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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rahall Transportation Institute's National Maritime Enhancement Institute
Director to Present Ohio River Responder Demonstration Project Results at
International Safety in Mobility Conference in Austria, July 2008**

Dana Robertson, Director of the National Maritime Enhancement Institute at the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI), will present the results of the Ohio River Responder Demonstration Project at the Lakeside Technology Conference, an international safety in mobility conference in Klagenfurt, Austria 8-11 July, 2008.

The project was developed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to demonstrate the capabilities of a fully operational alert and messaging system in responding to navigation accidents along the Ohio River. Upon input of latitude/longitude coordinates, street address or river mile, the system graphically indicates to the user the location of those inputs on a GIS map. The system indicates the location of both the upstream and downstream access points and provides the user with the county names and the telephone number for county emergency management officials nearest the accident. The system has the potential to provide the identity of cargo contained in vessels.

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The system provides data, regarding substances/materials contained in vessels, which would be useful to the emergency management community, by linking to existing databases maintained or made available from organizations such as the Chemical Transportation Emergency Center and other publicly available organizations. Information of potential use includes: health, fire or explosive hazards associated with the substance; precautionary actions to take to protect first responders and the public to include recommendations/requirements for protective clothing and evacuation limits; response actions required for substances that are spilled/leaking or on fire, as well as information for administering first aid to individuals impacted/affected by such.

Customized weather data provided by AccuWeather Inc. was integrated into the system to provide first responders with weather data that may impact upon rescue and clean up operations. Critical weather data provided to first responders includes lead time regarding approaching storms that allows first responders to adjust their rescue and clean up operations accordingly.

Transportation professionals from across Europe and the United States will attend the conference, which highlights the latest technology in intelligent weather information services and services for traffic and transportation applications. The Lakeside Conference '08 provides a global forum for presenting the most recent advances, the future technical challenges and business opportunities that comprise the contemporary landscape in safety-related intelligent weather systems and services. Conference participants are technology providers, transportation infrastructure operators and construction firms, research and development bodies, transportation technology consultants and engineers and public administrators.

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