

LOUISIANA FREIGHT SYMPOSIUM AND SUMMIT



Department of Transportation and Development

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LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

February 9, 2009









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INITIAL CONCEPT

- May 2008, DOTD Secretary Ankner asked, “What can Louisiana do to become more competitive in the freight industry?”
- DOTD Intermodal Team assembled to explore “Barriers” to freight transportation.
- Created a partnership with the Louisiana Department of Economic Development.
- Developed a reservoir of questions to ask “Our Customers”.
- Invited 83 private companies’ CEOs to share their thoughts.



MISSION

- To identify and remove critical barriers for business development in Louisiana and facilitate a more efficient and reliable freight transportation system.

GOALS

- Establish an Inter-departmental Working Group.
- Complete a Post-Symposium Report.
- Develop a Freight Transportation System Action Plan.
- Plan and execute a Freight Summit including all (Public and Private) Stakeholders.

THE SYMPOSIUM

- Gathered CEOs from the top corporations in the world.
- Over 60 companies were represented.
- Two interactive breakout sessions:
 - 10 Tables with 6 CEOs, a facilitator, and a recorder at each table.
 - Strategically Positioning Louisiana's Freight Transportation System.
 - Identifying and Pursuing Transportation Infrastructure Priorities.







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SESSION I: INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

- What should be included in the Action Plan?
- How does Louisiana become more competitive with other states?
- What businesses and markets should Louisiana competitively serve?
- How can we proactively prepare for trade-related business opportunities associated with the Panama Canal expansion?





NTF 942



Shell



Shell

SESSION II: INFRASTRUCTURE

- Which infrastructure and connectivity improvements are needed to provide our customers with a more efficient and reliable freight transportation system?
- What are the key obstacles?
- What are the opportunities?

THE RESULTS

- Initiated dialogue with senior company executives.
- 30 pages of notes and good ideas.
- Good partnership with LED.
- An enhanced “customer” perspective.
- Developed Summary Report on numerous issues and opportunities.

SUMMARY REPORT

- Consolidated issues and opportunities into a single report with five major categories:
 - Economic Development: Tools to Improve Goods Movement.
 - Lowering the Costs of Doing Business in Louisiana and Improving Customer Service.
 - Mitigating Business Risks: Safety, Theft, Hurricanes, and Environmental Hazards.
 - Building a More Efficient and Reliable Freight Transportation System.
 - Financing Improvements for Louisiana's Freight Transportation System.











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WHAT'S NEXT?

- Develop “White Papers” for each of the five major categories of issues, addressing potential actions to improve the freight Transportation System.
- Present “White Papers” at a Summit in Mid-September.
- Develop Action Plans based on Stakeholders’ recommendations – collected at the Freight Summit.

