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July 20 , 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: Crawford F. Jencks, Deputy Director, Cooperative Research Programs

SUBJECT: FY 2008 Research Problem Statements for the National Cooperative Freight Research Program

The National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP) is an applied, contract research program with the objective of developing information that will be used to improve the efficiency, reliability, safety, and security, of the nation's freight transportation system. The NCFRP was authorized in federal legislation -- the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) -- that was enacted in August 2005. A Memorandum of Agreement has been executed between NCFRP's sponsor, the U.S. DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), and NCFRP's manager, the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies.

The NCFRP carries out applied research and other technical activities in a variety of freight system-related areas, including policy, planning, operations, economics, administration, environment, safety, and security. The program is governed by an NCFRP Oversight Committee, comprised primarily of freight-industry stakeholders.

The purpose of this announcement is to solicit problem statements identifying research needs for the FY 2008 program of the NCFRP; these submittals will help to form the basis for selection of the

second round of NCFRP research projects by the Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee has developed a strategic plan, which can be found on the NCFRP website < <http://www.trb.org/CRP/NCFRP/NCFRP.asp>>, that may help guide submitters in the interests of the Committee. The problems selected for FYs 2006&2007 can be found on the NCFRP website as well.

A problem-statement outline is enclosed. Research problem statement submittals should follow the outline and may be submitted by anyone at any time. However, to be considered for the FY 2008 program, we are asking that problems be submitted by September 26, 2007. Problem statements may be submitted by e-mail to [ncfrp@nas.edu](mailto:ncfrp@nas.edu). If sent electronically, it is preferred that the problem statement be sent as an attachment to the e-mail message in Microsoft Word format. The problem statement may also be submitted in the text of an e-mail message. Please note that research problem statements need not be lengthy; 1-2 pages should be sufficient to describe the research topic in the requested format.

The NCFRP Oversight Committee is expected to meet in late fall to select the research problem statements for FY 2008. For research projects selected by the Oversight Committee, requests for proposals will be issued, and contractors will be selected through a competitive proposal process as has been done for the FY 2006 & 2007 program.

Thank you very much for your interest in the NCFRP. Your willingness to participate in the identification of relevant freight research topics is a key element of a successful, industry-driven NCFRP. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 202/334-3224 or [cjencks@nas.edu](mailto:cjencks@nas.edu).

Attachment

Distribution:

Air Transport Association; American Association of Port Authorities; American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; American Trucking Associations; Association of American Railroads; Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations; Cargo Airline Association; Chair and Members, NCFRP Oversight Committee; Chair and Members, TRB Committee - Freight Systems Group; Chairs and Members, NCFRP Panels and Committees; Chairs and Members, GRB Freight Committees; Coalition for America's Gateways and Corridors; Department of Defense; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Highway Administration; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; Federal Railroad Administration; Inland Rivers Ports and Terminals Association; Intermodal Association of North America; International Air Cargo Association; Maritime Administration; National Association of Countries; National Association of Manufacturers; National Association of Regional Councils; National Association of

Waterfront Employers; National Industrial Transportation Leagu; National League of Cities; National Ports and Waterways Institute; National Retail Federation; Research and Innovative Technology Administration; Retail Industry Leaders Association ; Transportation Research Board - Selected Chair; U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; U.S. Department of Transportation; Waterfront Coalition; World Shipping Council