

**Study Research Committee Meeting**  
**World Trade Center New Orleans**  
**November 15, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

On behalf of Honorable Michael J. Olivier, Study Chair and Secretary of Economic Development of Louisiana, the US Maritime Administration, and the Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc., I am delighted to invite you to New Orleans, Louisiana to participate in the second meeting of the Research Committee for Phase 1 of the Gulf of Mexico Trade Corridor Transportation Study November 15, 2006 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The meeting will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Main Conference Room of the **World Trade Center of New Orleans**, WTC Executive Offices, 2 Canal Street, Suite 2900, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

**Meeting Objectives:** Senior executives from the Study's lead research firm, Cambridge Systematics, Inc. will conduct this meeting, which will provide an overview of the final draft of the Study Phase 1 report, and utilize this meeting to gather input for the final document. That final report is expected to be delivered in early 2007. Phase 1 of the Study is funded through a Federal grant from the US Maritime Administration and contributions from members of the Partnership and other stakeholders.

**Background Information:** A full agenda will be sent to you closer to the meeting. Background information on the Study, its component phases, and the "initial findings report" can be found at the Partnership website, [www.gulfofmexicostatespartnership.com](http://www.gulfofmexicostatespartnership.com)

**Registration:** Electronic registration will be provided on the Partnership website under "Events & Programs." We will need your registration as soon as possible in order to provide a list to WTC security in advance of the meeting. Please bring a picture ID with you to the meeting.

**The Study:** You will recall that *the Gulf of Mexico Trade Corridor Transportation Study* is designed to provide a long-term blueprint of how the Gulf of Mexico border can plan for future economic and infrastructure development attuned to the inherent disaster risks in the region as a whole – including risks to transportation, energy and communications infrastructure and capacity, trade flows, homeland security and environmental sustainability. Such planning is vital to a rapid economic recovery, and critical to ensuring that the lives and livelihoods of Gulf citizens and communities are minimally disrupted. *This Study represents the first time that the Gulf of Mexico border will be examined as an integrated economic region across international boundaries with consideration of the balance between economic development, trade, transportation, energy and other infrastructure, security, and environmental quality issues.* What the initial findings of this multi-year project show – and what has been dramatically underscored by last year's hurricane destruction – is the breadth of vital infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico region supporting US domestic and international trade – in energy,

goods and services, agriculture and tourism. One clear lesson to emerge is that Gulf stakeholders must plan to repair, rebuild and maintain the Gulf of Mexico's critical infrastructure – especially seaport, airport, road, rail, energy and telecommunications assets – with a view toward minimizing the damage and speeding the recovery process from recurring natural disasters as well as man-made ones. The Study is focused on how best to apply this lesson regionally, strategically and binationally.



### **November 15, 2006 Meeting Agenda**

The following is a draft agenda for the meeting:

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#### **Working Agenda**

1. *Welcoming Remarks and Objectives of the Research Committee Meeting: The Gulf of Mexico Trade Corridor Transportation Study*
  - a. *Honorable Michael Olivier, Secretary of Economic Development of the State of Louisiana and Co-Chair of the Study*
  - b. *Gary L. Springer, President, Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc.*
2. *Challenges Facing the Gulf of Mexico Regional Community: Business and State Perspectives*
3. *Regional Approaches to the Gulf's Future: Presentation of the Study's Initial Findings Report: Cambridge Systematics, Lead Consultant*
4. *Open Forum Discussion*
  - a. *Next Steps: Structure, Process for Completion of Phase 1 of the Study*
  - b. *Launching Phase 2 – Critical Infrastructure Security: Structure and Process*