



# Announcing a New Freight Course

## *Multimodal Freight Forecasting in Transportation Planning*

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Office of Freight Management and Operations and Office of Planning are offering a new three-day course, **Multimodal Freight Forecasting in Transportation Planning**. This course is part of FHWA's Freight Professional Development and Transportation Planning Capacity Building Programs. These complementary programs provide technical training to the freight transportation and planning workforce to broaden their knowledge base and develop new skills.

### Why Attend?

Efficient, safe, and secure freight transportation helps form the foundation upon which our Nation's economic strength rests. It allows businesses to move raw materials to factories and finished goods to and from markets all over the world. The freight transportation system is also important to economic development efforts, as cities and towns use their proximity to transportation facilities as a way to attract businesses and jobs.

Forecasting freight traffic is a complex task. It requires an understanding of many factors, including economic trends, the distribution of traffic, locational decisions made by freight shippers, and the operational characteristics of freight carriers. Moreover, freight forecasting uses different data sources and analytical tools than those used in forecasting passenger travel.

Through this course, participants will gain a greater knowledge of freight forecasting in the transportation planning process, identify key freight data sources, discuss freight transportation's effects on travel demand forecasts, and perform basic freight forecasting.

### Course Information

**Multimodal Freight Forecasting in Transportation Planning** (Course 139002) is offered through the National Highway Institute (NHI). Initial course offerings are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning in July 2004.\*

Because of the need for a wide range of freight forecasting tools, the course will focus on: 1) providing guidance on and improved methods for forecasting freight at both metropolitan and state levels, and 2) building a basic understanding of freight transportation practices, including key factors that influence freight traffic and available tools and data to forecast freight traffic for transportation planning.

State departments of transportation, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, FHWA division offices, and private sector businesses can sponsor the three-day NHI course. A minimum of 20 participants is needed to sponsor the course, and classes are limited in size to a maximum of 35 participants. To find out about sponsoring and registering for this course, please go to <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/default.asp> and select "NHI Training Programs."

An executive freight-planning seminar, aimed at transportation decisionmakers, is also available through the Planning Technical Service Team at the FHWA Resource Center. This 30- to 60-minute course can be tailored to your state's or region's needs and is an effective approach for educating elected officials and other stakeholders who cannot attend the full two days of instruction. For more information on technical assistance programs available from the FHWA Resource Center, please visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resourcecenter>.

\*The number of free courses will be determined at a later date.

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