



INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

PROMOTING REGIONAL AWARENESS FOR IMPROVING FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

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NEWS UPDATE

In addition to organizing the 2018 ITTS Freight in the Southeast Conference, I prepared another working paper on the Data Integration Program, using Scott County, Missouri to discuss ways to utilize the data integration work for freight studies. All reports are posted at <http://www.ittsresearch.org/state-reports.html>

ITTS is hosting a webinar with Drew Ratcliff, Capital Region & Planning Commission, concerning the Louisiana Supply Chain Transportation Council on June 28th at 3:00 p.m. Eastern , 2:00 p.m. Central.

- Dial-in number (US): (641) 715-3580
- Access code: 660907
- International dial-in numbers: <https://fccdl.in/i/itts>
- Online meeting ID: itts
- Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/itts>

After June 30, 2018, please contact Trung Trinh at the Mississippi Department of Transportation regarding ITTS. Mississippi DOT will be administering the new contract. Mr. Trinh can be reached at 601-359-7692 or at ttrinh@mdot.ms.gov. Bruce Lambert can be reached at 540-455-9882 or 985-302-6900 or at bruce@brucelambert.net.

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Freight in the Southeast Conference – Another Success

The 2018 ITTS Freight in the Southeast Conference was held at the Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri from May 21-24, in conjunction with Inland Marine Expo's FreightWeekSTL. With over 2,000 people attending the IMX Conference, the ITTS sessions were well attended. This was a different forum than earlier ITTS meetings, as the states attendees could benefit from other sessions in addition to the Expo. (All the session presentations are posted at <http://inlandmarineexpo.com/show-information/education-sessions>.)

Tuesday morning, ITTS hosted a Working Breakfast Session, as Bradley McMahon and Jeff Purdy, FHWA, joined a panel of ITTS member states to discuss their thoughts on the application of the FAST ACT, State Freight Plans, and Performance Measures.

The first session on "Interrupted Supply Chains" ranged from Dr. Craig Phillip and Deb Calhoun, who spoke on the implications of lock failures on regional supply chains. Tom McQueen reviewed the I-85 Bridge collapse and the effort to monitor and manage traffic while restoring the bridge. Finally, Drew Ratcliff discussed Louisiana's efforts to manage supply chain disruptions, recognizing the need to better prepare and manage the state's transportation system, partially in response to the 2016 floods. (See the webinar invite.)

"The First and Last Mile: Shortline Railroad and Terminal Connections" was led by panelists Mike McCarthy and Dave Geraci discussed the history of railroad crossings in St. Louis and emphasized the importance of railroads to the regional economy. The panel discussed how short lines and regional railroads can be utilized as efficient last mile connectors for businesses that depend upon rail service.

Directly after lunch, "Unlocking the Mysteries of Corporate Site Selection" began with Steven Johnson touching on how a state economic agency looks at attracting and retaining businesses. Eli Falls spoke about how railroads can assist site developers in not only making sure the facility can be served by rail, but also how engaging with the railroad can make a project more competitive. Finally, David Cox outlined how a municipality can manage its own economic development activities by understanding its competitive advantage and by working with regional partnerships.

The afternoon session was led by Randall Withers on the "Return on Investment in Ports by Missouri Taxpayers" report. Bryan Ross highlighted MoDot's need for such a study, and its acceptance within the state. Paula Dowell discussed the study's findings, showing that the benefits of the River system extended beyond the waters edge throughout the State.

Chris Collins hosted a Working Breakfast Wednesday morning, where various federal agencies offered support of freight investment. The speakers, Jeff Purdy with FHWA, Branden Leay Criman of Marad, and Andrew Schimpf, of the U.S. Army Corps

FREIGHT IN THE SOUTHEAST

Moving Our Region's Business



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The Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies provides research data and expert opinions to its members concerning the effects of commercial freight movements on domestic and international activities, with reference to infrastructure and transportation needs, and safety implications.

The ITTS members include:

- Arkansas Department of Transportation
 - Florida Department of Transportation
 - Georgia Department of Transportation
 - Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
 - Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
 - Mississippi Department of Transportation
 - Missouri Department of Transportation
 - Virginia Department of Transportation
 - West Virginia Department of Transportation
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▶ LAMBERT'S LAGNIAPPE

la-gniappe |lan'yap|:
something given as a bonus or extra gift.

After eleven years at ITTS, my current contract will end on June 30th. I have appreciated working with many talented people and have benefitted from their advice and support.

There are many things I have enjoyed while working at ITTS, such as organizing the annual Freight in the Southeast Conference and researching/writing the various reports and newsletters. (I am especially proud of my Blazing Saddles NEPA comparison – you can look it up on the ITTS Blog!) There are also little things that I have done over these years that were very rewarding, such as the many

conference presentations I made for the member states, in addition to organizing conference calls and webinars. In many ways, I am grateful for the states for the opportunity to learn so much about their work and the challenges they face.

Personally, I plan on spending a few weeks cleaning up my property and getting my Ph.D. program registration completed. But if I am lucky, I may go the beach for a few days.

English has a thousand ways to say anything, but no single word can express my deep gratitude, so I will simply say "Thank You". ■

Freight in the Southeast Conference – Another Success

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of Engineers, presented various ways their agencies offer aid through programs.

The "Container on Barge" session ignited a conversation on attracting freight to our region's waterways, not only for containerized shipments. Bobby Landry did a great job discussing how the current Baton Rouge to New Orleans "Container on Barge" system operates, including the challenges of working inland barges at facilities used by ocean going container ships. Dennis Wilmsmeyer outlined his thoughts on developing inland river terminals to attract and retain business.

Mike Steenhoek, Executive Director of the Soy Transportation Coalition, conducted a keynote session on agricultural trade and policy. Agricultural shipments depend upon transportation to provide a reliable, low cost service that allows U.S. farmers to compete in global markets. This includes not only barge operations and dredging our coastal ports, but also improving bridges in rural areas and local roads.

Following lunch, Charles Gascon led an engaging discussion on the U.S. economy, with a special focus on the role of cities. Oftentimes, we discuss cities and regions as having some economic identity. Seeing those figures by the Federal Reserve Bank reinforced what to consider when studying the economic growth of urbanized areas.

Next, Tom Blair kicked off a great discussion on "Autonomous Trucks". Steven Schmith and Alain Kornhauser outlined the benefits of autonomous fleets, but also what these fleets are, even asking what autonomy means regarding fleet operations. Dr. Kornhauser compared autonomous vehicles to elevators, a shared public space, without direct human operational control. That is an engaging idea, but there are many questions regarding how these technologies will be adopted. (Dr. Kornhauser also engaged the State Departments of Transportation in an unscripted working lunch on Wednesday.)

The final panel of the day focused on "Truck Parking", a continuing problem for local planners and freight companies. The group discussed a recent I-95 truck parking meeting, as well as some private sector alternatives to address the truck parking need. It was a truly engaged group - they went on for another hour after the session ended!

Thursday morning Bi-State Development hosted a riverboat excursion, which reconnected attendees to the waterfront. It unveiled the value in the previous days' discussion on maritime assets and was complimented by narration from several speakers.

Finally, I want to think these sponsors for the ITTS Working Breakfasts.

