

**4<sup>th</sup> UNITED STATES – CHINA TRANSPORTATION FORUM**  
**Saint Louis, Missouri, January 10-12, 2012**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

***Working Together to Share Innovative Solutions  
to Transportation Challenges***

At the 4<sup>th</sup> United States-China Transportation Forum (TF) held in Saint Louis, Missouri, United States January 10-12, 2012, the U.S. and China agreed to continue to deepen and expand exchanges under the aegis of the TF. Through these cooperative partnerships, the United States and China can progress together by sharing innovative solutions to transportation challenges.



We acknowledged that participation by industry, institutions and other stakeholders is a cornerstone for the future of the TF. With this recognition we directed the Working Group (WG) Co-chairs to seek further opportunities to strengthen engagement at the sub-national level, and the private sector, as appropriate. We noted during its four year history, this year's TF had more private sector participants than in any other year.

As the TF matures, the potential to include to other government agencies with transportation interests will grow; which ultimately strengthens the goals of the TF. We recognized that new, mutually beneficial, areas of interest may surface that warrant due consideration and further exploration. We, therefore, directed that an "Exploratory Areas of Interest" be incorporated as part of the TF. These new areas will be assessed and jointly reported at the following TF with a recommendation on next steps.

As we enter into the TF's fifth year, we once again applauded the work of the WGs and recognized the achievements made in their respective areas of expertise over the last 12 months.

**TRANSPORT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

We applauded the Working Group on Hazardous Materials for their progress to engage U.S. and Chinese government and industry stakeholders to promote the safe transport of hazardous materials, such as fireworks and lithium batteries. These efforts have helped to advance critical transport hazardous materials safety issues affecting U.S. – China trade through the sharing of best practices that help to enhance compliance with domestic and international safety regulations.

 We noted with satisfaction expanded areas of cooperation to include the safe handling of dangerous goods in air and vessel transport. We welcome this dialogue and strongly encourage continued cooperation between the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and China's Ministry of Transport (MOT) including discussion with all relevant agencies, such as the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration 

(PHMSA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC)..

We note that the PHMSA and FAA hosted a Chinese delegation of 27 led by CAAC, which included air carrier representatives. The result of the meeting was an enhanced understanding of PHMSA and FAA's shared safety objectives in relation to air transportation and the mechanisms by which those objectives are achieved. Topics of discussion included safety fitness, enforcement mechanisms, permits and approvals, and a myriad of other hazmat issues of specific interest to the air mode.

We directed the WG to continue to build bridges of cooperation between relevant modal safety authorities, and to expand their work in relation to safety fitness and enforcement collaboration. In addition we invited the WG to work with affected industry to identify ways to reduce transportation impediments wherever possible while maintaining an appropriate level of safety.

## URBAN CONGESTION

We applaud the continued engagement of the Working Group on Urban Congestion. This engagement is exemplified by the January 10, 2012 joint U.S.-China workshop on *Reducing Urban Congestion in the U.S. and China*, which brought together industry and government officials to share: transit standards, the funding/grant process for transit in the U.S., the *Chinese 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Public Transport*, development of public transport data base, regulatory oversight pertaining to accessibility for people with disabilities and senior citizens, and the use of Bus Rapid Transit systems to combat congestion.

We credit the Working Group's role in expanding greater U.S. – China cooperation by facilitating two Memorandums of Cooperation (MOC):

- **APTA-CATS:** American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and the China Academy of Transportation Sciences (CATS).
- **USF-CATS:** The University of South Florida (USF) and the China Academy of Transportation Sciences (CATS).

We are certain that these new MOCs will help to facilitate greater collaboration between U.S. and Chinese transportation experts just as the MOCs signed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> TF have proven effective. We are pleased to learn that last year's MOCs helped to spur greater collaboration between U.S. and Chinese cities and institutions as illustrated in the following: Los Angeles hosted a Chinese delegation to address emergency preparedness and disaster response issues; a Shenzhen bus manufacturer conducted a technical site visit to San Francisco.

These types of relationships are key, not only for sharing technical expertise to further increase people-to-people exchanges but also to promote bilateral practical cooperation at the local level. We encourage all the participants in these agreements to continue these exchanges, and we look forward to next year's report as further work is developed.

We urged the WG to continue its level of exchanges of technical information on projects of mutual interest including accessibility of public transportation for the elderly and disabled, financing of public transportation systems, and transit data collection. We proposed that subgroups of the WG meet to develop specific research projects in these areas.

## **DISASTER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION**

We are encouraged by the ongoing activities of the Working Group on Disaster Assistance Coordination. The video-conference and the meeting and workshop during 2011 in the cities of Los Angeles and San Jose, California have enhanced disaster preparedness in both the U.S. and China. The work by the WG increases mutual learning and sharing from both nations' experiences in disaster preparedness, mitigation, training, exercises, response and recovery. This work helps to improve both countries' transport safety and the ability of each of our nation's transportation infrastructure systems to recover rapidly during disasters, bringing vital resources to impacted communities.

On the basis of the continuously deepened cooperation, we recognize the critical role of transport safety in decreasing the losses and damages of people's lives and properties. With a view to assuring the coherence of cooperation contents and scope with its objectives, we agreed to rename the WG as Safety and Disaster Assistance Coordination Working Group.

As the WG implements the newly-signed Memorandum of Understanding, we endorsed the WG's development of a multi-year work plan with both small group and individual exchanges, as appropriate, to share and coordinate crisis preparedness. We also encouraged the WG to strengthen emergency response training by organizing visits and technical training programs, as well as the ongoing sharing of information.

## **NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN TRANSPORT - RAIL**

Recognizing the important role and benefits of rail transport (freight and passenger) in the greater transportation system, the Working Group for New Technologies in Transport – Rail will seek collaborative exchanges in 2012. Led by the USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and China's Ministry of Railways (MOR), the Working Group agreed to look for additional ways to expand technical exchanges and cooperation on topics such as rail safety regulation, oversight and enforcement. Recognizing that rail preventive maintenance programs ultimately reduce costs while increasing safety, the WG will explore ways to review industry technical standards, practices and technology development.

In addition, in the spirit of greater industry involvement in the TF, the Working Group agreed to seek collaborative opportunities with the U.S. and Chinese rail industry. FRA will continue to encourage participation by academic and private sector institutions. MOR will work with China's local railway bureaus to help facilitate the China-based American Rail Working Group's (ARWG) 2012 multi-city "Road Show."

## PORTS AND INLAND WATERWAYS INITIATIVE

We commended the Ports and Inland Waterways Initiative (PIWI) for their robust government to government exchanges and industry involvement in their activities. With this we noted the PIWI Workshop which took January 11, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri.

We reaffirmed the important role of ports and inland waterways as a means of expanding both the bilateral and international trade and that competitive inland water freight networks and related intermodal connectivity can benefit economic development and regional growth, while serving as a “green” transportation alternative. We encouraged further cooperative engagements to promote the development of inland waterways.

We directed the PIWI to continue these mutually beneficial exchanges amongst national and sub-national officials and local stakeholders.

## EXPLORATORY AREAS OF INTEREST

The TF was formulated to be an evolving forum and to be responsive to address new areas of mutual interest as they arise. In this regard and to ensure areas of certain importance are given due consideration we directed that the following areas are assessed:

- Consider to explore a cooperative agreement between MOR/China Academy of Railway Sciences and the USDOT/John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center (Volpe Center).
- Explore further the MOT’s proposal on *Logistics & Information Management Coordination*. The area of interest may include, but not limited to, cooperation and information exchanges in areas, such as methodology of supply chain management, Electronic Freight Management, and compatibility of logistics information platform to ensure commerce between the U.S. and China move securely and efficiently.

## CONCLUSION

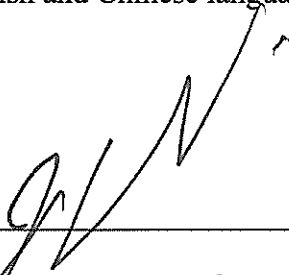
We note with great satisfaction the TF has served our officials well in that, due to these bilateral exchanges, strong working relationships have developed. These strengthening ties have carried forward and are reflected in greater collaboration in other relevant international forums.

We also reiterated that as challenges arise and priorities are adjusted, the objectives of the TF and its WGs can evolve based upon mutual agreement. Where appropriate, we reaffirmed to support the TF through cooperation and coordination of appropriate institutional resources.



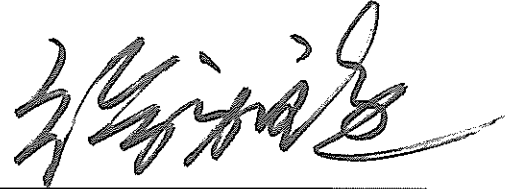
It is our intent that the fifth meeting of U.S.-China Transportation Forum will convene December 2012 in China.

Signed in Saint Louis, Missouri, United States in duplicate, on January 12, 2012 in the English and Chinese languages.



For the Department of Transportation of  
The United States of America

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