

## **Appalachian Transportation Institute (ATI) Research Project Description**

**Project Number:** ATI TRP TRP 99-24

**Project Title:** Improving Efficiency of Truck/Rail Intermodal Transportation - The Case of WV

### **Primary Investigator Contact Information:**

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### **External Project Contact:**

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**Project Objective:** Identify the Costs and Benefits of modifying railroad trackage to accommodate double-stack equipment through increasing the size of railroad tunnels in WV.

**Abstract:** This project will investigate the potential costs and benefits of modifying existing railroad trackage so that it can accommodate double-stack container

equipment. The multi-year project involves simulating routings under the modified cost structure that clearance restriction removal would create in order to accurately evaluate potential project benefits. Ultimately, if the results suggest that clearance mitigation is feasible and efficient, the process could markedly improve West Virginia's access to international commodity markets.

### **Task Descriptions:**

1. Evaluate Costs of mitigating restrictions on candidate routes;
2. Evaluate benefits of clearance restriction removal;
3. Develop Recommendations.

From its commencement, the overall study will take nearly two years to complete. During that period, study efforts will be monitored and supervised by a steering committee whose membership will represent the State's Department of Transportation, both CSXT and Norfolk Southern, and other interested constituencies. Principal investigators from will prepare quarterly progress reports to be furnished to steering committee members in advance of committee

gatherings. At the conclusion of the study process, a draft final report will be circulated for comment. The final study document will be furnished in both a paper and electronic copy. Principal investigators will also be available, as necessary, to explain their research findings.

**Milestones, Dates, Schedule** Start Date Jan 1, 2001: End Date Dec, 31 2002

**Budget:** \$233,100.00 Total

**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:** None at this time.

**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 Access to Intermodal Transport

**TRB Keywords:** Intermodal, Rail, Truck, double-stack container