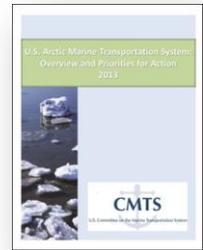




## **CMTS U.S. ARCTIC MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM REPORT SUBMITTED BY CMTS CHAIR FOXX TO PRESIDENT OBAMA**

On July 30, 2013, U.S. Transportation Secretary and CMTS Chair Anthony R. Foxx submitted to President Obama the CMTS report on the U.S. Arctic marine transportation system (MTS). The report, entitled "[U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System: Overview and Priorities for Action](#)," calls for near- and long-term priority actions to improve the U.S. Arctic MTS to safeguard anticipated increases in vessel traffic in the U.S. Arctic. Arctic marine transportation supports oil and gas exploration, commercial fishing, tourism, movement of freight, and the delivery of fuel and supplies to Alaskan communities. As Arctic sea ice diminishes, there are increased opportunities to traverse Arctic waters. However, these transits face an intensely harsh operating environment with unpredictable ice flows and weather.



**Click the icon  
to open the report**

Congress directed the CMTS, under U.S. Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, to coordinate domestic transportation policies in the U.S. Arctic necessary to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping. In response, the CMTS developed a report that:

- Identifies the many existing U.S. Arctic MTS-related policies and reports;
- Describes and assesses the current status and future needs of the 16 elements of the U.S. Arctic MTS necessary for safe, secure, environmentally sustainable, and reliable navigation;
- Identifies current/planned Federal U.S. Arctic MTS activities, including milestones and timeframes; and,
- Calls for the CMTS to take a leadership role to oversee, coordinate, and manage recommended priority actions in collaboration with other Federal Government Arctic initiatives.

The development of the report was led by a CMTS nine-member interagency team and is the product of comprehensive interagency review, peer review, and public review, including the State of Alaska, industry, and Tribal interests. The four-chapter, 115-page report is the first systematic, interagency approach and sector-specific plan for Federal U.S. Arctic marine transportation policies, programs, and services. The report is intended to inform Federal agency and Administration efforts in defining priorities regarding the U.S. Arctic MTS. It has already contributed to the development of the recently released National Strategy for the Arctic Region.