organization	David White
U.S. Chamber of Commerce	Sam Crane
United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd.	Carol Lambos
World Shipping Council	Anne Kappel

Wednesday, September 17

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by the Chair, **Sam Crane**. After self-introductions, the minutes from the June 2008 meeting were approved. The meeting agenda was reviewed and it was noted that the majority of the Council's time over the next day and a half would be devoted to reviewing the updated and revised

Intermodal Report to the Secretary and review of a new Education Team presentation and plans for a longer more comprehensive educational outreach program

Presentation of CMTS initiatives

Ms. Helen Brohl, Director of the Executive Secretariat of the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) briefed the Council on the activities of the CMTS, including the recently released National Strategy. She was joined by **Mr. John Bobb** of the Coast Guard, **Ms. Patricia Mutschler** of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and **Mr. David MacFarland** of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. After the presentation, there was a Q & A forum. **Ms. Brohl** was asked if any of the CMTS priorities in the strategy document might change with the change in administration in January 2009. It was also suggested that the CMTS should work with shippers and system stakeholders when developing priorities to ensure consistency.

Public Comment

Mr. David DeLoach, representing DeLoach Marine Services, LLC, reported that the Intracoastal Waterway was closed due to Hurricane Ike. He also noted that one of the bridges near Baton Rouge, LA has been closed, negatively impacting navigation in that area. **Mr. DeLoach** complimented the Council on addressing important MTS issues and asked it to not neglect the inland and coastal sectors.

National Port Strategy Update

Mr. Roger Bohnert of the Maritime Administration provided an update on MARAD's National Port Strategy. He emphasized that the purpose of the document is to look at the MTS in a larger, broader way than traditionally. Some of the changes to the document since MTSNAC members last saw it in June include: a name change from strategy to initiative; and the section on 23 findings has now become a recommendations section. After the presentation, the Council discussed the best way to synthesize and utilize with the National Port Strategy, the CMTS National Strategy, and the MTSNAC Report to the Secretary. It was suggested that the Council should focus on the commonalities between the three reports. The members then adjourned for a luncheon during which **Mr. Leo Penne** of AASHTO briefed the group on AASHTO's recent transportation reports and surface transportation authorization policy recommendations.

Intermodal Team Report Recommendations

The Intermodal Team, led by **Ms. Anne Kappel** began a review of the twelve recommendations in its draft report to the Secretary. She reminded the Council that

although this effort began as an update and revision of the 2005 **Intermodal** report, the current draft encompassed much more than just intermodal, and it will be called a **MTSNAC** report.

While the 2005 report contained ten recommendations, this draft report contains twelve, listed below in no particular order of priority:

- 1) Enable timely, consistent and accurate measurement of capacity and productivity, including the completion of the Maritime Administration's Port and Terminal Database and Data Gaps report;
- 2) Protect system reliability by maintaining and improving freight infrastructure, including a catalogue of brown field sites for freight use;
- 3) Continue to recognize and support regional freight solutions, including public/private partnerships;
- 4) Support the efforts of the private sector to improve the efficiency of the system, including private activity bonds, TIFIA and RRIF programs;
- 5) Encourage private sector investment by retaining and advancing programs that work well and eliminating those that do not;
- 6) Support efforts to recruit, train and retain sufficient personnel throughout the MTS network;
- 7) Reduce the environmental impact and increase the efficiency of the marine Transportation system;
- 8) Support the continued development of a marine highway system as it will be needed to accommodate future growth. This includes an exemption of the Harbor Maintenance Tax on domestic freight moves and the need for a robust analysis of the viability of such a system;
- 9) Assert federal jurisdiction over interstate commerce and provide transportation service providers with single, national standards and regulations, including Hours of Service (HOS), chassis roadability standards, and the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC);
- 10) Ensure the sustainability of intermodal connectors;
- 11) Re-establish the Office of Intermodalism within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation;
- 12) Re-energize and complete the National Freight Policy framework.

A discussion ensued. Suggestions were noted including a recommendation that language covering passenger services as well as freight services be added to the report. The issue of preserving landside access to ports and terminals was also raised since state DOTs sometimes take waterfront property to build roads or bridges that obstruct instead of improve traffic. The group completed discussion of the first six recommendations before adjourning for the day.

Thursday, September 18

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m. and all of the team minutes since the last full Council meeting were unanimously approved. The business of the day was to complete the three remaining items on the agenda: 1) Finish the MTSNAC report recommendations; 2) The Education Team Report; and 3) Discussion of the work to be done in the next month.

Intermodal Team Report Recommendations (con't)

The Council continued its discussion of the report's recommendations. A discussion of the viability of Short Sea Shipping or the Nation's Marine Highway ensued. It was pointed out that this recommendation does not propose a new program but rather a greater use of the MTS on the water side. There was consensus that the Marine Highway will work with a certain set of circumstances and it must be part of the solution where in fact it does work.

It was agreed that Anne Kappel would continue to take additional comments on the document for one week after the meeting. Thereafter, a final draft will be submitted for council approval.

Maritime Administrator Sean Connaughton thanked the Council for the important work that it is undertaking to provide critical advice for upcoming transportation reauthorization legislation.

Education Team Report

Carol Lambos reported that the Education Team piece on the international supply chain is almost ready in its updated version.

She also gave the Team's new power point presentation entitled *The Nation's MTS and Cargo Movement Infrastructure is Critically Important to All Americans*. The

purpose of the presentation is to underscore the importance of the national MTS to the various local regions of the United States and it 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 presentation was designed so that any MTSNAC member would be able to use it. The Education team is also working on a more comprehensive version of this presentation with the Maritime Administration and its contractor to produce an expanded 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 presentation will have unique economic information from the regions. **Ms. Lambos** then called on several members of the Education Team to give a brief 1-2 minute pitch on the key contributions of their port-region to the local and national economy and critical challenges in their region. The purpose of these presentations was to demonstrate the effort that Team members are putting into the project and how all MTSNAC members should be able to tell our story in a compelling way to get the attention of policy makers as they begin to work on surface transportation reauthorization and other related projects.

Meeting Summary and Action Items

The following action items were agreed to:

- 1) The MTSNAC report will be ready for the current Secretary in November/December 2008.
- 2) A revised report will be prepared for the new Secretary in January 2009.

Sam Crane thanked the Council for a very productive meeting and reminded members that they will be expected to provide input on the major actions discussed in the coming year. He also asked members to e-mail him with suggestions on major action topics. The Council also discussed Tampa, FL as the next meeting site, sometime in January 2009. The Council sponsor will explore dates and location. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:45 a.m.