Chicago Regional Freight Planning:
A 2012 Perspective

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2005 Sandhouse Gang presentation:

The Way We Were

- Chicago WAS the rail hub of America
- 6 of the 7 Class I Railroads had major railyard here
- 23 (26) Railyards in all
- Several concentrated on container / piggyback trains
- BNSF was building a NEW CONCEPT Intermodal Railyard way out south of Joliet and after years of searching, UP was thinking about Rochelle, out on the prairies
- They was serious talk about widening Panama Canal
- But, was intermodal going anywhere with all its problems, or was it just a fad
Interview Questionnaire

28 Insightful, statistically crafted and balanced questions

36 Select interviews with professional stakeholders
   Class I Railroads
   Class II, III and IV Railroads
   Planners
   Academics
   City Mayors
   Consultants
   (we tried to include trucking logistics)
Questions about:

- Intermodal Railyard Design
- Intermodal Railyard Operations
- Support Functions at Intermodal Railyards
Intermodal Railyard Design

Location, Location, Location
Size and Shape
Where should things go
Pads
Lift Equipment
Mulitracks – how many
What Track Pattern
Intermodal Railyard Operations

Is Chicago “the HUB”
Are there Niche Markets
Is Containerized Freight a passing fancy
What is Containerized Freight’s potential
Unsorted trains arriving
Rubber Tire Transfers
Chasis, Empties, “Warehousing”
If they build it, (Panama Canal) will they still come
Support Functions at Intermodal Railyards

Security
Tracking and Billing
Railcar Maintenance
Container Repair
Truck Maintenance and Repair
Crew, Railyard Personnel and Truckers
Value-Added Processing