

**CHARTER FOR THE  
UNITED STATES COMMITTEE ON THE  
MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM**

**(CB approved 6.19.13 and as amended by OST General Counsel, and subsequently amended 3.10.16 and 4.12.18)**

I. **AUTHORITY.**—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(a), the United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System (hereinafter “Committee”) is established.

II. **PARTIES.**—The U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the National Transportation Safety Board are parties to this Charter.

III. **PURPOSE.**—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(b), the Committee shall serve as a federal interagency coordinating committee for the purpose of—

- (1) assessing the adequacy of the marine transportation system (MTS) (including ports, waterways, channels, and their intermodal connections);
- (2) promoting the environmentally sound integration of the MTS with other modes of transportation and other uses of the marine environment; and
- (3) coordinating, improving the coordination of, and making recommendations with regard to Federal policies that impact the MTS, including the development of outcome-based goals and strategic objectives for the safety, security, efficiency, economic vitality, environmental and human health, and reliability of the MTS for commercial and national defense requirements; and methods for monitoring progress towards those goals and objectives;
- (4) facilitating the coordination of budget and regulatory activities that impact the MTS; and
- (5) creating a partnership of federal agencies with responsibility for the MTS to ensure the development and implementation of national MTS policies, consistent with national needs, and to report to the President the Committee’s views and recommendations for improving the MTS.

IV. **ORGANIZATION.**—

(1) **THE COMMITTEE ON THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.**—

(A) **VOTING MEMBERS.**—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(c), the Committee shall consist of the following voting members:

- (i) the Secretary of Transportation;
- (ii) the Secretary of Defense;
- (iii) the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- (iv) the Secretary of Commerce;
- (v) the Secretary of the Treasury;
- (vi) the Secretary of State;
- (vii) the Secretary of the Interior;
- (viii) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (ix) the Attorney General;
- (x) the Secretary of Labor;

- (x) the Secretary of Energy;
- (xi) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (xii) the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission;
- (xiii) the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff;
- (xiv) the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board;
- (xv) the Chairman of the Marine Mammals Commission; and
- (xvi) the head of any other federal agency who a majority of the voting members of the Committee determines can further the purpose and activities of the Committee.

(B) NON-VOTING MEMBERS.—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(c)(2), the Committee shall include the following non-voting members:

- (i) the Director, Office of Management and Budget;
- (ii) the Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality;
- (iii) the Director, National Security Staff;
- (iv) the Director, Domestic Policy Council;
- (v) the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (vi) the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (vii) the Director, National Ocean Council,
- (viii) the Director, National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office, and
- (ix) the head of any other federal White House office or interagency organization who a majority of the voting members of the Committee determines can further the purpose and activities of the Committee.

(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall be the chairman of the Committee. The Committee shall meet at the discretion of the chairman.

(D) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its purpose and activities under this Charter, the Committee may consult with MTS-related advisory committees, Members of Congress, congressional staff, interested parties, and the public.

(2) SUB-ORGANIZATIONS.—The Committee is supported by four sub-organizations: the Coordinating Board, the Executive Secretariat, Integrated Action Teams, and Task Teams.

(A) COORDINATING BOARD (CB).—

(i) MEMBERS.—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(d), the CB is established, within the Committee, and each member of the Committee shall select a senior-level representative to serve on the CB. Members contribute to the interagency partnership by bringing agency expertise and providing policy guidance and recommendations. The CB will assist the members of the Committee in exercising their duties and responsibilities in accordance with this Charter. The CB will meet periodically to assist the Committee in formulating its recommendations and will report directly to the Committee.

(ii) CHAIRMAN.—The Chairman of the CB shall rotate each year among the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Commerce, in that order. The Chairman of the CB provides day-to-day guidance to the Executive Director.

(iii) INTEGRATED ACTION TEAMS (IAT).—For the purpose of executing the business and work plans of the Committee, the CB may establish an IAT. An IAT will address longer-term issues of the Committee. The CB shall approve the work plan of an IAT.

(iv) TASK TEAMS (TT).—For the purpose of accomplishing a specific, short-term task, the CB may establish a TT. The CB shall approve the work plan of a TT.

(B) EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (ES).—

(i) STAFF.—The ES serves as the staff body of the Committee and as a technical advisory body to the CB, the IATs, and TTs. The members of the Committee shall provide support to the ES.

(ii) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(d), the Executive Director of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Commerce. The Executive Director will be an employee of the Department of Transportation who reports directly to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation. The Executive Director shall keep the CB informed of all developments, including matters to be brought before the Committee, necessary for the CB to fulfill its responsibilities.

V. RESOURCES.—Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55501(d)(3), a member of the Committee may, notwithstanding any other provision of law—

- (1) provide, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, facilities, equipment, services, personnel, and other support services to carry out the activities of the Committee; and
- (2) transfer funds to another federal department or agency in order to carry out the activities of the Committee.

VI. OTHER PROVISIONS.

- (1) Nothing in this charter shall be construed to require the obligation of any budgetary resources on the part of an agency of a voting member of the Committee.
- (2) The terms of this charter will become effective upon approval by the voting members of the Committee.
- (3) This charter may be modified upon the mutual written consent of all Parties to this Charter or in accordance with changes to the Committee's organic authority.