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## News Release

### TTI Center for Ports and Waterways Complete Container-on-Barge (COB) Infrastructure Survey.

Houston, TX – August 15, 2004

**Background:** In February of 2004, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) began a survey of inland port authorities, terminal operators, and others to learn the extent to which they were interested in and capable of providing container-on-barge (COB) services to shippers who might benefit from a sustained, efficient, well-managed, system-wide COB service. The survey was done in cooperation with the Inland Waterways Intermodal Cooperative Program (IWICP), a group of domestic marine stakeholders organized by the USDOT's Maritime Administration (MARAD), who also supported the survey effort. In addition, the Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals Association (IRPT) provided assistance in contacting potential respondents.

**Data:** The survey's purpose was to collect information on existing and planned infrastructure at inland river terminals that could support or be integrated with containerization (specifically COB). The data collected by the survey can be categorized into three areas:

Infrastructure: Dominant cargoes

Average container volume

Berthing space

Storage space

Controlling drafts

Type and amount of container-handling equipment

Type and amount of supporting infrastructure (i.e. highway and rail)

Type and amount of maintenance and repair facilities

Challenges: Weather conditions

Local resistance (zoning restrictions, pollution and noise, etc.)

Federal agency services (for shipment support)

Security and access control

Demographic: Private or public port?

Landlord or operating port?

Union or non-union labor force?

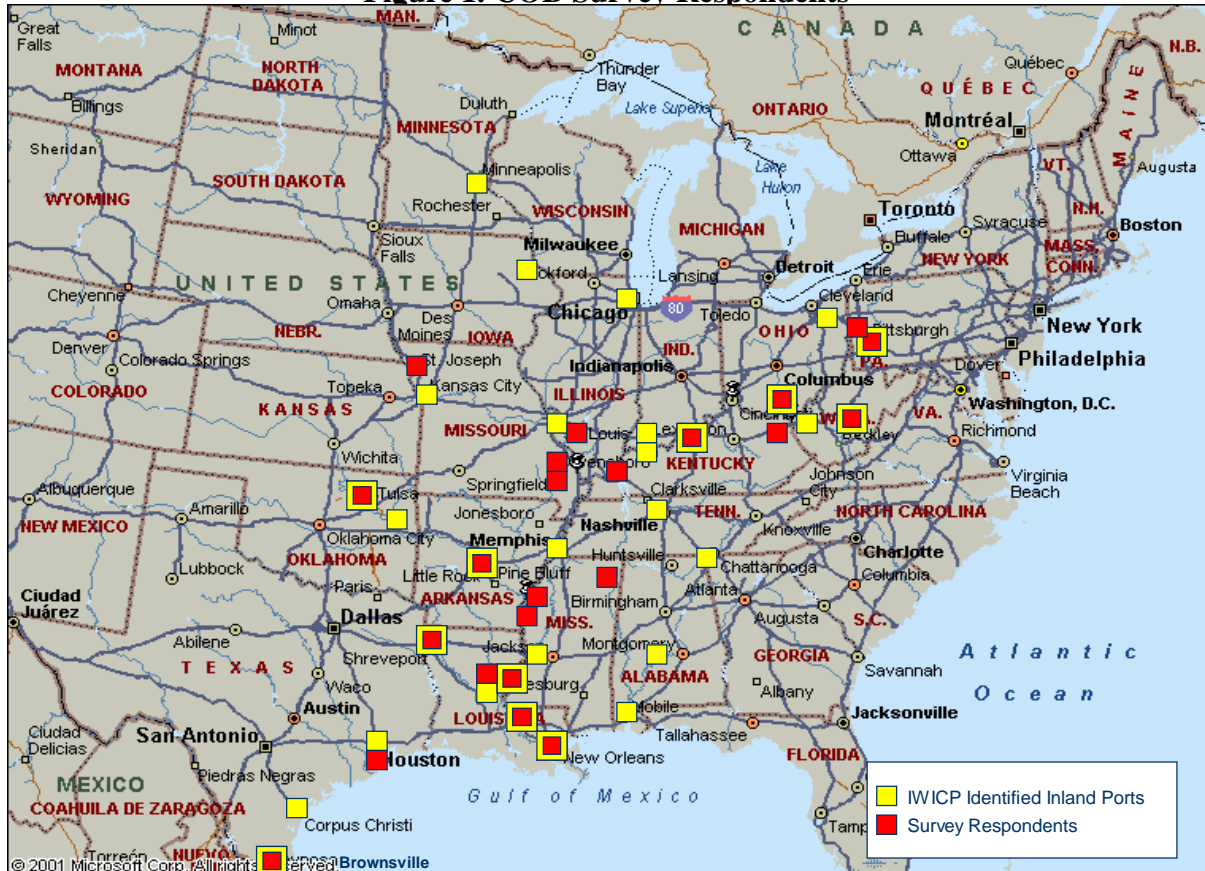
Current cargo throughput (all cargo)

**Survey response:** To date, 23 responses have been received: 6 of the respondents were private companies, while 17 were port authorities or terminal operators. In preparation for their research into COB, the IWICP and MARAD had identified 31 inland ports that were considered to be candidates for participation in a COB service. The survey results show that:

- 11 of the 23 responses coincide with the list of candidate locations;
- 8 of the responses are within 150 miles of a port on the list of candidate locations.

A geographic distribution of the survey respondents is seen below in Figure 1.

**Figure 1. COB Survey Respondents**



**Next Steps:** All of the data from the survey has been entered into a database to facilitate manipulation and analysis. Currently, TTI and MARAD are reviewing the survey results to determine the best way to present the data. All survey respondents will receive a copy of the final results and analysis. In addition, as a follow up to this release, TTI hopes to publish a more detailed article in *The Waterways Journal* which will provide results to the inland waterways community. All proprietary information will be kept confidential.

The Maritime Administration announces the **Third Annual Short Sea Shipping Conference in New York City, October 13-15, 2004.** The Conference will convene a broad representation of over 400 experienced leaders from the transportation industry and state and federal agencies, as well as representatives from Mexico, Canada and Europe.

Visit the Conference website and register on-line at:  
[www.ShortSeaShippingConference2004.com](http://www.ShortSeaShippingConference2004.com).

