Committee on the Marine Transportation System

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Hydrographic Services Review Panel
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Outline

• ICMTS History
• CMTS Origins
• CMTS Charter Overview
• Current Activity
• Key Differences – ICMTS vs. CMTS
ICMTS History

• Established in 2000 by MOU, 18 agencies signed
  – MTSNAC also established
• Followed 1999 Congressional report by DOT “An Assessment of the U.S. MTS”
• Emphasis on conferences, outreach, awareness-building, studies and reports
ICMTS: Obstacles to Success

- Lack of high-level involvement
- No accountability among agencies
- Lack of action-based, measurable outcomes
  - No resources dedicated to improving MTS
- Emphasis on strategy, process
Ocean Commission: CMTS Structure

• Congress should codify the ICMTS
• ICMTS placed under the National Ocean Council (NOC) Committee on Ocean Resource Management
• DOT Chair
Ocean Commission: CMTS Function

- Improve internal coordination
- Promote the integration of marine transportation with other modes of transportation and with other ocean and coastal uses
- Recommend strategies and plans for:
  - Informing the public
  - Devising short / long term funding scenarios
  - Matching federal revenues with funding needs
  - Delineating short- and long-term priorities
The U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS)… is a vital public-private partnership.”

“As the U.S. economy continues to expand and the Bush Administration pursues greater international trade liberalization, the importance of our marine transportation infrastructure will continue to grow.”
U.S. Ocean Action Plan: CMTS Structure

- Elevate the Interagency Committee on the Marine Transportation System. The President directs the creation of a cabinet-level Interagency Committee on the Marine Transportation System (ICMTS).
U.S. Ocean Action Plan: CMTS Function

- Improve Federal MTS coordination and policies;
- Promote the environmentally sound integration of marine transportation with other modes of transportation and with other ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes uses;
- Develop outcome-based goals for the MTS and a method for monitoring progress towards those goals;
- Coordinate Federal annual budget requests and regulatory activities that impact the MTS;
- Recommend strategies and plans to maintain and improve the MTS.
CMTS Working Group

• Core group:
  – NOAA
  – Coast Guard
  – MARAD
  – Corps of Engineers

• Other partners:
  – EPA
  – Treasury
  – State

• End users:
  – USDA
  – TRANSCOM
CMTS Working Group: Early Challenges

• Who is interested?
• What is the purpose?
• What model?
  – NGATS / JPDO Model
  – CRTF Model
• What’s different?
CMTS Charter: Parties

- Transportation
- Commerce
- Defense
- Homeland Security
- Treasury
- State
- Interior
- Agriculture
- Justice
- Labor
- EPA
- FMC
- Joint Chiefs
- OMB
- CEQ
CMTS Charter:  
Purpose

• “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.”

• Some central concepts:
  – Outcome-based goals
  – Budget coordination
  – Recommend strategies / implement plans
CMTS Charter: Structure

Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS)
Cabinet Secretaries of DOT (chair), DHS, DoD, DoC, EPA, & others

Coordinating Board (CB)
Members: All agencies with MTS interest
Chair: Rotating between USCG, MARAD, NOAA & USACE

Executive Secretariat
Permanent staff to provide coordination liaison & support to CMTS, CB & Integrated Action Teams

Integrated Action Teams
CMTS Charter: Key Elements

- Cabinet-level
- Not subordinate to COP
- White House at the table
- DOT Chair
CMTS Work Plan

- Focus on assessment, strategy; long-term vision
- Emphasis on deliverables
- Proposed timetables
- Estimated resource requirements
- Identified partners
CMTS: Challenges

- Continued support for resources
- Institutional change
- “Sharing” territory
- Action vs. process
- Engaging public input
ICMTS & CMTS: Key Differences

• Concept support:
  – Ocean Commission – non-partisan, external validation
  – Ocean Action Plan – Administration buy-in, emphasis on partnership and coordination
ICMTS & CMTS: Key Differences

• Increased, high-level participation
  – White House participation – OMB, CEQ, Joint Chiefs at the table
  – USDA, TRANSCOM and other “end users”
  – DOT leadership
    • Secretary Mineta
    • Under Secretary Jeff Shane
ICMTS & CMTS: Key Differences

• Commitment to product- and outcome-oriented tasks to improve the MTS
  – Full-time staff support in the ES
  – Work plans, commitment from agencies
  – Agency champions – focus on accountability
  – Recognition of need for resources from agencies to do collaborative work, support ES
Questions?