BAC Research Needs
Summary of Survey Responses
February, 2007

Ensuring sufficient capacity: concerns for all modes, networks and terminals
- Methods for financing capital investments
  - Achieving sufficient return on investment to buy needed private infrastructure capacity
  - Shaping public policy to ensure sufficient government investment in public infrastructure – waterways, highways, airways, railroads. Making the case for public investment in terms of economic and social benefits
- Practical decision support tools for selecting projects, policies and investment priorities
  - Avoiding overbuilding in infrastructure renewal – investing with care
  - Project implementation tools – strategies for building support, overcoming obstacles, and fostering effective public-private partnerships
  - Operational strategies for getting the most throughput from fixed infrastructure

Improving operational performance for efficiency, fuel economy, and safety
- Tools for shipment consolidation, dispatch, and routing
- Information technologies to support operations management

Securing and deploying the workforce necessary to survive and thrive
- Strategies for attracting and retaining skilled workers
- Response to large-scale retirements
- Approaches for negotiating realistic work rules and wage rates
- Avenues and incentives for attracting young people to career opportunities in transportation and logistics

Dealing with regulations and the prospect of re-regulation
- Measures of costs and benefits of environmental and security regulations
- Responses to regulatory pressures on return on investment
- Strategies for defusing re-regulation of railroads

Managing supply chains
- Methods to deal with inventory volatility
- Actions to ensure security in supply chains
- Performance measures applicable across the supply chain

Anticipating and responding to change
- Strategies for maintaining, managing and developing interfirm relationships in the context of continued consolidation
- Methods to predict the future:
  - Technology
  - Markets
  - Resources and prices
  - Policies and regulations
- Studies to identify best practices across organizations and modes: surveys, case studies