# I-TLC
## Intermodal and Transportation Logistics Center

**Objective:** Establish a comprehensive, unified sea, land and air intermodal logistics research center in the Trident area. This industry/government center would include advancing state of the art technologies, developing and implementing best business practices, ensuring security of resources, infrastructure and personnel and integrated intermodal approaches to improve economics of the import of goods, people and services in an ever integrated worldwide trading economy.

**Background**: The worldwide movement of goods, services and people increasingly impacts the daily life of every American citizen. Each year a greater number of goods are shipped to different parts of the country and world. This not only impacts commerce but also all military, disaster relief and humanitarian operations. Innovation in business processes, communications and integration of a secure and robust supply chain is just as important as innovation in the products and produced shipped. For instance, developed economies will remain unable to offer labor, land or buildings at prices comparable to competitors in the developing world. While the immediate needs of emerging economies should be considered; the greatest benefit to the people of the third world will come about should their markets be further developed and integrated with current and future trading partners.

One successful model for this program exists in ICAR at Clemson University, where collaboration among major private sector partners; local, state, and federal governments; and Clemson created the world's premier automotive and motorsports research institute. The success of ICAR is due in part to its strategic location in South Carolina at the heart of southeast automotive industry, an area with strong international ties. Similarly, the Tri–County area has the history, experience and comprehensive know how to establish a far reaching program such as I-TLC as the upstate has with ICAR for the automotive sector.

**The Need**: Address transportation and logistics needs globally in an effort to stimulate economies and serve multinational interests. There are many areas and disciplines in which the center can lead in the knowledge economy to cooperate with previously identified competitors overseas. This type of research, implementation, development, education and training will greatly improve economic prosperity at home and abroad. By moving goods throughout the world more quickly at a lower cost, overall production expenses are reduced. I-TLC, through technology and addressing issues in a comprehensive way will advance local area capabilities while serving international needs.

For instance, gaining greater efficiency in national and international commerce and services has considerable incentives for reducing global energy consumption to help mitigate carbon emissions. A truck, train or plane that is half full is only accomplishing half of the work of a full truck, train or plane, but far more than half of the energy is consumed. This inefficiency, given the frequency with which it occurs, if corrected, holds the potential to greatly reduce carbon emissions.

In addition, considerable investments are made by the government on where, what and when to build in terms of infrastructure. Conversely, how that infrastructure is used is determined a great deal by the private sector. There is some input provided by each entity in these cases, but the need for advance collaboration is not being met to an extent at which it could be effective. Increased coordination and advanced technology applications between the public and private sector will ensure greater understanding of future complex transportation and logistics needs when sighting and understanding the interrelations between roads, rail and ports.

A myriad of other services and issues which effect commerce, transportation and logistics can be addressed if there is a forum in which to do so from a comprehensive and inclusive standpoint.

**Proposal:** Form a collaboration of experts and stakeholders for sea, land, and air transportation and related services at all levels including the US military, academics in the fields of logistics and strategic management, industrial leaders, public security experts, representatives of the maritime sector, rail, shipping, and air carrier industries in the Tri-County area have the wherewithal to establish a first class institute or center. This collaboration could take place at a dedicated facility in the Charleston area strategically affiliated with transportation customers, users and technology providers. In addition, research, training and symposia on issues related to intermodal transport; it would support or create programs at the Citadel and the College of Charleston and Medical University of South Carolina and Trident Technical College by educating the next generation of civil servants and industry leaders and users in this field. Advanced IT investments, to include state of the art labs, sensor and modeling facilities would ensure that the number of variables that must be considered to fully explore the impact of various innovations in intermodal transport would likely flourish and grow.

**Why the Trident Area**: The Lowcountry has a long history of transportation accessibility served and supported by modern rail, ship and sea interests. Furthermore, the Tri-County area represents a convergence of interested parties, which include, but not be limited to:

- South Carolinian State Ports Authority & the Port of Charleston, with their centuries of knowledge and understanding of many of the issues and the challenges they represent;
- Charleston International Airport and Charleston Air Force Base, a joint civilian/military facility serving the Military Airlift Command and handling thousands of planes freight and passengers aircraft annually;
- South Carolina Research Authority, which manages dozens of diverse technology programs of relevance;
- Vought Aircraft's 787 production facility, which is turning out two sections of the world's first all-composite airliner using one of the largest autoclaves on Earth;
- Various private sector interests for shipping, trucking, air freight and package delivery, which holds a great deal of organizational knowledge and need in these areas;
- College of Charleston which has competitive business program that is already heavily involved in strategic management issues;
- The Citadel, a Military academy with both civilian and military training and the prospect of future advanced degrees;
- The Medical University of South Carolina, with its telemedicine and remote medical services;
- Trident Technical College, offering a variety of academic classes on improving transportation logistics;
- The Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, SPAWAR, which has substantial technical expertise and capabilities;
- the local maritime, ground and aviation interests that are engaged and steadfast advocates of international commerce; and,
- The local chambers of Commerce, regional development organizations and local governments provide exceptional services and will be beneficiaries of such an enterprise.

The confluence of all these interested and varied entities allows South Carolina to build on and move beyond its strong base of large distribution centers. The goal of this program is to supplement the large blue-collar distribution center workforce with a similarly strong "knowledge economy"-based intermodal transportation logistics workforce in the Lowcountry.

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