

TRB Executive Committee Policy Session

Multimodal Freight Policy, Corridor-Level Priorities, and Funding Strategies

Rapporteur's Summary

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Concepts

- System of Systems – modal/levels of government/private sector reach
- Institutional Arrangements – national/regional/state/metro/local
- Markets/Regulations/Externalities
- Costs/Benefits
- Trends/Scenarios

Questions

- What are the modal implications of higher value/lower weight goods vs. lower value/higher weight commodities?
- Is it possible that “near-shoring,” “reverse globalization” will overcome trend of last 10 years, i.e. off-shoring, long supply chains?

Questions

- What would we have done in 1990 to formulate a national freight policy (pre-internet, pre-GPS, pre-China/India modernizing efforts)? Would we have been way off base using the then “current trends?”
- Are there institutional models (I-95 Corridor Coalition) that might help us build new structures to advance economic/transport goals?

Questions

- Does a “national freight policy” imply a “national freight program(s)?”
- Didn't we have an Office of Intermodalism?
What happened?

Future Actions

- Analytical Tools – Where do we go next?
- Institutional Structures – How do we develop effective models?
- Operations – Innovations/investments – where do we focus?
- Marketing vs. Regulatory Approaches to Externalities
- Project Evaluation/Prioritization – Modal/System/Multimodal - Where do we start? How do we “market” this approach?