Marine Highway Potential and Policy

By Paul H. Bea Jr. of PHB Public Affairs

AAPA Maritime Economic Development Workshop

Tacoma, Washington July 13, 2010

Marine Highways: Potential and Policy

Marine Highways...

- What it is
- What it isn't
- What it might be
- What has been the policy
- What now is the policy
- What can be the policy

- Ports, Terminal Operators
- Longshore and Shipboard Labor
- Vessel Architects, Engineers, Builders
- Vessel Owners, Operators, Wannabes
- Non Federal Government
- Academicians, Consultants, Planners
- Truckers
- Various Views ...maybe yours also

What's It Mean?

Geographically

- Short Sea: U.S., neighbors
- Pending Bills: US/US,
 US/CN on Great Lakes-SLS
- Present Law: US Contiguous, US/CN on Great Lakes
- Intermodal, non-bulk
- International container (feeder) and domestic freight
- Various vessel types and configurations

Requirements for Carriage between US ports*

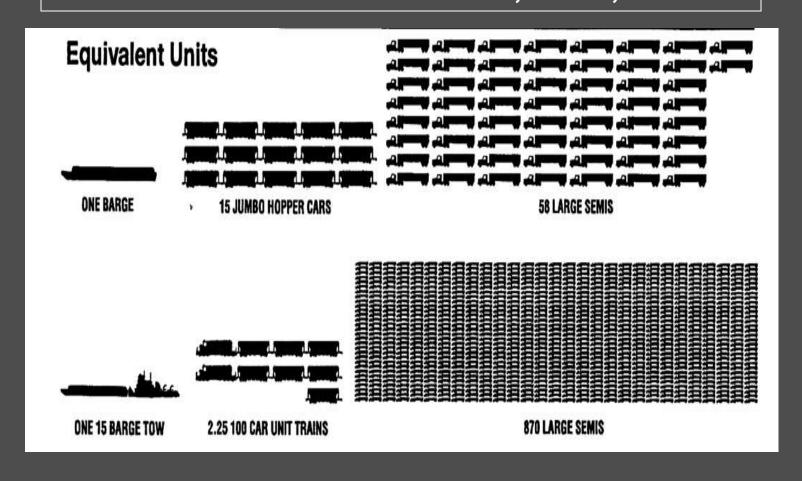
- American Built
- American Crewed
- American Owned

^{*} Jones Act, Passenger Vessel Services Act

What's Driving It?

- Underutilized Maritime Sector
- Over-utilized Landed Transport System
- Energy & Environmental Imperatives
- Greater Attention to System Resiliency
- Growing Awareness of Alternatives to Trucking Role as We Have Known It
- ...none of which makes it a slam dunk in the market.

RELATIVE CAPACITY: BARGE, RAIL, TRUCK



What's Driving It?

Coastwise Coalition

National Strategy for the

Marine Transportation System:

A Framework for Action



"....including the establishment of a pilot program to designate Marine Highway Corridors to relieve congestion on roadways."

What's Driving It?

Coastwise Coalition

GENERAL DYNAMICS Massco

A SHIPBUILDER'S ASSESSMENT OF AMERICA'S MARINE HIGHWAYS



PREPARED BY GENERAL DYNAMICS NASSCO

I-95 Corridor Coalition

Short-Sea and Coastal Shipping Options Study

Executive Summary

TOTE Vessel built by NASSCO - 2003

FOUR CORRIDOR CASE STUDIES OF SHORT-SEA SHIPPING SERVICES

SHORT-SEA SHIPPING BUSINESS CASE ANALYSIS

Ref. #DTOS59-04-Q-00069

Submitted to:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary/Maritime Administration

Submitted by:



In Association with:



August 15, 2006





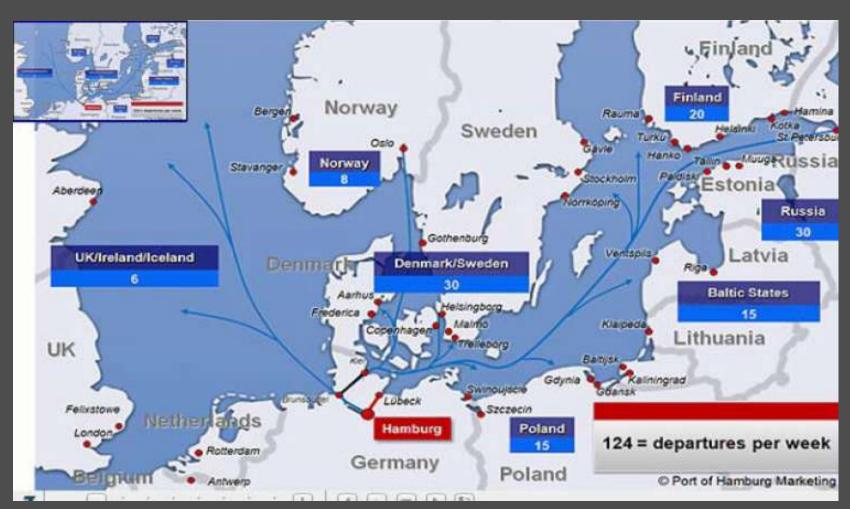




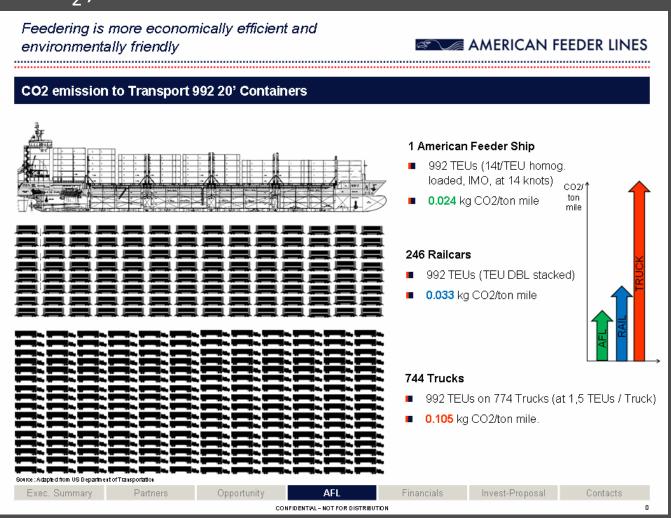
The Good Haul

Innovations That Improve Freight Transportation *and* Protect the Environment

Port of Hamburg Feeder System



CO₂, Other Emissions Reductions Achievable



What Is It?

- Existing Services
- Planned Services

Existing Service

Coastwise Coalition



Osprey Line

Tote Ocean Trailer Express





Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry



ISC Rail FerryMexico - Mobile

Columbia Coastal Transport





Existing Service

Coastwise Coalition



64 Express Norfolk - Richmond



Existing Service

Coastwise Coalition

SeaBridge FreightBrownsville - Manatee

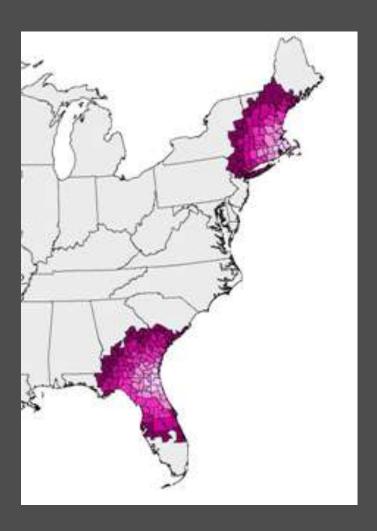






Planned Service

New Bedford - Canaveral



Planned Service

Coastwise Coalition



Eco TransportOakland-West Sacramento-Stockton

Planned Service

Coastwise Coalition

AMERICAN FEEDER LINES



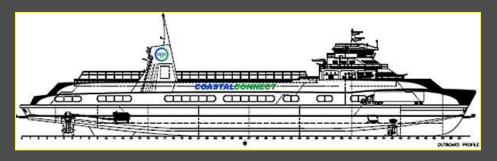
Planned Service



Roadships



Marine Highways



Coastal Connect



SeaBridge

What Isn't It?

- No-brainer...as in doh! (in the market)
- Convincingly "Green" (to most enviro-advocates)
- Well understood (by deciders)
- Universally compelling (politically speaking)
- Uniformly supported (in the industry)

What Might It Be?

- A niche market operation, or
- A way to revitalize the US flag sector and bring new business to ports

What Was The Policy?

- Until 2007 in the US...
 - there was no marine highways policy or mention of short sea shipping
 - just the US flag policy
- * Passenger ferries have been supported with capital grants through FHW/FTA

What Is The Policy?

Recent Developments and Direction

Short Sea Transportation – American Marine Highways

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Subtitle C—Marine Transportation

SEC. 1121. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 555 the following:

"CHAPTER 556—SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION

- "Sec. 55601. Short sea transportation program.
- "Sec. 55602. Cargo and shippers.
- "Sec. 55603. Interagency coordination.
- "Sec. 55604. Research on short sea transportation.
- "Sec. 55605. Short sea transportation defined.

What's the Program?

Coastwise Coalition

Designate Marine Highway Corridors

Suggested corridors were invited; states, corridor coalitions responded

Designate Marine Highway Projects

Identify projects that would offer best public benefit (congestion, emissions, energy and infrastructure savings)

Provide support to expand or start new operations (promote, coordinate, research, and identify federal cargos. Remove impediments)

Identify Incentives, Impediments and Solutions

- Report to Congress
- Establish Marine Highway Advisory Board
- Identify & propose short term incentives

Conduct Research

- * Identify environmental and transportation benefits
- * Vessel design, technology, emissions, fuel economy & increase efficiency
- * Studies to identify and implement solutions for specific projects

Capital Construction Funds opened to AMH vessels

AMH Draft Corridors



What is the policy?

Short Sea Transportation Grants (2009)

111TH CONGRESS 1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT 111-288

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SEC. 3515. AMERICA'S SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE HIGHWAYS.

Section 55601 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) GRANTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and implement a short sea transportation grant program to implement

AMH Grant Program

- Authorized in 2009; \$7M appropriated
- Designated Marine Highway Projects eligible
- Where can grants make a difference
- 20 percent local share required
- Funds must be obligated within one year
- No funding in FY 2011 budget

2010 AMH Calendar

- April 9 Final Rule published
- April 15 Project applications notice
- June 11 Project applications deadline
- July Project designations; grants notice
- August Grant applications deadline?
- September Grant awards

What can be the policy?

Some Questions

- How do we develop more transportation capacity when parts of the system are at or near design capacity?
- What are the public policy drivers for transportation reforms and where does marine transportation fit into those reforms?
- Can the rail system build new capacity as demand for freight and commuter service continues (and passenger rail is making more demands on freight RRs.
- Can the nation's transportation deficiencies be adequately addressed <u>without</u> considering the maritime sector?
- How can we finance the system that we need?
- What should be done to address any real or perceived weaknesses in Jones Act shipping?

- Potential Developments and Direction
 - Incremental Advances (e.g., HMT)
 - Surface / Freight Transportation
 - Energy/ Climate Policy
 - Maritime Policy (SEA-21?)

Inkling of a New Policy at USDOT?

- "Keep goods movement on water as long as possible, and then on rail as long as possible and truck it for the last miles."
 - Deputy Secretary Porcari, March 24, 2010.
- The DOT is working with ports... "to take trucks off the road and to really utilize the Marine Highway." Secretary LaHood, 2010.

Legislative Activity

Harbor Maintenance Tax Exemption

- H.R. 638 (Cummings-MD)
- H.R. 3486 (Higgins-NY) includes Nova Scotia
- S. 551 (Lautenberg-NJ)
- S. 1509 (Stabenow-MI) limited to Great Lakes/SLS
- Potential for action in House Ways & Means

Legislative Activity

Surface Transportation Policy

- H.R. _____. Surface Transportation Authorization Act (Oberstar-MN)
- S. 1036. Federal Surface Transportation Policy and Planning Act of 2009 (Rockefeller-WV /Lautenberg-NJ)
- Senate Commerce Committee draft bill?
- Go for funding or not?

Surface Transportation Authorization Act (Oberstar - MN)

State Freight Corridor Plans

- Short Sea Shipping Projects
 - The freight corridor plan may include transportation projects related to short sea shipping routes if the geographic, transportation, and economic characteristics of the corridor make short sea shipping routes operationally and financially viable.

Legislative Activity

Energy/Climate Policy

- Carbon credits for innovation?
 - Government or market driven?
- Tax credits for...
 - Avoided government infrastructure expenditures?
 - Shippers that reduce VMT by opting for AMH?



VISUALIZING GOALS MODELING ALTERNATIVES

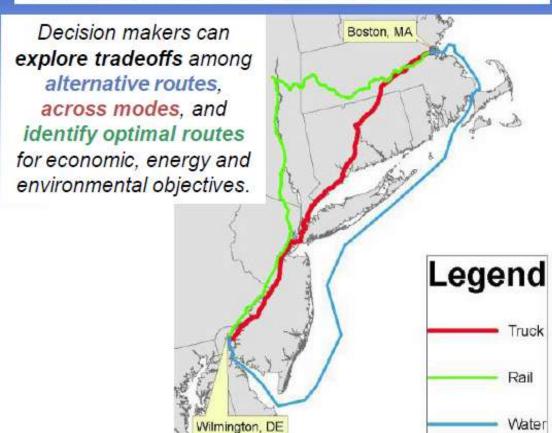
Intermodal freight network optimization model to evaluate objective tradeoffs.

Developing resources for "table-top" exercises with industry and agencies.

Evaluates performance against benchmarks and optimizes with respect to possible targets

Web-version in development.

Geospatial Intermodal Freight Transportation (GIFT) Model

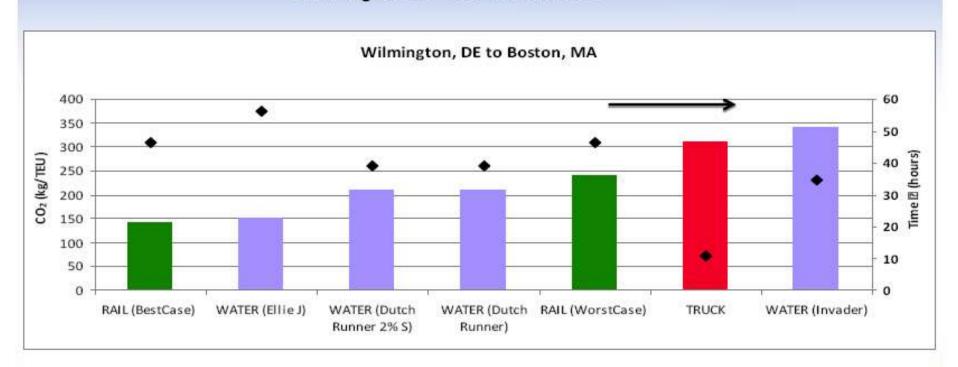






Which mode do you prefer?

Wilmington to Boston Scenario



What can be the policy?

Legislative Activity

SEA-21 or Other Maritime Policy Initiative?

- Maritime sector not addressed by major policy initiative
 - HMTF?
 - HMT Exemption?
 - Shipping Act?
 - Marine Highway?
 - Dredging Policy?
 - **-**

America's Deep Blue Highway *

- Develop/implement comprehensive transportation vision
- Eliminate HMT on coastal shipping
- Invest \$150M in Fed funds in prospective coastal ports
- Preserve working waterfronts
- Promote the use of alternative fuels for coastal shipping
- Encourage the development of more efficient ships
- Encourage shipyards to reinvent themselves by building a new fleet of environmentally friendly coastal ships
- Incorporate American Marine Highway into homeland security and infrastructure protection plans
- Encourage hazmat to be offshore and away from pop. centers
- Improve Federal collection of transportation statistics

^{*} Perry, Weitz, Borgerson / Fletcher School - 2008

Other Potential Policy Agenda Items

- Create a freight ferry program
- Authorize designation of water routes in highway systems.
- Re-establish the Office of Intermodalism in OST
- Allow mode-blind decisions on infrastructure investment
- Provide short term incentives to shippers and truckers
- Provide incentives to invest in greener equipment
- Improved financing for marine highway vessels
- Improve and expand freight data
- Training of transportation planners and engineers
- Give USDOT/MARAD needed resources

Final Thoughts

- 1. Treat marine highways as surface transportation policy, not limited to port/maritime policy
- 2. Surface transportation, climate and energy reforms are principal opportunities for advancing AMH policy.
- Don't expect significant grant spending for AMH.
- 4. Direct and indirect incentives, probably short term, may be easier to secure.
- 5. Ports are crucial to advance marine highway policy; should actively engage other maritime groups in doing so.
- 6. The private sector will remain the key elements in developing new services and markets.
- 7. Only the government can say it must happen sooner than later.

