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**MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
WESTIN SEATTLE HOTEL
SEATTLE, WA
JANUARY 9-10, 2008**

Members Present:

Agriculture Transportation Coalition	Sheila Bracken
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers	Vicki Streukens
American Association of Port Authorities	John Mohr
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials	Leo Penne
Association of American Railroads	Frank Hardesty
Bay Planning Coalition	Ellen Johnck
California Marine and Intermodal Transportation System Advisory Council	Norman Fassler-Katz
Center for Liquefied Natural Gas	James Fernie
Florida Ports Council	Carl Baker
Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute	Carol Wolosz
Intermodal Transportation Institute	Theodore Prince
International Longshore and Warehouse Union	Peter Peyton
International Longshoreman's Association	John Baker
National Association of Manufacturers	James Adams
National Association of Waterfront Employers	Patrick Hall
National Industrial Transportation League	Michael Berzon
National Waterways Conference	Connie Waterman
Pacific Maritime Association	Stephen Hennessey
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
Shipbuilders Council of America	Matthew Paxton
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, January 9

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair, **Rick Gabrielson**. After self-introductions, the Maritime Administrator, **Sean Connaughton**, addressed the Council and noted that this is an important year for transportation. He noted that the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission would soon be releasing its congressionally-mandated report on the Nation's transportation system. He also stressed the need for public-private partnerships to address issues such as congestion mitigation. **Mr. Connaughton** briefed the Council on the recent

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realignment of the Maritime Administration which is intended to make the agency more agile and more receptive to industry needs. To illustrate this, he distributed copies of the Maritime Administration's recently produced report, *U.S. Marine Transportation System: A Vision for the 21st Century* and asked for input and comments from the group. Lastly, he noted the Marine Highway provisions of the Energy Independence and Security Act, and commended Representatives Oberstar and Cummings for their legislative leadership in this effort.

Mr. Connaughton thanked those Council members who had recently completed their tenure on the Council, expressed his appreciation for the work of those members who are continuing on the Council, and welcomed the new members to the Council. He then presented a plaque of appreciation to **Mr. John Gaughan**, the former Chair of the Council, and thanked him for his dedication and work on the Council.

Rick Gabrielson then asked the Council to observe a moment of silence in honor of the memory of **Ms. Worth Hager**, representative of the National Waterways Conference on the Council, who passed away last year.

Education Team Report

Motions were made and approved to adopt the minutes of the Education Team meetings dated: October 18, 2007, November 14, 2007, and December 13, 2007. **Peter Peyton**, Co-chair of the team, briefed the Council on the team's anticipated course of action for the next 18 months. During the first 6 months, the team will collect and synthesize data for a presentation the council and then to Congressional members and staff. The goal is to demonstrate the value of the Marine Transportation System (MTS) to every member's district and state, including those in heartland areas. It hoped that this effort will yield work products that can be used to brief the new administration's transition team as well as educate policy makers in anticipation of the next re-authorization of the highway bill.

Carol Lambos, Co-chair of the team described the Education Team's proposed Work Plan for 2008. The Work Plan will include an update of the Team's Supply Chain presentation, an upgrade of the MTSNAC website (the Maritime Administration is currently working on this), inclusion of workforce recruitment and retention issues, and development of a module on MTS and Future Trends, and environmental sustainability. **Ms. Lambos** made a request for volunteers to assist in the workforce recruitment and retention and MTS and Future Trends modules. **Mr. Tom Wakeman** volunteered to lead the environmental sustainability effort and briefed the Council on environmental issues relevant to ports. The Education Team's 2008 Work Plan was then approved by the Council.

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Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair were then solicited. **Sam Crane** was nominated for Chair and was unanimously elected. **Rick Gabrielson** was nominated for Vice-Chair and was unanimously elected.

Port of Seattle Welcome and Presentation

Mr. Charlie Shelton, Managing Director of the Port of Seattle, then welcomed the group to Seattle, and presented an overview of the port which was established in 1911. Of note in his address were the three large container facilities and the largest ferry system in the United States.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 10

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. by newly elected Chair Sam Crane. The minutes of the May 9-10, 2007, meeting held in Chicago, IL were approved by the Council.

Sam Crane reiterated the importance of the work of the Council's teams and noted that much of the group's work is accomplished in between full council meetings through its teams. He encouraged every member to sign up for at least one team, and more if possible.

Public and Private Sector Data Collection Report

Anne Kappel reviewed the efforts of the Intermodal Capacity and Operations Team to identify and collect meaningful MTS data. She emphasized that this effort has been a good partnership between the private sector and the Maritime Administration. The team first explored the information it had and the information it needed to accurately map the system. One area needed is more current and accurate port and terminal statistics. The Maritime Administration is in the process of developing a port and terminal database which should address that issue.

Richard Walker, Director of the Maritime Administration's Office of Infrastructure Development and Congestion Mitigation, briefed the Council on the status of the Maritime Administration's efforts to collect needed MTS information and develop a port and terminal database. He indicated that the first part of this effort is to collect MTS information. The objective is to provide stakeholder access to a wide range of MTS data and information, not to create a mega-database. This has been a cooperative effort by the interagency Committee on

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the Marine Transportation System (CMTS), led by the Maritime Administration. The goal is an interactive website that will enable all stakeholders to access the MTS information. It was announced that the Maritime Administration has engaged the services of Cambridge Systematics to review this database and identify data gaps. **Ted Prince** asked if MTSNAC can be part of the Cambridge review, to which **Ms. Maggie Blum** of the Maritime Administration agreed.

The second part of this effort is to develop a comprehensive port and terminal database. The goal is to collect and identify the necessary data and information to understand our port and intermodal system. The database should be completed by mid-year. The Council expressed its appreciation and support for the Maritime Administration's efforts on data collection.

Mr. Walker then briefed the group on efforts by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to require specific consignee name and destination information for imports into the U.S. CBP has published its requirements, which are due to be phased in later this year. These additional data entries, although intended for security purposes, will also assist the government and MTS stakeholders to more accurately map the system's flow. The challenge now is to be able to access this information. The Maritime Administration is in discussions with CBP to enable CBP to share that information with the Maritime Administration.

Intermodal Recommendations Report Update

Ted Prince provided an update on the progress of the Council's 10 public and private intermodal recommendations. He emphasized that the Maritime Administration's port and terminal database project was a good step in addressing the recommendation of measuring capacity and productivity. He also highlighted recent private sector efforts to support harbor trucking improvements through the EPA sponsored SmartWay program. The Council requested that this report be updated and revised for the next MTSNAC meeting. The minutes of the Intermodal Capacity and Operations Team meeting held on December 11, 2007, were approved by the Council.

Public Comment

After a short break, the Council reconvened to hear public comments.

Mr. John Veentjer, Director of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound provided an overview of the Exchange and the Maritime Information Services of North America (MISNA), of which the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound is a member. He described the varied services it provides to ports, shippers and vessel operators.

Ms. Katie Haven, a Chief Engineer with the Alaska Marine Highway System and a member of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA) emphasized the importance of mariner

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recruitment and training, especially the need for assistance to mariners as they upgrade their skills. She also noted that a significant number of upper level mariners are leaving the industry, partly due to a shift in attitude by the Coast Guard regulators since that agency became part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Fred Fellowman, representing Friends of the Earth, congratulated the Port of Seattle for its efforts to be a green port. He also encouraged the Council to solicit input from tribal governments during their discussions about ports or port development.

Gary Magnuson, representing the Federal interagency Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS), provided the group with an update on the activities of the CMTS, including discussions concerning the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, navigational initiatives, data inventory collection and communication.

John Bobb, representing the U.S. Coast Guard, reported that a final draft of an MTS National Strategy is currently being reviewed by the CMTS members, with the expectation that a final document will be released within the next few months.

The Council then adjourned at 11:30 for a tour of the Port of Seattle and a Washington State Ferries terminal.

Regional Reports

Jim Fitzgerald, representing the California Marine and Intermodal Transportation System Advisory Council (CALMITSAC) described its 2008 focus. CALMITSAC will focus on exploring technology, including what is being developed and how it can be used for port and intermodal improvements throughout the state. CALMITSAC will also be preparing recommendations for the reauthorization of the current surface transportation act.

Carol Wolosz, representing the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute (GLMRI), described recent GLMRI activities, including a study on the availability of ship repair facilities in the Great Lakes region and the beneficial use of dredged material in the region.

David White of the South Atlantic Marine Transportation System Organization (SAMTSO) updated the Council on major SMATSO initiatives. These include the enlargement of the chassis pool in Hampton Roads, the establishment of the South Atlantic Consolidated Chassis Pool, covering Charlotte, Charleston, Atlanta, Savannah and Jacksonville, and the establishment of the Florida Consolidated Chassis Pool, covering the Tampa area. SAMTSO is also working on ways to improve the attractiveness of harbor trucking through extended gate hours and new technology at the terminals; and a pilot program (Smartways Plus Program), which provides long term, low monthly payments to drivers for the purchase of newer and less polluting trucks or the installation of diesel particle filters and other emission reducing equipment. This program is a partnership between EPA and the Virginia Port Authority.

Port of Tacoma Presentation

Ms. Jeannie Beckett, Senior Director of Inland Transportation for the neighboring Port of Tacoma provided an overview of the port, its infrastructure needs, and local community and regional challenges faced by the port as it expands facilities and operations. In her presentation she stressed the need for a level playing field between communities for rational port development.

Meeting Summary and Action Items

The following resolutions were approved by the Council:

- Resolution that the MTSNAC Charter be revised to create a category of membership entitled “Past Chair” and that the individual MTSNAC past Chairs be invited to participate in MTSNAC meetings and business with full voting rights and other privileges of membership. The Council sponsor pointed out that since the charter had just been revised, this recommendation is unlikely to be considered by the Department of Transportation at this time.
- Change the description of the Waterways Team to read: “Responsible for identifying and addressing those issues which directly impact our nation’s inland, Great Lakes and intercoastal waterways, ports, terminals and related infrastructure.”

Sam Crane again reiterated the importance of every member participating in the work of at least one Council team. He also reminded both the Education and Intermodal teams to focus on their deliverables for the next meeting. In order to have those deliverables ready by the end of the year, **Mr. Crane** said that he planned to have a conference call with the team chairs soon after this meeting and proposed that the next meeting be held in May, followed by a meeting in late September in Washington, D.C. The meeting was then adjourned at 4:30 p.m.