

## News Brief

### **Annual Shipper Symposium Speaker Pronounces U.S. Waterways Underdeveloped and Underutilized**

*Maritime Administrator presents key transportation industry issue at sixth annual Transplace Shipper Symposium*

**April 30, 2008 (Frisco, TX)** - Transplace, a leading provider of transportation management services and logistics technology, concluded its annual three-day Shipper Symposium April 24, which addressed sustainability in the transportation industry. A common theme among presenters was the focus on increasing intermodal shipping. With the continuous rise in fuel costs and stricter air quality standards, the use of intermodal shipping allows companies to transport a larger amount of freight in a manner that is both cost effective and environmentally friendly. According to Sean Connaughton, Maritime Administrator for the U.S. Department of Transportation and presenter at the Shipper Symposium, utilizing U.S. waterways for maritime shipping is a solution companies can take advantage of for reducing fuel consumption and the growing congestion of interstate highway systems and railroads.

The total vehicle miles traveled in the U.S. has increased almost 90 percent between 1983 and 2003; in addition, highway congestion has escalated dramatically in both extent and duration. Congestion is costing the U.S. billions of dollars annually in lost time and fuel, and will only increase with the growth of international trade. Landside infrastructure cannot support the growth, while roads and railroads are already near capacity. With about 25,000 miles of costal and inland waterways in the U.S. operating below capacity, maritime shipping is an underutilized form of transportation. The U.S. moves 2 percent of its domestic freight by water, compared to a much higher number overseas: Europe moves 44 percent domestic freight and China moves 62 percent. In addition to reducing congestion, maritime transportation costs less and is more fuel efficient than ground shipping.

The Maritime Administrator stressed that while there are many benefits to maritime shipping there is still a need for improvement to the overall infrastructure. Currently, our domestic ports are controlled locally. Connaughton emphasized the need for a national strategy to address infrastructure issues and work toward improvements as well as the opportunities for port development in major shipping areas such as: Anchorage, Hawaii and Guam. Funding for these improvements should not only come from the government, but also through a partnership of private dollars and public funds. Connaughton's final thoughts for improving our nation's transportation infrastructure included the development of a national, system-wide strategy to better our network of ports and terminals, fleets of trucks, rail cars and barges and personnel both ashore and afloat, in order to obtain efficient maritime transportation.

Connaughton and many other industry leaders presented case studies and breakout sessions to a record number of 315 attendees at this year's Shipper Symposium. The audience shared best practices and gained extensive insight on methods for enhancing operational performance, increasing sustainability in the supply chain and improving infrastructure issues. The 2009 Shipper Symposium is scheduled for May 5-7 in the Dallas area.

To learn more about intermodal transportation solutions, please visit [www.transplace.com](http://www.transplace.com). For more information about the Shipper Symposium visit <http://symposium.transplace.com>

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**About Transplace**

Transplace is a non-asset based third-party logistics (3PL) provider offering manufacturers and retailers the optimal blend of logistics technology and transportation management services. From complete logistics management outsourcing to intelligent transportation management systems (TMS) to supply chain network planning and design to high-quality brokerage services, Transplace has proven the ability to deliver both rapid return on investment and consistent value to customers. The company is recognized among the elite 3PLs in North America by a customer base that includes many of the largest shippers in the world.

In 2007 Transplace was awarded with the *Global Logistics and Supply Chain Strategies* “100 Great Supply Chain Partners” distinction for the fourth consecutive year and by *Supply & Demand Chain Executive* as a “Top 100” provider in supply chain transformation for the third consecutive year. In 2007, Transplace was recognized by *Inbound Logistics* as a “Top 10 3PL” for the fifth consecutive year, and by *Logistics Management* as the highest ranked “Quest for Quality 3PL.”

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