



Mission:

To strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system - including infrastructure, industry and labor - to meet the economic and security needs of the Nation. MARAD programs promote the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine, sufficient to carry the Nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of service as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency. MARAD also seeks to ensure that the United States maintains adequate shipbuilding and repair services, efficient ports, effective intermodal water and land transportation systems, and reserve shipping capacity for use in time of national emergency.



**The Wave of
America's Future**

“Promoting the use of
the waterways as a method of easing
traffic congestion and alleviating air
pollution.”



For more information
click on <http://www.marad.dot.gov>.

The U.S. Department of
Transportation

Maritime Administration



**Short
Sea
Shipping
Initiative**

The Problem:



Growing Surface Transportation Congestion

The United States is the world's leading trading nation. Our international trade is projected to at least double by the year 2020. And, as trade escalates, the level of congestion on our already overburdened transportation infrastructure will only increase.

Efforts to expand surface transportation capacity to accommodate this growth can be costly, time-consuming, and in many cases fail to alleviate growing congestion problems. In addition, surface congestion can adversely affect air quality and our overall quality of life.

There are already many warning signs that indicate shortfalls in our freight capacity that can ultimately lead to transportation gridlock. Future cargo volumes may very well overwhelm the nation's surface transportation infrastructure.

Capacity Comparison Energy Comparison (distance one gallon of fuel can move one ton)

One 15—Barge Tow = 225 Rail Cars Inland Barge = 514 miles Rail = 202 miles Truck = 59 miles

One 15—Barge Tow = 900 Trucks

The Marine Transportation System is environmentally friendly, fuel efficient and cost effective.

One Solution:

Increased Utilization of the Nation's

Marine Transportation System (MTS)

It is time to look for alternative and innovative ways to address our freight congestion problems by incorporating all transportation modes in the solution. The smartest, cheapest, and easiest answer to growing surface transportation congestion is an additional investment in the Marine Transportation System. The MTS offers a cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally safe mode of freight delivery.

Short Sea Shipping can utilize the Nation's water infrastructure to augment the surface transportation system for the shipment of goods to our North American trading partners, coastal communities, and along the inland waterway system.

The Marine Transportation System

Water transportation, especially along our coasts and inland waterways is a sensible, economical, and environmentally friendly solution to many of our growing congestion problems.

The smartest, cheapest, and easiest solution to congested truck and rail traffic is an investment in the Marine Transportation system, to fully integrate waterborne transportation into our nation's transportation system.

What is Short Sea Shipping?



Short Sea Shipping is defined as commercial waterborne transportation that does not transit an ocean. It is an alternative form of commercial transportation that utilizes inland and coastal waterways to move commercial freight from major domestic ports to its destination.

Learn more about MARAD's Short Sea Shipping Initiative

The Initiative is exploring the use of public system incentives, vessel financing and construction, and customer requirements for the development of new waterborne transportation services in North America.

A Short Sea Shipping Memorandum of Cooperation is already in place with Canada and Mexico.

The Maritime Administration has formed a Short Sea Shipping Cooperative Program that includes maritime business and community representatives to support projects that advance Short Sea Shipping.

Why Short Sea Shipping?

- To support economic growth and trade
- To relieve road congestion and improve mobility
- To create jobs in ports, terminals, and the merchant marine
 - To enhance national security
 - To mitigate pollution