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Pre-Meeting Proceedings*

*McVey, Pautsch, Fenn & Bammel
Agricultural & Transportation
Infrastructure Issues in the 21st
Century*

Transportation Research Forum

34th Annual Meeting



Editor:
Russell B. Capelle, Jr.

October 21-23, 1992
St. Louis, Missouri

*"The St. Louie Book"

TRF: St. Lou '92
Friday 10/23 10:15 - 11:45

U.S. - MEXICO TRANSBORDER TRANSPORTATION

Chairman: Rob Harrison

The economic linkages that bind Canada, the United States, and Mexico together have become more extensive and intensive in the last ten years as protectionist policies have given way to trade liberalization. The crispest testimonies to these trends have been the Canada - U.S. Free Trade Agreement of 1989 and the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The impact of these developments on Texas transportation are particularly pronounced. Fully fifty percent of U.S. trade with Mexico passes through Texas; nearly one-third of all U.S. exports to Mexico are Texas products; Texas-Mexico trade has grown by thirty percent annually for the past four years. The workshop will explore issues related to trans-border transportation. First, Dr. Stolp will discuss the current status of NAFTA and its key substantive and phase-in provisions, especially as they are expected to affect trade flows by commodity, patterns of transportation, and regional economic development in the southwest United States. While the main focus will be on how NAFTA may shape the future of Texas and northeastern Mexico, the effects of NAFTA and the perspectives offered are more general. The second presentation by Dr. Boske will detail some of the radical changes in Mexican transportation, with implications for regional intermodal planning. The third presentation by Mr. Harrison will address the prospects for intermodalism, both within the border zones and deep within Mexico. The implications of a full revitalization of Mexican transport modes is explored in the context of the NAFTA treaty discussions. Finally, Dr. Frank McCullough will examine the trans-border issues from a highway perspective, looking at both the Mexican and Texan highway interface from a planning perspective. If the NAFTA treaty is brought forward for ratification as currently planned, the workshop session should be both timely and stimulating.

Workshop Presenters

Rob Harrison - Associate Director, The Center for Transportation Research

Chandler Stolp - Associate Director of the U.S. - Mexican Policy Studies Center, LBJ School of Public Affairs and Institute of Latin American Studies

Leigh Boske - Professor of Economics, LBJ School of Public Affairs

B. Frank McCullough - Director - The Center for Transportation Research

All four presenters work at the University of Texas at Austin and have conducted research in this area extensively over the past three years.