



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 9 – 2009M

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence have served as a vital transportation corridor for North America since the earliest days of the native populations and the explorers from Europe; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of goods and people along the corridor has been of great importance to the economic success of the entire region are key elements of the heritage and culture, as well; and

WHEREAS, linkages of the maritime transportation on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to the tributaries and the land based systems are also central to the effectiveness and efficiency of the entire network; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence maritime transportation system currently is underutilized to the point where it has the capacity to handle twice the amount of shipping than currently uses the system; and

WHEREAS, increased congestion on highways and rail lines has increased and resulted in delays in transport and greater fuel consumption; and

WHEREAS, security concerns have lead to long lines at border crossings along the border, resulting in delays and increased fuel consumption; and

WHEREAS, maritime transportation has always been important, but is becoming increasingly so because of the potential for energy and environmental benefits from expanded use; and

WHEREAS, in order for the advantages of maritime transport to be fully realized, the linkages with land based rail and truck routes must be enhanced and the port facilities to make the transfers must be improved; and

WHEREAS, substantial infrastructure investments will be necessary to ensure that the entire transportation network functions properly; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and its mayors seek to work with all orders of government, the transportation industry, the university community, and others to advance the transportation network for the region in a way that provides a competitive advantage and



reduces the energy consumption and environmental impact so that the resource can be sustained long into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative urges the United States Department of Transportation and Transport Canada, along with the provincial and state agencies, to do a comprehensive evaluation of the transportation systems in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence to determine what could be done to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the evaluation process include participation by local governments, port authorities, the St. Lawrence Seaway authorities, the transportation sector, non government organizations, and other interested stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such comprehensive evaluation specifically ask industry how short sea shipping and intermodal links could be improved to make the expanded use of maritime transport more attractive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the evaluation identify the infrastructure investments that would be necessary to establish an enhanced, integrated, transportation system in and around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the evaluation be initiated as soon as possible and be completed in an expedited fashion, but in no event later than December of 2010.

Signed this 18th day of June, 2009

George Heartwell, Chair
Mayor of Grand Rapids
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative