Directors’ Message

The mission of the National Center for Intermodal Transportation is to promote the development of a safe and efficient national intermodal transportation system.

Following the recent approval of our strategic plan by RITA we are preparing to issue requests for problem statements and proposals from our colleagues. At NCIT we are meeting with other UTCs and research centers around the country to ensure that the research, education, and workforce development activities are consistent with the agenda identified by the Secretary of Transportation. We have also been meeting with members of the Board of Directors of the Intermodal Transportation Institute, key industry leaders, noted academics and the like to determine the most important activities that we should pursue. NCIT is intended to focus on the design and development of planning methodologies and tools, technology, and human resources needed to improve intermodal connectivity, reduce congestion and improve the capacity and capability of the workforce to meet the challenges of the increasingly complex transportation system. Congestion, competition, capacity, and conservation challenge the US transportation system but can be addressed with by a commitment to intermodalism.

The intermodal point-of-view involves looking at how individual modes can be connected, governed, and managed as a seamless and sustainable transportation system. That is, the fundamental objective of intermodalism is not to optimize a single mode of transportation but to integrate the modes into an optimal, sustainable, and ethical system. Such a system should promote efficiency, safety, mobility, economic growth and trade, national security, protection of the natural environment, and enhancement of human welfare.

We look forward to contributing to the improvement of the intermodal transportation system!

Patrick Sherry, PhD
Associate Professor & Co-Director
University of Denver
Proposed Research Agenda

- **Intermodal Policy:** the present state of intermodal transportation research, policies, and practice. Identify and recommend needed changes and improvements in policy legislation and regulations.

- **Intermodal Workforce Development:** the development of methodologies and strategies for addressing human factor issues, leadership development, recruitment of new professionals and the retention of existing personnel for the safe and efficient management of the national intermodal transportation system.

- **Intermodal Economic Impact and Development:** the development of methodologies for analyzing the impact of intermodal systems on the local and national economy.

- **Intermodal Transportation System Performance Modeling and Assessment:** the development of methodologies for modeling and assessing intermodal transportation systems. Investigations of the financial and economic models associated with and underpinning the intermodal transportation system infrastructure development and implementation.

- **Intermodal Terminal Operation:** the development of methodologies and strategies for designing and operating intermodal terminals to include such topics as facility layout, inventory management, resource allocation, and labor utilization.

- **Intermodal Safety and Security:** the development of methodologies and strategies for enhancing the safety and security of the intermodal transportation system.

- **Impact of Intermodal Transportation on Distribution System Design:** the development of methodologies and strategies for analyzing the impact of intermodal systems on the supply chain design of various industries such as automotive, furniture, bioenergy, healthcare industries.

- **Intermodal Transportation Systems Role in Crisis Conditions:** the development of methodologies and strategies for analyzing the impact of intermodal and/or transit systems in evacuation of urban areas and relief services to communities affected by disasters.
Request for Proposals

The National Center for Intermodal Transportation will be issuing a request for research proposals in the near future. NCIT is funded to promote research in the development, planning, design, improvement, and assessment of a safe, secure, and efficient intermodal transportation system for passengers and freight. Priority will be given to problem statements that fall under the following research areas:

- Intermodal Policy
- Intermodal Economic Impact and Development
- Intermodal Safety and Security
- Intermodal Workforce Development
- Impact of Intermodal Transportation on Distribution System Design
- Intermodal Transportation Systems Role in Crisis Conditions

Please contact either Dr. Patrick Sherry psherry@du.edu or Dr. Burak Eksioglu beksioglu@ise.msstate.edu for additional information.

Upcoming Research Seminars and Workshops

**Hours of Service Workshop:** The National Center for Intermodal Transportation will be planning a two day workshop and conference titled, “Alertness Strategies in the Rail Industry - Managing the Challenges of 24-hour Operations”. This workshop will be held in Washington DC on Wednesday November 14th and Thursday November 15 2007 at Gallaudet University. Invited speakers include Drs. Sherry, Blenky, Banks, and Folkard who will highlighted the important issues in changing the railroad hours of service legislation.

**Safety and Security Workshop:** The National Center for Intermodal Transportation will be hosting a one day workshop and conference on Safety and Security issues in the 21st Century. This event will occur on Thursday February 21, 2008 at the University of Denver. This workshop will provide an opportunity for professionals from all modes to discuss the safety and security challenges that all modes of transportation face. Congressman Ed Perlmutter will be the keynote luncheon speaker.

**NCIT and ITI Masters Student Chad Thomas Selected to Attend the ENO Leadership Conference**

NCIT and the Intermodal Transportation Institute (ITI) at the University of Denver were very pleased to have a candidate selected to participate in the prestigious ENO Leadership Development Conference in Washington, DC. ITI masters graduate Chad Thomas, Director of Intermodal Business Development with JB Hunt Transport Services, Inc., was selected along with 20 other of the top transportation graduate students from across the country to join the week-long conference. This conference brings together the full-spectrum of transportation policymaking perspectives to highlight key issues facing today’s transportation leaders.