



## THE CMTS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ROUNDTABLE: *Reflecting Forward* November 20, 2015

The CMTS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Roundtable: *Reflecting Forward* was held Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Department of Transportation Headquarters and was attended by nearly 80 marine transportation system (MTS) partners and stakeholders. Two panels of past and present leaders of the CMTS discussed the Committee's origins, its accomplishments over the past ten years, and the future needs of the MTS and kicked off enhanced stakeholder engagement under the 2015-2016 CMTS work plan.

Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Victor Mendez provided opening remarks and highlighted the value of our Nation's waterways in moving freight and supporting the U.S. economy. The first panel was chaired by RDML Joanna Nunan, USCG Military Advisor to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and was comprised of several respected speakers including former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta; Major General Don Riley, former Deputy Commanding General and Deputy Chief of Engineers (USACE-retired) and 2006 Coordinating Board Chair; and Ms. Amy Larson, President of the National Waterways Conference and early member of the Coordinating Board while with the Federal Maritime Commission. Secretary Mineta discussed his original vision to form the CMTS and decision to encourage the Administration to institute an interagency Cabinet-level Committee focused on issues to support the marine transportation system. In addition, the discussion focused on the initial challenges of developing and institutionalizing a lasting interagency partnership.



The second panel was moderated by Dr. Holly Bamford, Acting Assistant Secretary of Conservation and Management in the Department of Commerce and current Coordinating Board Chair. Dr. Bamford's panel was comprised of recent CMTS leaders who addressed the issues they encountered while serving the CMTS. Speakers on the second panel included, Mr. John Rayfield, Chief of Staff, House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation; Mr. Paul "Chip" Jaenichen, Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Major General Mike Walsh, former Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations (USACE-retired) and Coordinating Board member; CAPT Dave Murk, Director of Field Operations for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and 2012 Coordinating Board Chair; and Major General John Peabody, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations (USACE-retired) and 2014 Coordinating Board Chair. Mr. Rayfield discussed the challenges of having the CMTS codified into the 2012 USCG Authorization Bill and numerous speakers emphasized the value of having a single vision and strategy for the MTS.

In addition to the general consensus by panelists that the CMTS has been of great value to developing a Federal MTS partnership, conversation also included:

- Enhanced public and stakeholder engagement is encouraged;
- Cabinet members of the CMTS must be aware of and have discussion regarding the value of the marine transportation system to the nation;
- There remains challenges to funding the many and varied needs of the MTS;
- The CMTS should engage in watershed management and related impacts to the MTS;
- The CMTS should engage more fully regarding the impacts to the MTS from global climate change and sustainability; and
- Sediment management is a critical challenge for future maintenance of federal waterways.



The Roundtable was an excellent setting to reflect on CMTS accomplishments and provide suggestions for a productive future. Thank you to everyone for the extraordinary time and attention to the CMTS partnership and for making the CMTS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Roundtable a successful event.