

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - MARITIME ADMINISTRATION  
Charter for the  
U.S. MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** The Committee shall be known as the U.S. Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Committee (MTSNAC or Committee).
2. **AUTHORITY:** The Committee is established pursuant to section 55603 of Title 46, and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2. The Secretary of Transportation delegated to the Maritime Administrator authority to carry out functions related to the MTSNAC under 49 CFR § 1.93(a). The MTSNAC is in the public interest and supports the Maritime Administration (MARAD) in performing its duties and responsibilities.
3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The objective of this Committee is to identify and seek solutions to impediments hindering effective use of short sea transportation. The Committee will provide information, advice, and recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation (Secretary), through the Maritime Administrator (Administrator), on matters relating to the U.S. maritime transportation system and its seamless integration with other segments of the transportation system, including the viability of the U.S. Merchant Marine. The Committee will not exercise program management responsibilities and will make no decisions directly affecting the programs on which it provides advice; decisions directly affecting implementation of maritime policy will remain with the Administrator.

The Administrator will use the advice, information and recommendations generated by the MTSNAC for an array of policy deliberations and for interagency discussions on the implementation of a National Maritime Transportation Strategy. The Secretary and Administrator may accept or reject a recommendation made by the MTSNAC and are not bound to pursue any recommendation from the MTSNAC. In the exercise of his or her discretion, the Secretary, Administrator, or his or her designee, may withdraw a task being considered by the MTSNAC at any time.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** The MTSNAC shall undertake information-gathering activities, develop technical advice and present recommendations to the Administrator on matters including but not limited to the following:
  - a. How to address impediments hindering effective use of short sea transportation, including the expansion of America's Marine Highways, as directed in 46 U.S.C. § 55603;
  - b. Approaches to improve waterborne transportation to reduce congestion and increase mobility throughout the domestic transportation system;
  - c. Methods to expand the capacity and productivity of America's gateway ports to accommodate larger vessels and increase the velocity of cargo through those ports;
  - d. Ways to strengthen maritime capabilities essential to economic and national security, including the strategic sealift capabilities of our nation;

- e. Capabilities needed to modernize the maritime workforce and inspire and educate the next generation of mariners;
  - f. How to minimize environmental and community impacts of water transportation;
  - g. Encourage continued innovation in the maritime sector; and,
  - h. Actions MARAD can take to meet its mission to foster, promote, and develop the maritime industry of the United States to meet the economic and security needs of the nation.
5. AGENCY OR OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee reports to the Administrator.
  6. SUPPORT: MARAD will provide administrative and technical support to the Committee.
  7. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS: Annual administrative operating costs are estimated at \$220,000, including the equivalent of one Federal full-time equivalent (FTE).
  8. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER: The Administrator shall designate a full-time or permanent part-time MARAD employee to serve as the DFO for the MTSNAC, as well as any alternate DFOs to support the Committee.
  9. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee will be expected to meet at least three times per fiscal year.
  10. DURATION: Continuing
  11. TERMINATION: This charter shall terminate 2 years after its effective date unless renewed in accordance with FACA and other applicable requirements.
  12. MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION: The Committee will be comprised of approximately 25 voting members who will represent points of view held by organizations, associations, or classes of individuals relevant to the U.S. marine transportation system. Individual members, and not their organizations, are appointed to the Committee. The Maritime Administrator will seek a membership that is fairly balanced in terms of points of view of the affected interests.

Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 55603, MTSNAC membership will include a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency, other Federal entities, state and local entities, and private sector entities. The Federal entities may include the Department of Commerce, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The Secretary may appoint additional representatives from other Federal Agencies as deemed appropriate.

Non-Federal members will serve as Special Government Employees or Representative members. Members appointed solely for their personal expertise will serve as Special Government Employees. The Committee shall include representatives of State and local governmental entities as well as private sector entities that reflect a cross-section of maritime industries, including port and water stakeholders, in addition to representatives from academia and labor.

Committee members will serve 2-year terms, with no more than two consecutive term reappointments, and approximately one-third of members' terms of office shall expire every 2 years. All members are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Secretary of Transportation. Terms may be staggered by the Administrator to establish continuity among the membership in subsequent years. Members shall continue to serve until their replacement has been appointed. Completion of terms beyond 2 years is contingent upon the renewal of the Committee's charter.

In the event of a mid-term vacancy on the MTSNAC, a replacement member may be appointed by the Secretary. A member appointed to fill a mid-term vacancy shall serve the remainder of the term and the appointment may be extended into the next term at the discretion of the Secretary.

Members of the MTSNAC serve without compensation. While engaged in the work of the MTSNAC, all members may be allowed reasonable travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with the rates and rules set under the Federal Travel Regulations.

13. **SUBCOMMITTEES:** The Administrator or DFO may create subcommittees or work groups. All subcommittees and work groups shall report their recommendations and advice to the full MTSNAC for deliberation and discussion.
14. **RECORDKEEPING:** The records of the Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Committee's documents shall be available for public inspection and copying at a single location in the offices of the Committee sponsor until the Committee ceases to exist.
15. **FILING DATE:** The filing date of this charter is September 20, 2018. If not renewed, this charter will expire on September 20, 2020.