

NCFRP 35: Multimodal Freight Transportation within the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Basin

Mid-America Freight Coalition Annual Meeting

Marc-André Roy Principal Investigator April 19, 2012









- What is the multimodal freight transportation system in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin (GLSLB)?
- What is the economic impact of this freight transportation system, by mode and major industry?
- What is the multimodal freight system's performance?
- What can be done to improve its performance, from a policy and planning standpoint?

Challenge: How to distill complex multimodal, multi-jurisdictional and multi-commodity freight system into practical insights for policy and planning?







Areas for Future Research





































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GLSLB Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic (AADTT)

Truck Traffic Volumes







12











15



Employment – 3.8 million jobs



Output - Total U.S. \$627 billion



Value-Added – Total U.S. \$311 billion



Taxes – Total U.S. \$87 billiion





Overview of GLSLB Multimodal Freight Transportation System

Economic Importance

Major Commodities Handled

System Performance

Barriers to System Performance

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Opportunities to Improve System Performance

Areas for Future Research





The major commodities moving to, from or within the GLSLB include:

- Coal (largely for regional power production),
- Iron ore (for regional steel production and export),
- Grain and other agricultural products (local consumption and export),
- Automotive and machinery (supporting local manufacturing base), and
- **Other manufactured goods** (including containerized imports for regional distribution and consumption and exports)





Top 5 commodities handled:

Weight



Value







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Performance measurement:

- Highly complex
- Different measurement by different stakeholders
- Most salient is the shipper perspective
- Performance tradeoff:











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Modal constraints are fairly well understood...

What is relatively less well understood are commodity or supply chain specific barriers and their potential solutions.

Some of the most significant barriers and constraints to multimodal freight transportation performance in the GLSLB, as identified by those consulted:







System Capacity Constraints

Capacity constraints and congestion are most significant around Chicago

Airports and waterways have excess capacity, however, modal shift not a given





GLSLB Land Capacity Constraints 2007

Ottaw

Barriers to System Performance

Others Include:

- Modal integration challenges
- Lack of jurisdictional coordination
- Lack of multimodal funding mechanisms
- Modal inequality
- Lack of awareness of importance and role of freight transportation system
- Labor constraints
- Insufficiency of data and performance metrics





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- Improved freight transportation performance data and performance measures
- Better modal and jurisdictional coordination
- Multimodal funding and funding mechanisms
- Regional strategic framework to identify multimodal freight transportation priorities
- Gateway and corridor or supply chain specific performance analysis











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- Greater clarity is needed on specific regional/ national/continental transportation policy goals
- More research is needed on individual supply chains, their performance needs, and related issues/opportunities
- Need for more data and key performance indicators on freight performance
- Opportunity to leverage research from NCFRP 35 to advance future research:

Data and analysis from NCFRP 35 publicly available (http://ncfrp35.utoledo.edu/Data.aspx)





NCFRP 43 Guidebook

(for validation)

To obtain a copy, Google: "Chassis and CPCS".

or, contact:

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Guidebook for Assessing Evolving International Container Chassis Supply Models (Draft)

Prepared for:

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Summary of CPCS Qualifications

Management consulting & transaction advisory, specific to transportation sector (est. 1969 as consulting arm of CP, independent since 1986)

Summary of activity over last 7 years

