CLTT Industry Advisory Council (IAC) Members Invited to Present at TRB Midyear Meeting

The midyear meeting of the TRB Intermodal Freight Transport Committee (AT045) was held on April 11th 2016 in conjunction with the 2016 Freight in the Southeast Meeting (New Orleans LA). Due to space limitations, it was a joint meeting with the TRB Committee on Agricultural Transportation (AT030).

Several speakers covered freight transportation topics from different perspectives. The Port of New Orleans presented its history and importance for the regional and national economy, especially for grain exports and coffee imports. CLTT IAC member Stuart McAvoy (UPS) presented about the main activities of the UPS operating model (packages, freight, and contract logistics), and several new initiatives taking place at UPS: Access Point Network, Field Stocking Locations, UPS-USPS partnership, and customized solutions. Finally, Lynn Kennedy (LSU) presented on the implications of an Avulsion of the Mississippi River on Agricultural Trade.

Leaders of the Intermodal Freight Transport Committee include the following:

Chair: Richard Easley, E-Squared Engineering  
Vice Chair: Jolene Hayes, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Communications Coordinator: Jody Binnix, Genesee Transportation Council  
Research Coordinator: MD Sarder, University of Southern Mississippi

Transportation a Key Component of the Blue Economy

The Blue Economy is economic activity that needs a coast line to function, but faces location specific transportation concerns with mobility, congestion, resiliency, and the environment. It includes maritime activity, ports, tourism, energy, defense, shipbuilding, aquaculture, marine technology, and other ocean-based industries. The National Ocean Economic Program (2016) found the 30 US states bordering the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico had 3 million Blue Economy jobs out of 41.6 million coastal economy jobs. This equates to $289b of GDP or 2.17% of the US GDP. The Gulf of Mexico states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama) had the highest percentage of Blue Economy jobs (13.8%). The nexus of these activities is ports and the transportation system. Ports and the supply chain are essential for maritime commerce, military logistics, shipbuilding, energy, and other industries that often adversely impact the environment. The Oceans in Action conference August 17-18, 2016 at the Stennis Space Center will present updates on the Blue Economy and the role transportation plays in it.

Job Opportunities at TransMontaigne Partners

TransMontaigne Partners L.P. (NYSE: TLP) is a terminaling and transportation master limited partnership providing integrated

Job Board

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Director  
Office of Program Administration  
The U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
True South Basic Economic Development Course Adds a Transportation Component

Transportation has become an important topic for the economic development community. In the most recent Area Development (2015) annual corporate survey, highway accessibility moved to the top factor above availability of skilled labor for location decisions. Cost and availability of sites, labor costs, and construction costs were also top factors. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recently released a report, Critical Condition: Infrastructure for Economic Development, that discusses how economic developers can advocate for infrastructure, participate meaningfully in planning processes, and advance innovative new forms of finance to overcome these challenges. With this increased interest, transportation has been added as a topic to the True South Basic Economic Development Course September 19-22, 2016, in Hattiesburg, MS at The University of Southern Mississippi Trent Lott National Center. This introductory course, accredited by IEDC, exposes participants to the fundamentals and practice of creating jobs, increasing wealth, improving the tax base and enhancing a community’s quality-of-life, and is the first step in pursuing professional certification. Registration is now open.

United Parcel Service Tests Saturday Delivery as Online Shopping Demand Surges

In order to cater to the increasing online shopping demand, United Parcel Services, Inc. recently decided to offer delivery services on Saturdays, starting this summer at a few locations in the US. In doing so, the company will also be able to compete with its business rivals who already offer delivery services on the weekends. In the first stage, UPS will evaluate the demand of the services at a few destinations to justify the cost. These locations include Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Los Angeles, where Saturday delivery services will be monitored initially.

The company is expected to receive good demand as most online customers want to receive deliveries of their goods at homes on weekends. Furthermore, the current move will also allow United Parcel Services to better compete with its biggest rivals - FedEx Corporation, that delivers ground-based parcels on Saturdays, and US Postal Services that makes deliveries even on Sundays in some areas.

Industry analysts expect home deliveries and online shopping to surge in the future and may account for more than half of United Parcel’s total business by the end of fiscal year 2019. Furthermore, US e-commerce generated a total sale of $343 billion during fiscal year 2015 with a compounded annual growth rate of 17% over fiscal year 2000. This trend is expected to continue in the future as more and more customers want to save time on shopping as well as conveyance costs when they go to a big store. For details, click here.