

Project Title: Evaluating the Performance of Intermodal Connectors
Project Abstract (Brief Description): This project will focus on evaluating the performance of Intermodal Connectors (IC)- critical “last mile” roadways connecting intermodal freight facilities such as maritime ports to the National Highway System (NHS). Often, less than 2 miles in length ICs account for less than 1% of NHS mileage, but are critical for timely and efficient multimodal freight movements. ICs are currently not well monitored or understood and are frequently missing from statewide planning, programming, and forecasting models. ICs are in relatively poor condition compared to the NHS as a whole. This has cascading effects on the reliability of multimodal freight operations- a 1- or 2-hour delay in a drayage movement can result in a 24-hour holdup in a domestic multimodal shipment. Continued economic growth and reliance on intermodal supply chains will further strain intermodal connectors if freight planning efforts do not effectively consider the use and performance of these critical network links. As a remedy, this project will instrument a selection of corridors and alternative routes serving the ports Van Buren, Little Rock, and Pine Bluff in Arkansas to gather comprehensive usage and performance characteristics. This project is timely given a recent assessment by the FHWA and MARAD which identified a number of shortcomings in current data collection methods, data availability and a lack of understanding in how IC performance affects local, regional and national freight movements.
Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes (or why not implemented) - Place any photos here <i>To be determined upon conclusion of the project:</i>
Impacts/Benefits of Implementation (actual, not anticipated) <i>To be determined upon conclusion of the project:</i>
Web Links: <a href="http://martrec.uark.edu">martrec.uark.edu</a>
Budget (Funding) Amounts & Source(s) (US DOT +Match(s) =Total Costs): \$78,365+\$39,589=\$117,954
Project Start and End Dates: 08/22/16-06/30/18
Principal Investigator(s) and Contact Information: Sarah Hernandez
Principal Investigator Institution (University): University of Arkansas