Observations on Commercial Water Navigation and Economic Growth

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Objectives

- Trends Shaping Economic Growth
- Navigation’s Ability to Respond
- Linking Economic Growth to Navigation Systems
Economic Development and Water Resources

- Power generation
- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Navigation/Transportation
The World Is Changing

- Globalization – “world is flat”
- Domestic versus International Trade
- Paradigm of Business Growth
- Security Concerns and Safe Harbors
Why Does Domestic Shipping Matter?

- Why did it develop?
- What is its current use?
- What is its future?

**Domestic Water Transport**

- Alleviate congestion in other modes
- “Endless Capacity”?
- Integration with deep-sea ports
- Environmental advantages
Transportation - Pressured to Grow

- Growth is Occurring
- Can navigation system handle growth?
- Navigation part of larger system
Challenges Facing Port Development

- Ports are land development agencies
- City-Port challenges
- More considerations for navigation planning
- Balancing system operations
- Financing challenges
Challenges Facing Domestic Waterway Development

- No clear political voice - ownership
- “Invisible part” of system
- Maintenance not properly developed or conducted
- Geography of decision maker differs
- Tie to economic growth not understood
Options for Domestic Operations Improvement

- Traditional approach – build (improve) capacity
- Privatization
- Flexibility
- New transportation options
  - Container on Barge
  - Short Sea Shipping
  - Inland ports
  - Freight Villages
Promoting Economic Growth

- Conflicting Policies
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Increase public awareness of transportation

Institutions, Information, Infrastructure
Conclusion

- Improving navigation different from past years
- Navigation system becoming more accountable
- System’s use not fully understood or appreciated
- New approaches may be needed to “relink” transportation to economic growth
- Economic development = people development
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