

1D. Investment, Economics & Jobs

Moderator: Mary Erickson, Note Taker: Kathleen Welder

- * “Who Pays?” (Capital investments in MTS)
 - * Effective age of infrastructure across the system is tremendous
 - * Historic economic analyses indicates systems could be self-sustaining over a long life cycle.
 - * Transparency in cost investments/ benefits
- * “Who Benefits?”
 - * Value Everything: national interest, local, commercial, recreation, environment, other parts of the transportation system
 - * Monetize for comparison, where possible
- * Models for measuring performance of moving goods along waterways
 - * Highlight inefficiencies, cost savings opportunities, identify areas for investment, and support arguments for full utilization of waterways
 - * Scenario-based models increasingly more sophisticated; can see impacts of changes in the system, across the system
 - * probability of delays and lock closures, effect of drayage and port costs on total cost
 - * Recognize its one component of the decision process

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- ▶ Full market studies of container and barge cargo can reveal beneficiaries much further inland than what is typically acknowledged
 - ▶ Even distant communities are reaping benefits (e.g Port of Virginia delivers benefits to California markets)
 - ▶ Rail and truck carriers depend on the MTS
- ▶ What is utility of models?
 - ▶ Assess costs and benefits of moving goods along waterways- including how it compares to moving goods with truck or rail traffic.
 - ▶ Highlight inefficiencies, identify areas for investment, and support arguments for full utilization waterways

2D. Investment, Economics & Jobs

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- ▶ Common metrics – Within modes, across modes
- ▶ Economic measures are feasible; Every decision can be tied to its probable effects on profit or loss; monetize
- ▶ Simkins and Stewart designed repeatable methodology to measure ports through the real value of cargo
 - Track commodity of tonnage to allow for a common value performance measure;
 - Track commodities in terms the public understands (ton?)
- ▶ Provide better access to collected data (USACE, USCG)
 - 2-digit SITC commodity classification code
 - Tonnage through a port

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- ▶ User economic analyses on capital investments – how can we speed up projects?
- ▶ Reveal national effects of lock closures, disruptions to distant beneficiaries
 - E.g. Illinois lock – NC, GA, CA, TX
 - Closures reduce volume, not just diversion
- ▶ Changes in Approach:
 - Consider evaluating funding for “repair and sustain” vs “build and expand.”
 - Might we look at assumptions in C/B Analyses
 - federal investment – national benefits