

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The LATTs study was initiated and developed in 1996 at two meetings of SASHTO personnel convened by former Mississippi DOT Executive Director Dr. Robert L. Robinson, and attended by then FHWA Administrator Rodney E. Slater. The FHWA agreed to provide significant funding, and initiate a scope of work and prospectus; the Mississippi DOT agreed to manage the work as a pooled fund study; and the other SASHTO States agreed to provide funding and working level guidance during the study.

The Texas DOT quickly became a study partner with SASHTO and subsequent to a qualifications based consultant selection process, a contract was signed in July 1997 by Wilbur Smith Associates, on behalf of a consortium of consultants and Mississippi DOT on behalf of the Alliance.

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico became a study partner in 1998. During this study, the Mississippi DOT, under the leadership, encouragement, and support of Kenneth I. Warren and W. Hugh Long (subsequent MDOT Executive Directors) have provided diligent, fair and efficient administration of the contract. At the same time, FHWA has provided effective coordination and a constant vision and focus and the Alliance members have provided timely and insightful guidance.

As lead consultant, we gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all the aforementioned and those who otherwise contributed, specifically the study Steering and Working Committee members, Special Alternates and the Mississippi DOT Study Coordination Team (see list on next page). As a result of their contributions, this study will surely become known as one of the corporate highlights of Wilbur Smith Associates.

More importantly, we think, it will show the way to a new and better form of collaborative planning. Most importantly of all, it will, as study recommendations are implemented, result in significant and important transportation and economic benefits for the people in the Alliance; benefits that will increase over time.

**LATIN AMERICAN TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY
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