

CHARTER FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

I. Parties

The parties to this Charter are: the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 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 Office of the Joint Chiefs, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Federal Maritime Commission.

II. Authority

The authority to establish this Committee derives from a directive by the President in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, issued December 17, 2004, "Supporting Marine Transportation."

III. Purpose

A. To create a partnership of Federal agencies with responsibility for the Marine Transportation System (MTS) - waterways, ports and their intermodal connections – to ensure the development and implementation of national MTS policies consistent with national needs and report to the President its views and recommendations for improving the MTS.

B. The partnership established by this Charter, to be known as the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS), and its constituent sub-organizations described in paragraphs VI-VIII below, will be responsible for the following:

- improving Federal MTS coordination and policies;
- promoting the environmentally sound integration of marine transportation with other modes of transportation and with other ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes uses;
- developing outcome-based goals and strategic objectives for the safety, security, efficiency, economic vitality, environmental health, and reliability of the MTS for commercial and national defense requirements, as well as a method for monitoring progress towards those goals;
- coordinating budget and regulatory activities that impact the MTS; and
- recommending strategies and implement plans to maintain and improve the MTS.

IV. Organization

The CMTS is a Federal cabinet-level inter-agency organization that reports to the President and is supported by three sub-organizations: the Coordinating Board (CB), the Executive Secretariat (ES), and Integrated Action Teams (IATs).

A. The Committee on the Marine Transportation System

1. The Committee is comprised of the heads of Federal agencies, or their senior level designees. Through the Committee each member agency has a unique capacity to work collaboratively on MTS matters. The Committee will meet as appropriate, but not less than twice a year, to address nationally significant MTS issues. The Committee or any of its members can identify proposed agenda items.

2. Membership

The Committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOT). The following Heads of Agencies, or their senior level designees, also serve as Committee members.

- Secretary of Commerce;
- Secretary of Defense;
- Secretary of Homeland Security;
- Secretary of the Treasury;
- Secretary of State;
- Secretary of the Interior;
- Secretary of Agriculture;
- Attorney General;
- Secretary of Labor;
- Secretary of Energy;
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff;
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission; and
- the head of any other Federal agency that the Committee Chair, with the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Committee, determines can further the purpose and activities of the Committee

3. Ex-officio members of the Committee, who can participate as non-voting members include the:

- Director, Office of Management and Budget;
- Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality;
- Assistant to the President for Homeland Security;
- Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy; and
- Assistant to the President for Economic Policy

4. Consultation

In carrying out its functions and activities under this Charter, the Committee will consult with the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC), Congressional representatives and staff members, the public, and other interested parties.

B. Coordinating Board (CB)

1. The CB will be comprised of senior-level representatives designated by each Committee member. The CB will assist Committee members in exercising their duties and responsibilities in accordance with this Charter. The chair of the CB will be rotated among the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maritime Administrator and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator. The CB will meet periodically to assist the Committee in formulating its recommendations and will report directly to the Committee.

2. The Coordinating Board is responsible for:

- creating and implementing the joint strategic plan for improving the MTS;
- coordinating and integrating the work of each IAT;
- recommending interagency procedures and mechanisms to achieve coordination of the partnering agencies' MTS activities and programs, including budget and appropriations requests, research and development studies and projects, and acquisitions for products and services;
- selecting lead agency for each IAT; and
- overseeing data acquisition and management for the MTS to support performance metrics.

C. Executive Secretariat (ES)

1. The ES is the staff body of the CMTS, made up of Federal employees from CMTS member agencies. The ES Director will be an employee of the Department of Transportation who reports directly to the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy. The ES serves as a technical advisory body to the CB and the IATs. The 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. The ES Director is the Executive Secretary to the CB.

2. The Executive Secretariat is responsible for:

- ensuring liaison, coordination, collaboration, and clear communications among member agencies, other stakeholders, and the CB;
- presenting consolidated agency interests to the CB on operational and policy issues;
- providing staff support to the CMTS; and
- preparing a work plan and operating budget for implementing its responsibilities.

D. Integrated Action Teams (IAT)

1. IATs are responsible for the execution of the strategies developed within the joint strategic plan. An IAT will be created as needed, and could be either temporary or permanent in nature depending upon the issue or challenge that the team has been formed to resolve. The members of each IAT shall include representatives from the lead agency, member agencies and other organizations required to satisfy the mission of the IAT.
2. Each IAT lead agency shall:
 - prepare an IAT action plan governing its work that aligns with the joint strategic plan. Each action plan shall include, but is not limited to, the following tasks:
 - Survey each Agency’s MTS-related policies and programs including inter-agency and international agreements, and identify opportunities and methodologies for collaboration;
 - Facilitate inter-agency sharing and distribution of information;
 - Propose recommendations for interagency MTS research and development coordination.
 - implement and manage the action plan, including oversight of the agencies involved in the effort; and
 - provide status reports to the CB and the ES Director on the performance of its action plan, including technical, financial and schedule aspects.

V. Agency Responsibilities

Each Agency shall fund the costs of its own participation in the CMTS. Specific resources and funding commitments between member agencies shall be addressed in separate interagency funding agreements executed under the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. §1535) or other appropriate authority. Nothing herein shall derogate from the authority vested in any agency or other government entity by statute, executive order, presidential directive, or any other instrument.

VI. Other Provisions

- A. Nothing in this charter shall be construed to require the obligation of any budgetary resources on the part of member agencies.
- B. The terms of this charter will become effective on August 11, 2005.
- C. This charter may be modified upon the mutual written consent of all Parties to this Charter, as specified in Paragraph I.
- D. The terms of this charter will remain in effect until terminated by the President of the United States.

VII. Signatures

Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation	Date
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Carlos M. Gutierrez, Secretary U.S. Department of Commerce	Date
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Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary U.S. Department of Defense	Date
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Michael Chertoff, Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security	Date
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John W. Snow, Secretary U.S. Department of the Treasury	Date
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Condoleeza Rice, Secretary U.S. Department of State	Date
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Gale A. Norton, Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior	Date
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Mike Johanns, Secretary U.S. Department of Agriculture	Date
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Alberto R. Gonzales, Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice	Date
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Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor

Date

Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

Date

General Peter Pace, Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Date

Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Date

Steven R. Blust, Chairman
Federal Maritime Commission

Date

Joshua B. Bolten, Director
Office of Management and Budget

Date

James L. Connaughton, Chairman
Council on Environmental Quality

Date

Frances Frago Townsend, Assistant to the President
for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism

Date

Claude Allen, Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

Date

Allan B. Hubbard, Assistant to the President
for Economic Policy

Date