

FREIGHT CAPACITY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Transportation Research
Board

The National Academies

FREIGHT CAPACITY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Charge:

- **Identify factors that will influence demand & capacity in all freight modes**
- **Seek consensus on nature of capacity problems and consequences of failing to act**
- **Define options for government policy**

Funding: FHWA, NCHRP, USACE, TRB

Schedule: Report - Summer 2002

FREIGHT CAPACITY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Committee will have conclusions regarding:

- **Characterization of freight capacity problems/
interpretation of trends**
- **Changes in government policy to improve supply of
freight capacity**

Audience: informed opinion leaders in transportation:

**State DOT chiefs
U.S. DOT**

**Congress, staffs
industry groups**

FREIGHT CAPACITY FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Information Resources

- **Review of past assessments**
- **Survey of immediate policy issues**
- **Trends in traffic, infrastructure, and performance**
- **Case studies**

Virginia I-81/ Shenandoah Route

Upper Mississippi locks

Washington FAST Corridor

Florida Freight Stakeholders Task Force

- **Industry interviews**

TOPICS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Guiding Principles: incentives for better use and better investment decisions

Comprehensive Federal Freight Policy Agenda: need for consistent policy approach to infrastructure, regulation, finance

Specific Policy Recommendations: federal freight infrastructure programs: capital expenditures, finance, operations

Technology Development and Application

Reducing Project Delivery Time

Decisionmaking Processes and Planning

IMMEDIATE POLICY ISSUES

Government management, operation, and regulation of transportation:

- **truck size and weight regulation**
- **economic regulation of railroads**
- **international aviation regulation**
- **port rate competition**
- **NAFTA freight transportation issues**
- **environmental streamlining**

IMMEDIATE POLICY ISSUES (Cont.)

Selection of funding sources for capital expenditures and operation of public facilities:

- **harbor dredging funding**
- **toll funding of highways**
- **the future of user fee finance in state highway programs**

IMMEDIATE POLICY ISSUES (Cont.)

Public investment choices:

- **future development of the inland waterways system**
- **public sector technology development programs**
- **evaluating freight benefits in setting investment priorities**

Redefining government responsibilities:

- **air traffic control reform**
- **government grants to freight railroads**