



# Intermodal Freight Transport News

*A product of the Transportation Research Board's*

*A1B05 Committee*

December 2002

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## Comments from the Committee Chair —

As the date for the Transportation Research Board's annual meeting approaches, it's time for another Intermodal Freight Transport newsletter. In this issue, you will find a variety of information about the annual meeting, to be held on January 12-16, 2003, in Washington, D.C. A1B05 is co-sponsoring five sessions plus the Marine and Intermodal Forum. Committee member Mike Onder (FHWA) and committee friends Libby Ogard (Tioga Group) and Marti Dilley (Alaska DOT) merit special thanks for their efforts in pulling together sessions for the annual meeting. Please be advised that the A1B05 business meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 7:30 pm, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. For further information about the annual meeting, see: <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/annual.nsf>.

I would like to highlight a couple topics for which I will be seeking your input. The first is reviewing and updating the committee's strategic planning concept. It has been about three years since this concept was initiated; now we need to review what the committee has accomplished over the last few years and reflect on what it may want to do in the future. Please review the strategic planning concept at <http://www.wilbursmith.com/a1b05/spc.cfm> and come to the January 13 committee meeting with your ideas.

Secondly, TRB is in the process of identifying possible "big issues" to be studied in the future. They have asked A1B05 and other standing committees to assist in this effort by identifying possible issues. For further information see, the item "TRB Policy Studies" later in this newsletter, and come to the committee meeting with one or two sentences summarizing each of your ideas.

I hope to see many of you at TRB's 2002 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and I look forward to working with you over the next year. If you have questions about this newsletter or ideas for the next one in Spring 2003, please contact the newsletter editor Jack Klodzinski ([jgk18568@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu](mailto:jgk18568@pegasus.cc.ucf.edu)) or me ([steven.r.kale@odot.state.or.us](mailto:steven.r.kale@odot.state.or.us)).

*Steve Kale, Chair,  
Intermodal Freight Transport Committee*



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## TRB 2002 Summer Meeting

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A1B05 participated in TRB's Providence summer meeting (July 11-13, 2002) with various TRB committees on economics, finance, freight, management, planning, and transit. A1B05 co-sponsored a session on transportation security-planning considerations on Saturday morning, July 13. Among the topics of discussion at the sessions were:

- Social Issues –(session summaries prepared by Pat McLaughlin)
- Operations – (session summaries prepared by Mark Norman)
- Security – (session summaries prepared by Chris Mann)

Summaries of the [THREE BREAKOUT SESSION TRACKS](http://gulliver.trb.org/conferences/MidYear/ReporterSummaries.pdf) can be viewed at:  
<http://gulliver.trb.org/conferences/MidYear/ReporterSummaries.pdf>

For more information on the Providence meeting, see <http://www4.trb.org/trb/calendar.nsf/web/midyear>.

Enjoying a respite between Providence meeting sessions are Steve Kale, Kate Quinn (committee friend), Rob Ritter, and Ted Dahlburg.





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## TRB 2003 Annual Meeting

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TRB will hold its 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting on January 12-16, 2003, in Washington, DC at the following hotels: Washington Hilton, Marriott Wardman Park, and Omni Shoreham. Most A1B05 sponsored sessions, as well as the committee business meeting, will take place in the Omni Shoreham Hotel. For more information, see <http://www4.nas.edu/trb/annual.nsf/web/homepage?OpenDocument>. Marriott and Omni Shoreham locations are accessible using the [Washington Metro system](#) via the Woodley Park station. Shuttle buses run regularly between all three hotels.

Please mark your calendar for the **committee business meeting on Monday, January 13, 7:30 pm, Omni Shoreham Hotel**, and for the following sessions that A1B05 is sponsoring or co-sponsoring (all of which are in the Shoreham):

### Monday, January 13

“Short-Haul Intermodal Rail: Options and Opportunities,” 8:00-9:45 am, Blue Room

“Trends in the Security and Efficiency of Container Movements,” 10:15 am-12:00 pm, Blue Room

### Tuesday, January 14

“Incorporating Freight into Statewide and Metropolitan Planning,” 8:00-9:45 am, Diplomat Room

“Outreach to the Public on Freight Issues, Benefits, and Needs,” 1:30-3:15 pm

Marine and Intermodal Forum, 5:30-7:30, Regency Ballroom

### Wednesday, January 15

“Global Freight Data Standards in an E-Business World,” 10:15 am-12:00 pm, Blue Room

Please note that a number of other freight sessions will be held at TRB. For more information, see: [http://gulliver.trb.org/am/ip/assembly\\_search.asp?subject=1043&sbjname=Freight+Transportation&e=1020](http://gulliver.trb.org/am/ip/assembly_search.asp?subject=1043&sbjname=Freight+Transportation&e=1020).

For more information about intermodal sessions, see:

[http://gulliver.trb.org/am/ip/assembly\\_search.asp?e=1020&q=intermodal](http://gulliver.trb.org/am/ip/assembly_search.asp?e=1020&q=intermodal)



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### **TRB 2003 Summer Meeting**

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Mark your calendars for the 2003 TRB summer meetings to be held in Portland, Oregon, during the week of July 13. The meeting will begin with sessions sponsored by the ports, waterways, intermodal freight, and international trade committees (July 13-15). Tours, site visits, and other events will be on Wednesday, July 16, followed by sessions sponsored by TRB committees on planning, economics, finance, and management committees during the latter part of the week. Please be thinking about whether the A1B05 committee wants to engage in any extracurricular activities before or after the summer meeting. If you have suggestions, forward to Steve Kale. More information about the meeting will be posted on the TRB web site at: <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/trb/calendar.nsf>. See <http://travelporland.com> for information about Portland, and <http://www.portofportland.com/> for information about the Port of Portland.

### **Downtown Portland with Mt. Hood in the Background**



Photo courtesy of the Port of Portland

### **Member News**

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**Peter Beaulieu:** The Puget Sound regional freight forum (the Regional Freight Mobility Roundtable) now has a working draft regional “business plan”. The benefit of such an overview document was stressed by Harry Caldwell (FHWA Freight Operations) during a co-sponsored regional conference in October 2001. This update touches on a range of past actions and points to other action packages ripening for attention in the foreseeable future. The Roundtable is an informal body that serves as a “communication hub” among all the engaged parties (1994 to present).

The challenge is to align the independent work of several public and private organizations to achieve coherent results on the ground. The frame of reference is local and global supply chains, rather than “stovepipe” projects. In our gateway region to the Pacific Rim, the supply chains involve all modes: marine and port, highway, air cargo and rail. We now are able to report several completed rail grade separation projects under our \$470 million FAST Corridor Phase I package (Freight Action Strategy, 1998-2004), and several other less visible actions.



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In December this paper came in handy during a “case study” visit by the Government Accounting Office (GAO). The GAO is developing freight information for Congressional committees to consider during debate of TEA-21 reauthorization in 2003. Other marine port regions contacted by GAO during this part of their work are New York/New Jersey, Los Angeles/Long Beach, Miami, and Charleston.

To download “Toward a Freight Mobility Regional Business Plan”, see the PSRC Web site at [http://psrc.org/datapubs/pubs/publist\\_freight.htm](http://psrc.org/datapubs/pubs/publist_freight.htm)

**Ted Dahlburg** (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission): The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is preparing a report on freight movement in the Philadelphia-Camden region using data from the Commodity Flow Survey. The final report will be available in early 2003 and can be obtained by contacting Ted Dahlburg of DVRPC (215.238.2844).

**Arno Hart** (Wilbur Smith Associates): Arno Hart was recently promoted to Vice President at Wilbur Smith Associates, where he is responsible for the firm’s Freight, Finance and Economics services. During the first two weeks of November, Arno Hart took part in the AASHTO/FHWA Latin American Freight Scan. He was freight policy advisor to multiple state DOT Directors, as well as transportation officials with the FHWA, AASHTO, TSA, MPO, Transport Canada and Mexico as part of a NAFTA sponsored delegation to several Latin American countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Uruguay and others.

**Jocelyn Jones** and **Paul Agnello** (Baltimore Metropolitan Council): Collaboration with a consultant to create new truck models for use in the agency’s regional travel demand model has recently been completed. The traditional approach to creating a truck model has been to conduct a survey on truck movements to develop a model of truck trip rates, distribution patterns, and routes. This approach is generally not feasible, however, due to the difficulty and high cost inherent in conducting a statistically valid truck survey. An innovative, faster, less costly approach to developing the truck models has been developed using a technique called “adaptable assignment.” The new process for modeling accounted for major trucking facilities, light trucks and non-personal use cars, land use, truck prohibitions, and truck passenger car equivalencies (PCEs). The model results showed significant improvement over the previous model and compared well to traffic count data. Mr. Agnello and the consultant will be presenting this topic at TRB’s spring application conference in Baton Rouge. For more information, contact Jocelyn at 410.732.0500, ext. 1049 or [jjones@baltometro.org](mailto:jjones@baltometro.org)

**Steve Kale** (Oregon Department of Transportation): Steve is assisting the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) on a variety of projects. These include a) identifying high priority freight mobility roadway projects for the 2004-2007 *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program*, longer-term high priority freight mobility roadway projects, and short- and long-term high priority freight mobility non-roadway projects, and b) preparing a report to the Oregon Legislature describing the FAC's activities over the last couple years. Also, he will be making a presentation on "Intermodal and Multimodal Freight Policy, Planning, and Programming at State Departments of Transportation in the Decade Since ISTEA" at the TRB annual meeting in January.



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**Jack Klodzinski** ([University of Central Florida-CATSS](#)): The Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation at UCF has just completed a three-phase Florida Seaport freight mobility study for the Florida Department of Transportation under the supervision of [Haitham Al-Deek](#) and [Jack Klodzinski](#). The study investigated six of Florida's major seaports including [Port Canaveral](#), [Port Everglades](#), [Port of Jacksonville](#), [Port of Miami](#), [Port of Palm Beach](#), and [Port of Tampa](#). A quick overview of the project can be viewed by clicking [Truck Project Slideshow](#) at (<http://www.catss.ucf.edu/jack2>).

The study began by investigating the feasibility of utilizing vessel freight data to determine the daily number of trucks transporting freight in and out of the individual seaports. An Artificial Neural Networks modeling approach was utilized to accomplish this. These truck trip generation port models were then executed to produce daily truck counts for determining the peak hour truck volumes for use in road network models with the ports considered as special generators. Both CORSIM and VISSIM network simulation models were investigated and executed to build and model the road networks connecting to the [Port of Tampa](#) and [Port Canaveral](#). The developed methodology is documented in detail in the final reports. These are available under [documents](#) on the aforementioned Web site. Currently, an intermodal consortium to investigate safety and security is being organized. Applications of the previous intermodal modeling work will now be focused on safety and security of Florida's seaports. This work will be presented in two separate sessions (#259 and #419) at the 2003 TRB.

### TRB Policy Studies

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As part of TRB's Strategic Plan, the TRB Executive Committee is developing a list of "big issues" for consideration as TRB self-initiated policy studies. Since 1982, TRB has conducted more than 70 policy studies in response to requests by Congress, executive branch agencies, and the states on a wide array of transportation topics. General categories of topics have included airline deregulation, airport capacity, automotive safety, counter-terrorism, dredging, environmental policy, high speed rail, highway design, school transportation safety, speed limits, terrorism, transit use, and truck size and weight.

Among past topics of interest to a freight audience are: *Freight Capacity for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (see <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/sr/sr271.pdf>) and *Policy Options for Intermodal Freight Transportation* (see <http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/sr/sr252.html>). Current topics include: "Freight Transportation Data: A Framework for Development" and "Freight Transportation Information Systems Security: A Scoping Study." More information on TRB policy studies can be found by visiting the noted link below: [http://www4.trb.org/trb/homepage.nsf/web/policy\\_studies](http://www4.trb.org/trb/homepage.nsf/web/policy_studies).

TRB is requesting that its standing committees assist in identifying possible "big issues" to be studied. By January 31, 2003, TRB would like to receive committee recommendations of no more than one or two sentences per issue. For the A1B05 committee, these recommendations should be consistent with the committee's statement of scope (see: <http://www.wilbursmith.com/a1b05/index.cfm>) and millennium paper (see <http://www.nationalacademies.org/trb/publications/millennium/00061.pdf>), and could focus on a wide variety of intermodal freight issues.

Committee members should be thinking about possible big issue topics, and be prepared to discuss their ideas at the committee business meeting on Monday, January 13, 7:30 pm in the Omni Shoreham Hotel.



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## 2003 NCHRP Synthesis Projects

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January 31, 2003 is the deadline for submitting new topics for the FY 2003 National Cooperative Highway Research Program on "Synthesis of Highway Practice." Researchers for synthesis projects search out and synthesize useful knowledge and prepare reports on current practices in the subject areas of concern. The resulting product is a compendium of the best knowledge available on measures found to be successful in resolving specific problems. For each project, TRB establishes a panel to guide the researchers in organizing and evaluating the data collected and to review the synthesis report. Four A1B05 members—Ted Dahlburg, Jocelyn Jones, Steve Kale, and Charles Poltenson, Sr.—currently are serving on the panel for a synthesis project in the 2002 program: "Freight Transportation as a Good Neighbor." Committee friend Anne Strauss-Wieder is the contractor for this project. For more information on the 2003 synthesis program, see <http://www4.nas.edu/trb/synthesis.nsf/Reference/NCHRP+Overview>. A form for submitting ideas for future synthesis projects is available at the noted link below:

<http://www4.nas.edu/trb/synthrep.nsf/SynthesisStatement/?OpenForm>.

## Freight Transportation Research Problem Statements

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In 2001, Tina Casgar, Chair of the TRB Section on Multimodal Freight Transportation, requested TRB freight committees to prepare research problem statements. A1B05 and six other freight committees responded by developing about 25 problem statements. These have been compiled and are now available via TRB electronic Transportation Research Circular Number E-C048 (December 2002): *Freight Transportation Research Needs Statements*. See the following for more information:

<http://gulliver.trb.org/publications/circulars/ec048.pdf>.

## Other Items

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### Intermodal Access Report

On November 1, U.S. Maritime Administration released a new report, *Intermodal Access to U.S. Ports: Report on Survey Findings*. The report is based on a survey of 70 percent of U.S. ports, and focuses on the state of roadway, rail, and waterside access. Among the report's findings are: 1) ports need better real-time traffic information, 2) intermodal connections at ports may be good enough now to keep cargo moving but they probably won't be in a few years, 3) more than 90 percent of respondents reported acceptable or higher conditions in the availability of on-dock rail facilities and aids to navigation on waterways. MARAD expects to continue, on an annual basis, its assessment of access to marine ports and terminals. For more information, see

[http://www.marad.dot.gov/publications/Intermdlaccess\\_US%20Ports.pdf](http://www.marad.dot.gov/publications/Intermdlaccess_US%20Ports.pdf).

### Container Security Report

Since 9-11-2001, the nation's efforts to bolster security have grown substantially. Some of the efforts have focussed on assessments of measures to reduce the likelihood of adverse events associated with container movements. An example of these assessments is a recent U.S. General Accounting Office publication on *Container Security: Current Efforts to Detect Nuclear Materials, New Initiatives, and Challenges*. The report finds that programs in place at U.S. ports are limited in their ability to detect



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illegal fissile material or nuclear weapons. Reviews of existing programs have shown that significant challenges remain in creating and enforcing a set of security standards, ensuring the cooperation of diverse groups with competing interests when deciding the specifics of what needs to be done, and paying the increased security bill. For more information see: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03297t.pdf>.

## Security Seals Symposium

The sixth Security Seals Symposium, February 25-27, 2003, Santa Barbara, California, will focus on "Government/Industry Technology Transfer." Symposium speakers will address: 1) protection of cargo shipments into and within the U.S., 2) coordination with the world community to develop security seal requirements and standards to protect assets in transit, and 3) the role of security seals and associated products in meeting changing and challenging security requirements. Additionally, three panels will address various aspects of container security and seal technology. For more information, contact Bart Hanchett, Hanchett Engineering Associates at: [hanchet@jetlink.net](mailto:hanchet@jetlink.net).

## FHWA Freight Publications

The FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations has compiled two publications of interest to professionals in the intermodal freight community.

- The Freight Analysis Framework summary:  
(<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/adfrmwrk/index.htm>)
- State Freight Profile for the State of Texas:  
([http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/state\\_profiles.htm](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/state_profiles.htm)).

The Freight Analysis Framework summary is a two-page document designed for providing quick, topline information. The Texas state profile is the first publication in a new series of State Freight Profiles; FHWA hopes to complete all of the remaining state profiles in February. Both items can be printed out in black and white or color. For more information, contact Bruce Lambert at 202-366-4121 or [Bruce.Lambert@igate.fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Bruce.Lambert@igate.fhwa.dot.gov).

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