

The background of the slide is a photograph of a port. A large red and white ship is docked at a pier. In the background, there are industrial buildings, a bridge, and a clear blue sky. The water in the foreground is calm and reflects the sky and the ship.

CMTS

U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System

November 17, 2008

Overview

- Value of the Marine Transportation System (MTS)
- Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS)
- MTS National Strategy
- Next Steps
- CMTS Achievements
- Challenges Ahead



Marine Transportation System

- supporting global competitiveness -

- 25,000 miles of waterway
- 1,000 harbor channels
- 360 deep and shallow draft ports
- Connects 152,000 miles of rail and 45,000 miles of interstate highway
- 2.3 billion metric tons of trade
- Foreign trade 22% of Gross Domestic Product
- 8.4 million seaport related jobs
- \$2 trillion to economy

CMTS Background

- 1999 MTS Assessment Report Recommendation to Congress
- 2004 Ocean Policy Commission Recommendation
- 2004 Transportation Research Board Report Recommendation
- 2004 Ocean Action Plan Presidential Directive

CMTS Background

- The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS)
 - U.S. Ocean Action Plan (December 2004) created a Cabinet-level partnership of Federal Departments, independent agencies and White House offices to develop and implement MTS policies to improve the Marine Transportation System.
 - Charter approved in July 2005.
 - First integrated action teams initiated.

CMTS Membership


- Transportation (Chair)
- Commerce
- Defense
- Energy
- Homeland Security
- Treasury
- State
- Interior
- Agriculture
- Labor
- Justice (Attorney General)
- Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Administrator, EPA
- Chairman, FMC
- Ex-Officios: OMB, CEQ, NEC, DPC, HSC

CMTS Organization

Committee on the Marine Transportation System
Cabinet Secretaries; Chaired by the Secretary of
Transportation

Coordinating Board (CB)
All Agencies and Departments with an MTS interest.
Chair rotates: USCG, USACE, NOAA, and MARAD

Executive Secretariat
Director and dedicated staff to facilitate coordination,
meeting and direction of the CMTS and CB.



National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System: A Framework for Action

- OAP directed the CMTS to recommend strategies and plans to maintain and improve the MTS
- Strategy developed by CMTS agencies
 - Wide industry input reviewed and considered
 - 2-year, interagency effort leading to CMTS approval in July 2008
- Strategy provides a policy framework for addressing
 - Critical issues for the next five years
 - Future MTS needs
- A “living” document that encompasses 5 priority areas with 34 recommendations for action



MTS National Strategy

- Five Priority Areas
 - Capacity
 - Addresses capacity, efficiency, & congestion issues
 - Safety and Security
 - Strengthen maritime safety & coordinate maritime security
 - Environmental Stewardship
 - Protect environmental health of shared resources
 - Resilience and Reliability
 - Increase MTS reliability and ability to withstand or recover from disruptive incidents
 - Finance and Economics
 - Maintain & improve infrastructure




MTS Capacity

- Coordinate with Federal, state, local agencies
 - Expand shipping on Marine Highways
 - Provide incentives for private sector investment
 - increase efficiency
 - achieve environmental sustainability
 - Facilitate environmental compliance for land use in or near ports
 - Publish MTS data and develop performance measures
- 




MTS Safety and Security

- Coordinate Federal navigation programs
 - Manage navigation risk
 - Disseminate real time navigation safety information
 - Promote navigation technology R & D
 - Enhance risk-mitigation techniques
 - Balance safety and security imperatives
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MTS Environmental Stewardship

- Develop environmentally sound policies
 - Transportation projects
 - R&D for pollutants and invasive species
 - Watershed management
 - Ship dismantling
 - Formerly polluted industrial areas (brown fields)
 - Collect data to aid environmental decision-making
 - Manage dredged material
 - Harmonize national standards and regulations
- 



MTS Resilience and Reliability

- Plan for continuity of operations
 - Significant events
 - Reserve and surge capacity
 - Coordinated approach for channel restoration
- Resolve Federal, state and local jurisdictional issues
- Develop strategies for addressing potential climate change impacts on the MTS



MTS Finance and Economics

- Study alternative approaches to financing construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance;
- Evaluate approaches to prioritizing Federal dollars among competing priorities;
- Evaluation how best to allocate Federal funds across Agencies.



MTS National Strategy

Next Steps

- Prioritize Actions
- Develop activities to implement the prioritized action items (Implementation Plan)
 - Coordinate with Federal, State, and local Agencies
 - Continue to work with private industry to ensure the viability of the MTS



CMTS Achievements

- Increased and improved interagency coordination:
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) policy
 - Cross-Lake Great Lakes Shipping and the Harbor Maintenance Tax
 - MTS National Strategy
 - Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund policy
 - Review of the National Dredging Policy
- Federal MTS data portal
- Navigation Technology Integration
- Assessment of the MTS



Challenges Ahead

- CMTS in successive Administrations
- Marine, Freight and Intermodal provisions in surface transportation or other legislation
- Aging Federal infrastructure
- Assessment of the MTS
- Marine Highway Program Implementation
- Navigation Technology Integrations
- Environmental Stewardship
- Congressional Interest for the MTS

CMTS

U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

202-366-3612

www.cmts.gov