



Challenges and Recommendation



National Port Summit



Future of the American Port and Freight Network

National Freight Policy and Planning

Challenge: Lack of an integrated, national freight system is impeding U.S. competitiveness in the global market.

Recommendation: Develop a National Freight Strategy, with a Port nexus.

Challenge: Multiple Federal agencies have roles in the Marine Transportation System, making progress and coordination complex and slow.

Recommendation: Improve Federal coordination and an enhanced DOT leadership role.

National Freight Policy and Planning (Continued)

Challenge: Underutilization of Marine Highways contributes to congestion outside the port gates.

Recommendation: Exempt domestic moves of freight from second Harbor Maintenance Tax, develop incentives to expand Marine Highways, evaluate impediments to high cost of U.S. vessel construction



Improved Sustainability

Shifting to a More Environmentally Sustainable Transportation System

Challenge: Environmental review is a major impediment to Port modernization.

Recommendation: Simplify and consolidate the environmental permitting process.

Challenge: Differing environmental requirements (emissions, cold iron, fuels, etc.) impede environmental progress and harm competitiveness.

Recommendation: Harmonize state, national and international environmental standards. Use federal funding to help ports meet new mandates.

Shifting to a More Environmentally Sustainable Transportation System (Continued)

Challenge: Land use policy can be contradictory and inconsistent, resulting in conflicting uses and priorities.

Recommendation: Implement land use policy that preserves port capacity and access (similar to FAA's airport programs).

A photograph of a city skyline at sunset, with buildings and a body of water in the foreground. The title 'State of Good Repair' is overlaid on the image in a large, yellow, italicized serif font.

State of Good Repair

System Infrastructure Requirements

Challenge: Intermodal connectors (rail, road, water) are not matched to port needs and are often neglected by State and local planners.

Recommendation: Address connectors directly in the national strategy and provide a specific funding mechanism.

Challenge: Channel depths and widths are inhibiting access to ports and reducing global competitiveness.

Recommendation: Improve project delivery speed and accountability. Apply 100% of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to intended purpose.

System Infrastructure Requirements

(Continued)

Challenge: Essential port infrastructure is deteriorating. Capital to preserve existing facilities in ports is unavailable (does not generate new revenue streams).

Recommendation: Develop an equitable Federal port funding mechanism to preserve existing facilities, potentially modeled after FAA airport infrastructure programs.