

# FREIGHT FOCUS

August 2006



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This issue of Kentucky Freight Planning Newsletter features something for everyone in the freight industry.



## RAIL NEWS

### RAIL VOLUME UP!

Rail volume in the United States is up 4.1 percent from this time last year, with a grand total of 33 Billion ton-miles. Railroad Weekly also reported that U.S. intermodal rail traffic was up 8.6 percent. Rail traffic was up in Canada as well, Canadian carload rail traffic was up 4.4 percent, and Canadian intermodal rail traffic was up 10.3 percent. However, rail traffic in Mexico did not fare as well, Mexico's Kansas City Southern de Mexico's carload rail traffic was down 14.5 percent.

### AREMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND REMSA WORLD RAIL EXPO TO BE HELD IN LOUISVILLE

The American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA) in teaming up with the REMSA World Rail Expo 2006 to hold their annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky from September 17-20, 2006 at the Kentucky International Convention Center. The conference features eight seminars and workshops.

For more details go to this website:

[http://www.arena.org/eseries/scriptcontent/custom/e\\_arena/meetings/meetings.cfm?activesection=mtgs](http://www.arena.org/eseries/scriptcontent/custom/e_arena/meetings/meetings.cfm?activesection=mtgs)

**NOTE:** AREMA has a new mailing address!  
AREMA

10003 Derekwood Lane, Suite 210  
Lanham, MD 20706

[www.arena.org](http://www.arena.org) – safe and secure online registration



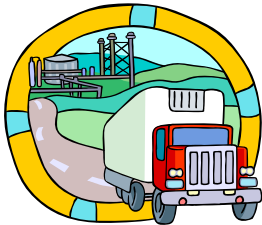
## TRUCKING NEWS



### DATA AVAILABLE FROM LARGE TRUCK CRASH CAUSATION STUDY

The U.S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has just made public the database from their Truck Crash Causation Study. FMCSA's is conducting their own analysis as well as sponsoring non-governmental organizations that are interested in analyzing the study results. The data from the study, along with the original report to Congress, data tables, and other study information, are available in several formats.

For more information go to: [http://trb.org/news/blurb\\_detail.asp?id=6514](http://trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=6514)



### SHORTAGE OF LONG-TERM TRUCK PARKING

The new transportation bill, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, and Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Section 1305, directed the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to address the long-term parking shortages along the National Highway System (NHS).

It has been determined that \$5.384 million is available for grants in FY 2006 under Section 1305, after obligation limitations. Grants may be funded at an 80-100% funding level. Applications must be submitted through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, via the Kentucky FHWA Division Office, to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Freight Management and Operations. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will administer awarded projects as Federal aid grants. Applications will be available soon at the FHWA Division Offices and on the FHWA website, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>. Watch for more details.

For more information go to:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-5664.htm>

## MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NEWS



### WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACT ON ITS WAY!

The Water Resources Development Act or WRDA has received both House and Senate approval. This legislation includes funding for ecosystem restoration and seven new 1,200-foot locks. The bill still requires conference agreement on language.

### NATIONAL WATERWAYS CONFERENCE

The National Waterways Conference is holding its annual meeting at the Benson Hotel in Portland, Oregon from **September 6-8, 2006**. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Inland Waterways Intermodal Cooperative Program Group of the Maritime Administration, the Arkansas Waterways Commission, and the Regional Navigation Design Team of the Corps of Engineers.

The theme for the meeting will be "Prepare Today for the Needs of Tomorrow". The program includes presentations from regional leaders concerning opportunities and challenges faced by navigation and flood control interests. One of the featured speakers is Patrick Donovan, Director of the WV Public Port Authority.

To register for this conference: [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org)

### DID YOU KNOW...

#### Kentucky Waterways include:

- 49,100 miles of rivers, creeks, streams, and tributaries
- 1,090 miles of navigable waterways, 2<sup>nd</sup> only to Alaska
- 11 public river ports
- Over 160 private terminals
- 9 ferry operations





## AIR NEWS

### 2006 KENTUCKY AVIATION CONFERENCE

This year the annual Kentucky Aviation Conference will be held from September 13-15, 2006 at the Crown Plaza (Campbell House), in Lexington, Kentucky. This conference is open to everyone with an interest in aviation and who appreciates the strategic role aviation plays in the lives of all Kentuckians. Expert speakers and exhibitors will be in attendance to present the most current information on aviation topics for all pilots, aircraft owners, airport executives, airport board members, aviation businesses, aviation instructors/students, and other aviation enthusiasts. This year's conference features a presentation by the distinguished aviator, Major Tom Griffin, who flew in the historic Tokyo Raid with the Doolittle Raiders in April 1942. There will also be a golf outing at Picadome Golf Course.

To register for this conference: <http://www.aviationkaa.org/conference.htm>

### AIRPORT MANAGER OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Nominations are being taken for Airport Manager of the Year. The winner will be the person that best demonstrates the ultimate dedication & service to aviation. Nominations due by Sept 1.



For more information go to: <http://transportation.ky.gov/Aviation/>



### AVIATION PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Kentucky Department of Aviation is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Aviation Photography Contest. Categories include: Aviation Careers, Aerial Photography, Aerial Application/Agricultural Spraying, Aviation Maintenance, Balloons, Air-to-Air (Example- Formation Flying), Medical Transport, Life at an Airport, Military, Antique Aircraft, Skydiving, Modern Aircraft. Hard copy submissions are requested to be at least 4" x 6", digital entries are preferred. Entries should be mailed to: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Department of Aviation, 200 Mero Street W3-11-01, Frankfort, KY 40622

For more details go to: <http://transportation.ky.gov/Aviation/2006ContestFlier.pdf>

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



### "TALKING FREIGHT" SEMINAR SERIES

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) sponsors monthly webinars (seminars via web conference). PowerPoint presentations are viewed over the Internet and the presenters are heard over the telephone.

Registration is now open for the September and October 2006 Talking Freight Seminars. Dates and topics for these upcoming seminars are as follows:

- August 16, 2006: Improving Border Efficiency
- September 20, 2006: Freight Financing
- October 18, 2006: Planning for Hazardous Materials

The seminars are held on the third Wednesday of each month, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EDT/ 10:00 am - 11:30 am Pacific. The first hour of each seminar is dedicated to the presentations and the remaining 30 minutes are for audience question and answer.

To register go to <https://talkingfreight.webex.com/talkingopsandfreight>

Previous presentations can be found at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/freightplanning/talking.htm>

## PUBLICATIONS

Two recent freight-related reports developed as part of the FHWA's Strategic Multimodal Analysis (SMA) Study have just been released.



Coordinated by the FHWA's Office of Transportation Policy Studies, the study's objective was to develop the capability for analyzing multimodal policy options that address critical national freight transportation issues. The SMA project will improve the understanding of the impacts of freight bottlenecks to Interstate commerce and will develop a framework for estimating the impacts of improvements to the nation's multimodal transportation system, with a focus on highway, rail, and water options for freight movement. The SMA project is composed of five tasks: (1) Initial Assessment of Nationwide Freight Bottlenecks; (2) Impact Model Development; (3) Infrastructure and Freight Report on Chicago - New York Corridor; (4) Scenario Development and Testing; and (5) Final Report. The following is a synopsis of two recent reports developed via the SMA Study:

**1. Chicago-New York City Corridor Analysis Report:** This report summarizes the testing of the SMA modeling framework on a sample corridor encompassing large freight activity for all the land transportation modes (truck, rail, and water). Covering the Chicago to New York City corridor, this report describes the current freight transportation network for highways, rail, and waterways, current and forecasted freight traffic, as well as potential corridor improvements for meeting future freight transportation requirements with a particular focus on highway freight bottlenecks. While this particular

effort and report focus on the seven States within this travel corridor, it demonstrates the capabilities of using freight analysis tools for corridor-level analysis. This report is available at: <http://199.79.179.101/policy/otps/sma/index.htm>.

**2. An Initial Assessment of Freight Bottlenecks on Highways:** This white paper is an initial effort to identify and quantify, on a national basis, highway bottlenecks that delay trucks and increase costs to businesses and consumers. Specifically, this paper is a "first look" at the impacts and costs of highway bottlenecks on truck freight shipments, with a focus on bottlenecks that cause recurring congestion. As outlined in this report, a truck bottleneck is defined by a combination of three features: the type of constraint, the type of roadway, and the type of freight route. This report is available at: <http://199.79.179.101/policy/otps/bottlenecks/index.htm>.

## USEFUL WEBSITE

**Delta Nu Alpha, (DNA)** is an international organization of professionals in all areas and levels of transportation and logistics. The website is: <http://www.deltanualpha.org>  
DNA's Kentucky Chapter, Derbytown Chapter 112, is located in Louisville. For more information contact Charlie Harrett by e-mail at [Charrett@NCLWorldWide.com](mailto:Charrett@NCLWorldWide.com)

- **September 21, 2006.** The next meeting of the Derbytown Chapter will be in Louisville, KY. Details available soon.
- **October 7, 2006.** Delta Nu Alpha Transportation Annual Meeting. The Seelbach Hilton Louisville, 500 Fourth Avenue, Louisville, KY. 502-585-3200 or [www.seelbachhilton.com](http://www.seelbachhilton.com).

## COMMENTS REQUESTED BY FHWA

In accordance with the SAFETEA-LU requirement that the Secretary of Transportation establish regulations on the Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) Program, the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Freight Management and Operations published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for the PNRS Program in the July 24<sup>th</sup> Federal Register. The PNRS program has the potential to improve freight mobility and advance the goals of the Secretary's Congestion Initiative. The NPRM addresses eligibility, selection and rating criteria for PNRS project proposals - we are seeking your input on these criteria. In addition to comments on these criteria, FHWA is looking to this NPRM to provide specific comments that contribute to an understanding and a quantification of the term national and/or regional economic benefits, and the nature and form of full funding grant agreements. The comment period for this proposed rule making will close on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. If you have any questions please see [www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/inrastructure](http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/inrastructure), or contact Ed Strocko at 202-366-2997 / [ed.strocko@dot.gov](mailto:ed.strocko@dot.gov). The NPRM can be found at: <http://dms.dot.gov/reports/fr.htm>