Mike Tagert
Northern District
Transportation Commissioner

Dick Hall
Central District
Transportation Commissioner

Tom King
Southern District
Transportation Commissioner

Melinda McGrath
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Multimodal Investment Report

Executive Summary

By making over $73 million available to support The Multimodal Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), MDOT is sustaining an efficient and effective intermodal system by balancing modal investments. Key results of these investments include:

- Improved infrastructure for all modes
- Over $75 million in additional investments

MDOT’s Multimodal Investment Report describes investments in airport, port, public transit, and rail infrastructure projects. Targeted to policy makers, MDOT’s executive level management, local elected officials and modal stakeholders, the report provides and illustrates:

1. An overview of investments made
2. Key information about the impact of investments; and
3. The level of unmet investment needs.

What is the MTIP?

The Multimodal Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) supports infrastructure improvement for airports, ports, railroads and transit systems. MDOT is charged legislatively with administering the MTIP.

How is the MTIP Funded?

“The multimodal fund provides Mississippi communities and their respective ports with the opportunity to compete nationally. Such communities must have the ability to connect to the national and global supply chain if they wish to attract job creation and private investments. This program provides such opportunities and is vital for Mississippi and the entire Southeast.”

Mike Tagert
Commissioner,
Northern District

“In order for Mississippi to stay ahead of the curve economically we have to continue to invest in our infrastructure. Mississippi is fortunate to have access to a number of different modes of transportation. The multimodal capital fund allows us to keep our State in contention for both national and international economic development projects. There is no better investment for Mississippi’s economic future than the dollars we spend on our multimodal infrastructure.”

Dick Hall
Commissioner,
Central District

“Multimodal Capital Funds will continue to make a difference with sustained improvements to ports, airports, railways and public transit statewide. Improving multimodal facilities will not only bring about a change in Mississippi’s transportation economy, but will also foster economic improvement in the communities where these facilities are located.”

Tom King
Commissioner,
Southern District

![Figure 1 - FY2012 Multimodal Fund Allocations](image-url)
To date, no funds have been appropriated by the Legislature. Recognizing the significant impacts of these projects and the need for assisting local entities with a reliable funding mechanism, MDOT provided $5 million for fiscal years 2005-2006. Subsequently, funding increased to $10 million annually. Figure 1 illustrates the allocations to each mode based on percentages designated in the Statue. The level of MDOT’s commitment to this important program is clearly demonstrated by the fact that to date $73,077,438 in MDOT funds have been awarded to fund projects.

How Have Funds Been Used?

Multimodal program funds have leveraged over $148 million invested in rail, airports, ports and transit projects in 64 of the State’s 82 counties. While most of these expenditures were in specific locations, such as a crane for a port along the Tenn-Tom Waterway or a hangar for a local airport in the Delta, the ripple effects of many projects were far reaching (e.g. transit vehicles for regional services or track rehabilitation for rail lines with multi-county significance).

A total of 645 applications, valued at $179,778,376 were received. Approximately 61% were funded valued at $73,077,438. Approved funds, along with other matching funds (federal, state and local), resulted in an impact of $148,362,435 in improvements within the individual modes. The remaining 254 unfunded projects represent unmet needs valued at $115,163,375.

As Figure 2 shows, over $48 million was approved for facility improvements (e.g. port expansions, dock improvements and airport hangars). Approximately $9 million was for vehicles and equipment, including buses, and heavy equipment (e.g. cranes and loaders). Urban and rural transit systems received approximately $8.2 million in operating assistance.

The remaining $7.5 million supported a variety of projects, such as land acquisitions, utility relocations and local match for Intermodal Connector Improvement Program projects.

IMPACTS/ OBSERVATIONS

Multimodal program funds have had significant impacts throughout the State via awards to local governments, railroads, airports, ports and transit providers. MDOT’s investment of $73,077,435 has leveraged $148,362,435 in capital investments and operating assistance.

“This Program is one of MDOT’s best assets for enhancing Mississippi’s railways, ports, airports and public transit services. The program allows stakeholders to make investment decisions that will have the most positive impact on the communities they serve. MDOT recognizes the need for improvements to these non-highway modes and is committed to working together to meet these needs.”

Melinda L. McGrath, P.E.,
MDOT Executive Director
The positive responses from local elected officials and modal operators also show that the Program is an overwhelming success. It demonstrates how state funds can be used to access more resources and increase capacity by leveraging additional public and private funding to sustain and expand our intermodal system.

Multimodal projects have improved our intermodal system through positive impacts on local and regional modal networks. There have also been direct and induced benefits to local economies. Overall, these investments have led to *improved mobility of freight, goods, commodities and passengers*.

Transit systems, railroads, ports, waterways and airports all require investments well beyond current levels to maintain a state of good repair and improve performance. MDOT’s direct investment of $73,077,438 has made a difference. However it is clear that greater investment is needed. The Multimodal Transportation Improvement Program must continue as a vital funding mechanism for our intermodal system. It allows transportation stakeholders to react to economic development opportunities and has a value added effect on the quality of life for our citizens. Consequently, the value of continuing this program must not be overlooked. Without adequate investments in multimodal transportation infrastructure, our economic competitiveness will erode and the quality of life for many Mississippians will suffer.

As the demands on our intermodal system continue to grow, increased efficiency will rely more and more on investment choices. Policy makers, transportation executives, planners, economic development professionals and modal operators are faced with answering these obvious questions.

- *How do we invest in our intermodal transportation system needs to ensure that we are players in not just the local but also, regional, national and global markets?*
- *Can we afford not to find ways of realistically meeting the unmet needs?*

"...multimodal programs are critical in meeting infrastructure shortfalls... a key component in the repair and enhancement of the infrastructure of the port, railroad and airport"

Jack Zink, Executive Director, Hancock County Development Commission

"The multimodal funds are just the stimulus needed to help us help ourselves"

Tom Williams President and CEO Meridian Regional Airport

"Multimodal funds are used to leverage federal dollars.....these funds puts CTA in a strong position to adequately meet the public transportation needs of the MS Gulf Coast area in a time of great financial challenges"

Kevin Coggin, Executive Director Coast Transit Authority

For more information and/or a copy of the full report, please contact (601) 359-7025.