

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CENTER FOR INTERMODAL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

A Message from the Director Dr. Martin E. Lipinski



These are exciting times as we embark on the development of a new transportation center at the University of Memphis. Our center, The Center for Intermodal Freight Transportation Studies (CIFTS) was designated as a Tier

II University Transportation Center (UTC) in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) legislation signed by President Bush in August, 2005.

Nationwide, UTC's work to conduct research in areas linked to the national strategy for surface transportation research as well as to advance education, training and outreach within their regions. Each UTC further identifies an umbrella theme or focus for its work that corresponds to the unique needs of the region it serves. The University of Memphis UTC, working in collaboration with Vanderbilt University, will focus its work on intermodal freight transportation.

The mission of CIFTS is to address critical issues affecting the planning, design and operation of the nation's intermodal freight transportation system with an emphasis on the intermodal issues and opportunities that have special significance for Memphis, the State of Tennessee, the lower Mississippi Delta region, and the national and interna-

tional corridors that cross and intersect in the southeastern U.S..

CIFTS will pursue work in five primary areas:

1. Information Technology (data mining/analysis and software systems development)
2. Network Evaluation (supply chain/network optimization and congestion)
3. Risk Management (safety, security, environmental)
4. Infrastructure Analyses (design and network)
5. Impact Analyses.

Within these areas, emphasis will be placed on projects that address issues related to international freight, natural and man-made hazards, and dangerous cargo. The Center is grounded in the belief that an all-encompassing approach that includes infrastructure, technology and policy considerations is necessary to effectively advance the transportation network that supports our nation's economy.

The strategic plan for the Center was approved in March, 2007, by the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation will be providing matching funds to support programs of importance to transportation and economic development in Tennessee.

Shortly, the Center will be issuing guidelines to faculty at the University of Memphis and Vanderbilt University for the submission of research proposals.

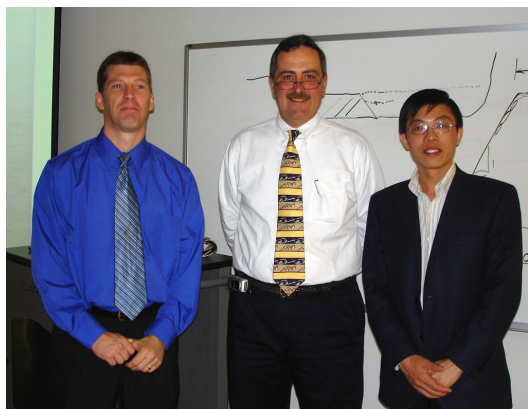
Our vision is that the Center will be a nationally-recognized Center that will apply interdisciplinary resources from the academic community to investigate critical regional and national intermodal transportation issues for the public and private sectors.



TRANSPORTATION CENTER HOSTS CHINESE VISITORS

On October 23, 2006, the Center hosted a group of twenty visiting Chinese Waterway Professionals who were on a scanning tour of inland waterway facilities in the United States. The leader of the group was Mr. Zhou Xiaohang, Chief Engineer, Scientific Research Institute, Ministry of Communications (Transportation). Included in the delegation were representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Transportation and various other agencies including the Changjiang River Administration for Three Gorges Navigation (the Three Gorges Dam).

At The University of Memphis, Dr. Martin Lipinski gave an overview presentation on the inland waterway transportation system of the United States and intermodal transportation in Memphis. Additional



*Pictured: Darian Chasteen,
David Barretta, and Zhou Xiaohang*

presentations were made by Mr. George Grugett, President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association, and Mr. Darian-

Chasteen and Mr. David Barretta, Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While in Memphis, the delegation also toured the Port of Memphis, hosted by port officials Don McCory and Randy Richardson.

FREIGHT OVERVIEW REPORT PREPARED BY CIFTS

CIFTS provided assistance to the U.S. Department of Transportation by preparing a report outlining the status of the U.S. freight transportation system. The report was developed to serve as the introductory chapter of the National Intermodal Transportation System Improvement Plan (NITSIP). The need for this plan was contained in the SAFETEA-LU legislation.

The report was co-authored by Jimmy Dobbins, Vanderbilt University, John Macgowan, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, and Martin Lipinski, The University of Memphis.

The report contains numerous charts, graphs, and illustrations detailing the status of all major modes of freight transportation including air, highway, rail, water, and pipeline showing major freight flows, terminals, and gateways.

A copy of the report can be viewed at:
<https://umdrive.memphis.edu/mlipinsk/public/FINAL%20freightbaseline%20.pdf>

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