The Sandhouse Gang presents....

“Chicago Regional Freight Planning: A 2012 Perspective – Panel Discussion”

Tuesday – August 21, 2012
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Location:
Northwestern University
Transportation Center
Chambers Hall
600 Foster, Evanston

The August 2012 Sandhouse Gang meeting will feature a panel discussion exploring freight transportation in the Chicago region – its current state, recent developments, issues impacting its growth and efficiency, and prospects for the future.

Panel Members include:

Norman West, NEPA Principal Reviewer for Region 5, US Environmental Protection Agency
Tom Murtha, Senior Planner, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Libby Ogard, Transportation, Trucking, Railroad Consultant and Contractor

Norm West will begin the discussion with a review of his 2005 Sandhouse Gang presentation on “The Future of Chicago Intermodal Freight Yards.” The original presentation was based on research from the early 2000’s, predating the development of some of the region’s most modern intermodal terminals. Norm will review how his prognoses stood the test of time over the intervening seven years.

Tom Murtha will follow with an overview of current conditions for multi-modal freight transportation in the Chicago region. He will approach this from a regional planning perspective tempered by several years of working with the freight industry on transportation issues.

Norm, Tom, and Libby Ogard will end with an open panel discussion of some of the issues raised in the presentations about the state and future of freight transportation in the Chicago area.

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Speaker Bios:

Norm West

Since 2005, Norm West has been a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Reviewer with the US EPA Region 5 office in Chicago. He is the principal transportation reviewer and liaison to FRA, STB, FHWA, FTA, and FMCSA, as well as AASHTO, SCOE, IDOT, ODOT, MDOT and MnDOT. He serves as the national co-chair of the EPA Sustainability/Smart Growth Workgroup and sits on the Regional Science and Technology Council.

Norm’s was not always involved in transportation. He began his career teaching medical school and doing neuroscience research at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York, Upon his return to the Chicago area with his wife he took the opportunity to revisit an earlier interest in architectural engineering and urban design with transportation focus, now TOD. Obtaining a Masters in Urban Planning and Policy in 2004 at UIC, he interned at Highland Park, then spent a year as visiting scholar at the UIC Transportation Center, with Kazuya Kawamura. He is an APA member and AICP certified planner, associate of TRB, TRF, CMAP Freight and Land Use committees, WTS, and early member of Northwestern’s Sandhouse Gang.

Tom Murtha

Tom Murtha is a Senior Planner for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, focusing on the congestion management process to apply performance measurement to the management of the Chicago region’s transportation system. Strategic endeavors in the congestion management process include congestion pricing, advanced technology, freight system planning, and planning for walking and cycling.

Freight planning experience includes managing the project to identify freight system improvements to be included in GO TO 2040, the region’s long range comprehensive plan. Tom now manages the freight operations planning project within the congestion management program, working on issues such as truck routes and off-hours freight operations.

Previously, at the Chicago Area Transportation Study, CMAP’s predecessor, Tom had been Chief Transportation Planner and CMAQ Program Chief with the project programming division. Prior to joining CATS in 1993, Tom worked for various transportation- and planning agencies in Wausau and Madison, Wisconsin. He received both his B.A. in Economics and his M.S. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Libby Ogard

Libby Ogard has 24 years railroad and trucking experience. She began her career at Burlington Northern and held positions with increasing responsibilities in transportation, marketing and sales across a broad range of commodity groups. At Conrail Ms. Ogard managed the Western Region Intermodal business unit and had account responsibility for International, domestic and refrigerated asset owners. In 1993 Ms. Ogard was recruited to join Schneider National, where she complete the design of the truckrail network and launched the Optimodal division. At Schneider National as an Account General Manager she had responsibility for retail accounts such as Home Depot, Walgreens, Target, Family Dollar and others. Today Ms. Ogard is a consultant focusing on freight transportation and facility planning work.