Thoughts on the Future of the Inland Waterway System

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What Is ITTS?

• Evolved from LATTS Studies
• 12 State Departments of Transportation
  • Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia
• “Forward Thinking” on freight planning and policy needs
Outline

- The Waterway Message
- Thoughts Going Forward
The waterway message?

• We can handle more, greener
• We have no money

• Who is our audience?
  ➢ Shippers
  ➢ State and Local planners
  ➢ Politicians
The Shipper

- Demands low-cost, reliable service
- Mode and geographically neutrality
- Wants “just in time” services – does not want or care about your “problems” (carrier or infrastructure)
Closures Cost Money!

NETS (IWR-USACE)
- Greenup 2003 Closure (52 days)- $42 Million
- Hannibal Locks 2005 Closure (5 days)- $5 Million
- Lock 27 Closures
  - (August 2007)- $3.9 Million
  - (Oct 2005-Feb 2006)- $2.7 Million
- McAlpine (August 2004)- $6.3 million
- 2008 Flooding in Upper Miss?

GLOBAL Insight – Upper Miss 90 Day Closure
- $118.6 million for Waterway freight
- $482.8 million by rail
- $1.50 billion by truck
State and Local Planners?

See any trucks, railcars, barges or planes?
Other Recent Studies Crossing Non-Traditional Boundaries

- Black Warrior Tenn-Tom Waterway System
- Minnesota Bridge Collapse
- Business Realignment Estimates - FHWA
- (NCHRP) Report 586: Rail Freight Solutions to Roadway Congestion
- Lock and Dam Closures
  - Chickamauga Locks
  - Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery
- Marine Highway Program
The Political Debate?

• National or Local?
• Equity or Efficiency?
• Are waterways pork?
• Are they worth political risk-exposure?
• What is my relationship to the water?
How much will an improved freight system cost?

- ASCE 2005 (first issued in 1988)
- AASTHO Freight Bottom Line
- Chamber of Commerce on Port Needs
- FHWA – Condition and Needs for Highways
- USACE – IWR – Dredging Needs Studies

- No consistent National Investment Model
  - various numbers, forecasts, etc., distort message
  - who blinks first and “loses”
Can We Help People Make Better Decisions?

Sometimes this is what it feels like…
Technology Can Help Promote the Waterway Industry

- Demonstrate Economic Importance
- Demonstrate Waterways Reliability
- Improve Safety and Emergency Response
- Equipment management
- Use Better Information to Manage and Gauge System effects of closures
PIANC?

- World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure
- USACE – National Section
- INCOM, MARCOM, RECOM, ENVICOM, YPCOM
Objectives of WG32

- Intermodal applicability
- Comparability with other transport modes
- Performance measurement system appropriate for all kind of inland waterways
- Standardized approach (reference model)
- Internationally accepted and applied guidelines
- Standard reference document used by national administrations
Performance Indicators Categories

A.1. Infrastructure
A.2. Ports
A.3. Environment
A.4. Fleet and Vehicles
A.5. Cargo and Passengers
A.6. Information and Communication
A.7. Economic Development
A.8. Safety
A.9. Security
Smartrivers

- New Orleans, LA
- Sept 13-16, 2011
- Call for abstracts out now
- Previous locations - Pittsburgh, Brussels, Louisville, Vienna
Thank you

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