MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FREIGHT CORRIDORS COALITION

# Executive Summary

The Mississippi Valley Freight Corridors Coalition (MVFCC) has built upon the work of the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study to establish a regional organization to cooperate in the planning, operation, preservation, and improvement of transportation infrastructure in the Mississippi Valley region. The Mississippi Valley region includes ten states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin) that share key interstate corridors, rail infrastructure, and inland and Great Lakes waterways. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by these states' Departments of Transportation indicates their eagerness to meet freight demand through regional cooperative efforts. The MVFCC is currently involved in the formation of Executive and Technical Committees, the surveying of transportation Customers in the region (to form a Customer Committee), and the development of a Charter and Assessment of Financial Needs. The MVFCC will be housed in the National University Transportation Center for Freight Research at UW-Madison.

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MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FREIGHT CORRIDORS COALITION

Wisconsin Transportation Center

## Potential Activities

Prioritized at April 2006 Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

### Short term priorities with immediate payoff:

- Collect improved regional data and continue to enhance Midwest FreightView database http://www.midwestfreight.utoledo.edu/
- Document regional freight funding needs and consequences
- Create an ongoing regional organization
- Improve political and public understanding of freight
- Support multi-modal solutions for bottlenecks
- Address regulatory bottlenecks at border crossings
- Define a freight focal point in each state transportation agency

### Longer term priorities:

- Support river and lake lock improvements
- Define a regional freight network
- Define the role and structures appropriate for public/private partnerships
- Develop model freight-related planning approaches
- Implement regional freeway management technologies; multistate traffic operations program (MSTOP)
- Consider modifications to Jones Act of 1920 – particularly provisions related to vessel production

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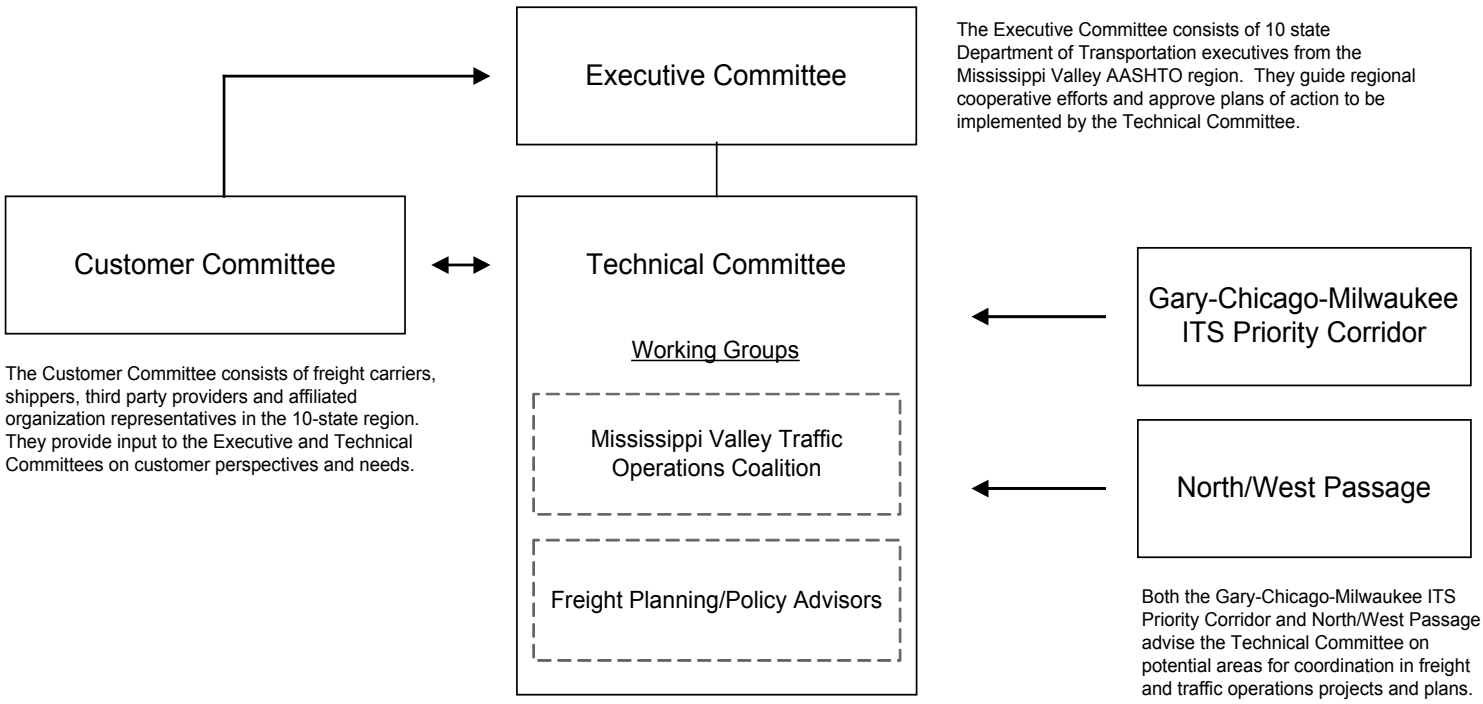
# Research Building Blocks


Significant research has been conducted on a regional scale as part of the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study in all five areas shown. This research (available at http://www.uppermidwestfreight.org) will provide a foundation for further research that involves the newly added states of the Mississippi Valley region and input from the MVFCC Customer Committee.

# Organizational Structure




The Executive Committee consists of 10 state Department of Transportation executives from the Mississippi Valley AASHTO region. They guide regional cooperative efforts and approve plans of action to be implemented by the Technical Committee.

The Customer Committee consists of freight carriers, shippers, third party providers and affiliated organization representatives in the 10-state region. They provide input to the Executive and Technical Committees on customer perspectives and needs.

Both the Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee ITS Priority Corridor and North/West Passage advise the Technical Committee on potential areas for coordination in freight and traffic operations projects and plans.

The Technical Committee consists of appointed state Department of Transportation staff (with voting rights) from the 10-state region, specializing in either freight policy/planning or traffic operations. In addition, the Technical Committee includes the open working groups of the Mississippi Valley Traffic Operations Coalition and Freight Planning/Policy Advisors. The Technical Committee proposes, recommends for approval by the Executive Committee, and implements plans of action for improving the regional transportation systems.

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Principal Investigator:

Dr. Teresa Adams
Director, MRUTC
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Email: adams@engr.wisc.edu

Midwest Regional University Transportation Center

University of Wisconsin-Madison
1415 Engineering Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608/263-2655