



The U.S. - China Transportation Forum Newsletter

A newsletter from the Office of International Transportation and Trade at the U.S. Department of Transportation

March 2016 - Issue 3

Highlights for 2015

Smart Urban
Transportation Conference
in Shanghai

Race to Zero Emissions:
Low-Carbon Urban
Transportation and Zero
Emission Buses

Technical tour of ports of
Chicago, Baltimore, Los
Angeles / Long Beach

Heavy Haul Freight
Workshop in Beijing

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The 8th U.S. - China Transportation Forum will take place June 1-3, 2016 in Los Angeles, CA. Registration information will be posted at [U.S.-China Transportation Forum | Department of Transportation](#)
Stay tuned!



The 7th U.S. - China Transportation Forum

The 7th U.S.-China Transportation Forum (TF) was held in Suzhou, China, November 5- 6, 2015 with a focus on "Promoting Collaborative Solutions: Deployment of Innovative Technology and Practices." Deputy Secretary Victor Mendez and Vice Minister Weng Mengyong co-chaired the event which hosted delegations from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Transport (MOT), U.S. Trade and Development Agency, U.S. Department of State, and U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as the private sector.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Secretary Mendez emphasized the role of advanced technology in solving transportation challenges and called for closer U.S.-China cooperation on a range of bilateral priorities supported by the TF working groups. The Deputy Secretary and the Vice Minister both expressed pleasure in private sector engagement with the TF's working groups and instructed the working group chairs to continue to seek

avenues to expand public-private cooperation.

While in China, Deputy Secretary Mendez visited the Wanxiang Group (China's largest auto parts manufacturer) and the Alcoa Aluminum Wheel Facility, and met with American and Chinese business leaders. He also met with the Chairman of Shanghai's JiaoTong University and delivered a well-received speech on leadership to Chinese students.

We offer our sincere thank you to our Chinese colleagues for their hospitality and for organizing yet another successful Transportation Forum. We look forward to hosting the Chinese delegation in Los Angeles, CA, June 1-3 for the 8th U.S.-China Transportation Forum.

For more information about the Transportation Forum, please visit: [U.S.-China Transportation Forum | Department of Transportation](#)

What's the "TF"?

The U.S. - China Transportation Forum came about through the U.S. - China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) in 2008. The TF serves as a bilateral setting for multi-modal transportation discussions and cooperation. Since its inception, the TF has resulted in a multitude of effective engagements and cooperative activities and the development of mutually beneficial solutions to common transportation challenges.

What's Ahead in 2016?

We were especially pleased that the 2015 event saw significant participation by our private sector partners, including industry and academia, which enabled the TF to leverage their achievements in technology and innovation in transportation. We plan to expand our bilateral cooperation involving the



Transportation Forum Outcomes and Areas of Further Cooperation

During the 7th Annual Transportation Forum, DOT and MOT reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in a number of areas, including:

- The Maritime Administration (MARAD), the Pipeline and the Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), and their Chinese counterparts agreed to work together on practices and technologies to monitor vessel greenhouse gas emissions, the application of liquid natural gas in inland navigation, and safe and efficient transportation of waterborne dangerous goods.
- PHMSA and the Water Transport Bureau (WTB) of China's Ministry of Transport committed to continued cooperation and coordination on national standards that impact international commerce, as well as information exchange that enhances the safety of transporting hazardous materials and facilitates trade.
- The Safety and Disaster Assistance Coordination Working Group will work with China's Jilin University to establish a

private sector. To that end, we will hold a dedicated session on Public-Private Partnership investment models during the 8th TF. The session will bring together U.S. and Chinese policymakers, including national and local officials, and the private sector, to share effective practices in this area.

The 8th Transportation Forum will be held on June 1-3, 2016, in Los Angeles, CA. We look forward to hosting our Chinese colleagues and the participation of provincial, state, and local officials.

Stay tuned for the latest details!

new curriculum in emergency management for the university's transportation center. The center will train more than 1,000 students per month utilizing a certification program including on-line training webinars and classroom lectures.

- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and China's National Railways Administration (NRA) will work to enhance rail safety through collaboration on methods of accident investigation and analysis; review of safety oversight processes and analysis; and establishing a process for certification of equipment for operation.



Transportation Forum Working Group Spotlight:

MARAD Promotes Energy Savings and Environmental Technologies to Accelerate the Development of Green Ports

Deputy Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Michael Rodriguez, served as the Head of the U.S. Delegation during the Ports and Inland Waterways Working Group meeting, which included the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Federal Maritime Commission, and industry representatives from the Port of Los Angeles and Ramboll Environ, Inc. Delegates also met with the U.S. Consulate officials in Shanghai, the Shanghai Shipping Exchange, and the American Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai.

The Working Group offers an opportunity to showcase MARAD's Marine Highways program and promote U.S. commercial interests in China. Chinese officials view U.S. economic development along the Mississippi River as a model to help guide development of the Yangtze River. The Yangtze River, dubbed as China's "second coastline" is the longest river in China, stretching approximately 4,000 miles from the Tibetan highlands to Shanghai, where it meets the East China Sea. The River serves as China's major inland transportation artery carrying approximately 2.2 billion tons of cargo annually and linking eleven provinces from the East China Sea to Sichuan.

Dovetailed with the annual bilateral maritime consultations, and building on intersessional technical meetings held in 2014 and 2015, the Working Group meeting in Suzhou focused on operational best practices. Environmental issues, such as liquefied natural gas as a marine fuel, were central to the group's discussions. Chinese officials also expressed interest in terminal automation and mitigating ship- and port-based carbon emissions. This interest is due to the pollution reduction measures forming an integral component of China's current development plan. Delegates from each side highlighted their recent public and private sector environmental initiatives. Delegates also discussed vessel emissions monitoring technologies and green port programs. China's continued interest in developing green ports and vessels, as noted by senior Chinese maritime officials, is an area that remains ripe for trans-Pacific trade.

TF Working Groups: Addressing Mutual Challenges and Advancing Shared Goals

The five working groups continue to work toward achieving the objectives of the TF by facilitating cooperation between public and private partners, promoting exchange of technical knowledge, and delivering critical outcomes.

1) Hazardous Materials Working Group

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) efforts to improve the safe transportation of hazardous materials are largely framed by a 2009 Cooperative Project Arrangement (CPA) between the DOT and China's MOT. The CPA identifies a number of areas of collaboration including information exchange, regulatory development, harmonization with international standards, and compliance and training. The CPA is a direct result of PHMSA's efforts to support the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and the TF.

In 2015, the Working Group's efforts included collaboration to decrease the exportation of unapproved fireworks; streamlining the approval process for consumer fireworks; exploring the feasibility of aligning China's process for the classification of certain novelty fireworks with that of the U.S.; promoting the safe transportation of hazardous materials on China's inland waterways; encouraging information exchange and training; and enhancing private sector participation. Hazardous material safety is a multimodal issue and was a common theme across various working groups during the 7th TF. The Working Group worked with the Ports and Inland Waterways Working Group to address transport of dangerous goods in port safety management, and will continue to engage other working groups, including the Safety Disaster Assistance Working Group, to identify synergies and share resources and information to achieve mutual safety-related objectives.

The Working Group is committed to a work plan outlining priority areas for 2016, including a continued and open dialog between the U.S. and China on regulatory, enforcement and compliance issues, particularly with regard to lithium batteries; expansion of stakeholder involvement; and further alignment of domestic regulations with internationally recognized standards.

Co-Chairs: Ms. Jennifer Antonielli, International Standards Specialist, Office of Standards and Rulemaking, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, DOT and Mr. Wang Mingzhi, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Water Transport, MOT

2) New Technologies in Transport (Rail) Working Group

In 2015, the Working Group made substantial progress in key areas of cooperation identified by the National Railway Administration (NRA) of China and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), along with the research community and industry representatives. The Working Group successfully hosted a number of events focused on rail safety in Washington, D.C. Additionally, a delegation of Chinese national and provincial transportation officials visited FRA's regional office in Chicago to learn about U.S. rail safety and regulatory processes. While in Chicago, the group visited Union Pacific Railroad's Proviso Yard to observe freight operations and multimodal transport. The FRA also collaborated on a heavy haul freight workshop on how to improve cargo-shipping efficiency held in Beijing with the assistance of U.S. Trade and Development Agency funding and the American Rail Working Group (ARWG).

Leading up to the TF, the Working Group held a special session in Beijing and was joined by Chinese academics, U.S. Embassy officials and members of the ARWG. The session included presentations on new technological advancements, rail safety and performance, and rail-specific university curriculum. The Working Group agreed that partnership with industry and academia is integral to rail safety and the development of innovative technologies. The Working Group is looking forward to continued collaboration between government and the private sector and additional workshop opportunities to exchange rail-related expertise.

Co-Chairs: Ms. Barbara Barr, Director, International Programs, Federal Railroad Administration

DOT and Mr. Wang Jiayu, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation, National Railway Administration, MOT

3) Urban Congestion Working Group

The Urban Congestion Working Group continues its development and coordination of priorities to reduce congestion and minimize transportation's adverse environmental impacts, such as climate change issues related to emissions. The Working Group drives to advance the goals set by the US-China Climate Change Working Group. In April 2015, the Working Group conducted a "Smart Urban Transportation Conference" in Shanghai which was attended by over 200 Chinese and American transportation professionals and policy-makers. The conference provided an opportunity for exchange of information on best practices in emissions reduction through congestion mitigation in transport policy development, strategy and practices.

The Working Group also supported a session on "Low-Carbon Urban Transportation and Zero Emission Vehicles" at the US-China Climate Leaders' Summit held in Los Angeles in September 2015. The goal is to raise awareness among public transport agencies of the need for zero or low-emission buses through the development and promotion of the "Race to Zero Emissions" challenge. The challenge will be presented to transit organizations and city officials in both the U.S. and China throughout 2016. Guidelines and targets for the race are being developed.

During the 7th TF, the Working Group refined its multi-year work plan which includes sessions at international conferences, personnel exchanges, and potential joint research. The Working Group will continue to act as a platform to convene exchanges between transport researchers of both countries to help improve urban transport management and mitigate urban congestion.

The private sector continues to actively participate in the Working Group meetings and its workshops and conferences. In addition to organizing a workshop in conjunction with the US-China Transportation Forum in Los Angeles in June 2016, the Working Group also plans to conduct a workshop later in 2016 on emission reduction through innovative service strategies, deployment of advanced technology, and acquisition of low/no emission vehicles.

Co-Chairs: Mr. Ronald Boenau, Federal Transit Administration, DOT and Mr. XU Yahua, Counselor, Department of Road and Urban Transport, MOT

4) Ports and Inland Waterways Initiative Working Group

As high-power consumption and heavy pollution continues to increase in ports, the Chinese port industry seeks to address environmental issues as part of China's national agenda to realize sustainable growth via a low-carbon economy. Given new advances in terminal design, operations, technologies, and management practices, the Working Group, in partnership with industry, will continue to pursue trade missions to export American goods and services able to reduce pollution at Chinese ports, while also meeting China's productivity requirements. .

During the TF, the Working Group conducted its annual maritime consultations and confirmed its continued and engaged collaboration. For 2016, the Working Group agreed to work in the following areas: (1) methods, practices, and technologies to monitor vessel greenhouse gas emissions, (2) the application of liquefied natural gas in inland navigation, and (3) safe and efficient transportation of waterborne dangerous goods.

The 2016 Working Group meeting in Los Angeles will include a formal dialogue, site visits, and meetings with maritime-related public and private partners.

Co-Chairs: Mr. Paul Jaenichen, Administrator, Maritime Administration, DOT and Mr. LI, Hongyin, Director General, Bureau of Water Transport, MOT

5) Safety and Disaster Coordination Assistance Working Group

During the TF, the Working Group discussed a variety of topics, including emergency preparedness and response in the context of the August 2015 Typhoon Soudelor and the explosion at the container storage station in the Port of Tianjin. The U.S. delegation provided a presentation to China's Jilin University students and faculty on the Department of Transportation Disaster

Preparedness and Response roles and responsibilities. The Working Group agreed to assist

Jilin University with devising a curriculum for the new transportation center which the university is in the process of establishing. The center will train more than 1000 students per month in emergency management through a certification program which includes on-line training webinars, classroom lectures and discussions. This training will help Chinese students better understand how the United States utilizes the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) in its approach to transportation disaster management.

Co-Chairs: Mr. Michael Lowder, Director, Office of Intelligence, Security and Emergency Response, Office of the Secretary, DOT and Mr. Huang Yong, Deputy Director-General, Department of Safety and Quality Supervision, MOT

Click [here](#) for more information and related details on Safety and Disaster Coordination Assistance Working Group.



Furthering U.S. - China Cooperation on Climate Change - Race to Zero Emissions (R2ZE)

In furtherance of the U.S.-China Climate Change Working Group's objective to ensure bilateral cooperation in tackling a range of causes of climate change, the United States and China, led by the Department of Transportation and the Ministry of Transport, are launching a new Climate Change Working Group project: the U.S.-China Race to Zero Emissions (R2ZE) challenge. The R2ZE challenge is a collaborative and friendly competition that encourages cities and metropolitan transit districts in the United States and China to deploy new generations of advanced, non-polluting Zero Emission Buses (ZEBs) in their transit systems. The race not only aims to reduce greenhouse gas and criteria emissions, but also spurs demand and innovation for zero emission heavy-duty vehicle technology.

The R2ZE project was established in direct support of the historic November 2014 U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change where President Obama and President Xi reaffirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation on climate change. Secretary of State John Kerry and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi also included R2ZE during the 2015 U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue as a way to demonstrate bilateral cooperation on climate change and clean energy.

The U.S.-China TF Climate Change Working Group began its efforts to encourage cities/metropolitan transit districts to take ambitious actions to add a new generation of advanced, non-polluting transit buses in fall 2015.

Other U.S. - China Transportation Related Activities

Department of Transportation's cooperation with China is not limited to the TF and it includes a number of other activities and collaboration with our Chinese and U.S. private and public partners. Every year, an array of transportation related activities and exchanges, including workshops and technical exchange visits, take place between the Department and its modal administrations and China's central and provincial transportation officials.

In September 2015, DOT modal administrations provided training to a group of Chinese local and provincial transportation officials in Washington, D.C. The training was sponsored by the World Resources Institute which has worked with DOT on various cooperative initiatives involving China

The three-day training included a number of DOT agencies and offices and encompassed topics ranging from green, safe, and efficient practices in freight, to intermodal connectivity and inland waterway transport, to security and emergency management.

In January 2016, a delegation of Chinese transportation officials from Xiamen, China met with officials from the FTA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to discuss FTA's transit safety and oversight program including, hazard investigation, data collection, risk analysis, and information sharing, and FMCSA's commercial vehicle enforcement regulations.

Want to Get Involved?

If you would like to participate in or just learn more about any of the Transportation Forum Working Groups, please contact: US-ChinaTF@dot.gov

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