

Appalachian Transportation Institute (ATI) Research Project Description

Project Number: ATI TRP 99-13

Project Title: Commodity Flows in Northern West Virginia

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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 19 county region in Northwestern West Virginia.

Abstract: The proposed study is a two-phase investigation designed to facilitate the planning of the intermodal infrastructure improvements in a 19 county region of north western West Virginia. The counties to be studied will be: Barbour, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monogalia, Ohio, Pleasents, Preston, Ritchie, Taylor, Tyler, Wetzel, and Wirt. 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.

Milestones, Dates, Schedule: Start date: 01/01/01 End date: 12/31/01

Specific milestone events may include:

Grant award, Partner with ATI, WVDOT, RDPC, and County Economic Development Authorities, Formation of Steering Committee, Public meetings and data collection, Phase I report release, Identification of transportation costs, Identification of transportation impediments, Identification of potential infrastructure improvements, Phase II report release

Budget: \$109,000.00

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: This project is related to ATI project number TRP 99-00.

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: Enhanced Regional Transportation Efficiency, information will be used to identify bottleneck locations or facilities or other transportation deficiencies in existing transportation system that measurably increase transportation costs. Ultimately, the refined data can then be used 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 also be valuable as to other state and regional planning efforts.

TRB Keywords: Intermodal, Railroad, Tunnel, Transportation Analysis, Regional Analysis