

Appalachian Transportation Institute (ATI) Research Project Description

Project Number: ATI TRP 99-00

Project Title: Commodity Flows and Transportation Inventory for 13 Counties in Southern West Virginia

Primary Investigator Contact Information:

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Project Objective: This project will gather information describing commodity flows, cost of transportation services and identify intermodal infrastructure improvements that could reduce transportation costs for a 13 county region in Southern West Virginia.

Abstract: The proposed study is a two-phase investigation designed to facilitate the

planning of the intermodal infrastructure improvements in a thirteen county region of western West Virginia. The counties to be studied will be: Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Mingo, Mason, Putnam, Roane, Wayne and Wood. The investigation will gather information describing commodity flows to and from the study region, assess the current costs of the transportation services that facilitate these flows, and identify intermodal infrastructure improvements that could measurably reduce these costs, thereby enhancing the competitive position of the region.

Task Descriptions:

Specifically, the investigation will gather information including, but not limited to:

1. Commodity flows by transport mode to and from the study region, including commodity values and actual origins and destinations;
2. Transportation costs for observed movements by mode; and
3. Identification of both intramodal and intermodal points of interchange

This information will then be used to identify bottleneck locations or facilities or other transportation deficiencies in existing transportation system that measurably increase transportation costs.

Milestones, Dates, Schedule: Start Date: 11/01/99 End Date: 12/31/00

Budget: Total: \$155,980.000

Student Involvement: The project will provide employment support for at least 1

undergraduate and 1 graduate student. The student workers will support the Principal Investigator as project assistants. This project is not anticipated to lead to a student thesis directly.

Relationship to Other Research Projects:

Other research projects throughout the country have followed similar methodologies at various times and various locations with similar objectives. This project will serve as a foundation and source of data for other ATI projects.

Technology Transfer Activities: Final reports will be available on the ATI website. All, ATI Principal Investigators will present findings through the ATI Transportation Seminar Series to invited guests from WVDOT, USDOT, other ATI Principal Investigators, students and other invited guests. Other opportunities to present the project results will be explored including conferences and peer reviewed journals, etc.

Potential Benefits of this Project: The project, as envisioned, will serve as a pilot investigation that can be expanded and applied statewide to identify strategies for improving existing transportation linkages or the development of altogether new relationships through intermodal infrastructure improvements. The information gathered and the analytical methods that are developed will be valuable to other state and regional planning efforts.

TRB Keywords: Intermodal, Commodity Flows, Transportation costs, Transportation Services