

Project Title

The New Federal Security Regime: Intermodal Passenger Transportation

Principal Investigator

Paul Stephen Dempsey, DCL Tomlinson Professor of Global Governance in Air & Space Law Director, Institute of Air & Space Law McGill University 3661 Peel Street Montreal, Quebec CANADA H3A IXI Phone: 514.398.8370 Fax: 514.398.8197 Email: paul.dempsey@mcgill.ca

Project Contact

Paul Stephen Dempsey, DCL

Objective

This project proposes to produce a publishable study, review, and analysis of the laws, regulations, requirements, and procedures imposed since 11 September 2001 by the US Congress and the newly-created Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on the passenger transportation industry, with a particular emphasis on intermodal and multimodal applications.

Abstract

This project will identify, review, assess, and analyze the federal legal and regulatory rules and policies governing intermodal passenger security.

Task Descriptions

This project includes researching and preparing a final paper for publication. The research will consist of a survey of all federal laws and regulations affecting intermodal transportation security, with a view to identifying those which promote or impede the seamless flow of passengers and freight.

Project Milestones

Project start date	1 December 2002
First draft of paper completed	31 May 2003
Final paper completed	30 September 2003

Budget

NCIT Funds	\$ 7,000
Match Funds—McGill University Institute of Air & Space Law funds	\$ 7,000
Total Budget	\$14,000

Student Involvement

Student research assistants will be employed to assist in the compilation of laws and regulations. Wherever possible, minority or female law students will be recruited.

Relationship to Other Research or Projects

This research project is related to the symposium issue on intermodal transportation of the *Transportation Law Journal* and represents a first step toward a more comprehensive assessment of the state of intermodal passenger transportation in the US and the world. It also relates closely to another NCIT project on developing a comprehensive book on passenger intermodal transportation.

Technology Transfer Activities

The final paper will be published in a law review, such as the *Transportation Law Journal*, and will be made available for publication on the NCIT Website. In addition, the paper will be presented and disseminated at professional and industry conferences and seminars.

Benefits of the Project

The tragic events of 11 September 2001 revealed the profound vulnerability of the US transportation system. Intermodal passenger transportation has been largely neglected as a topic within the academic, government, and industry community in transportation. There is a need for more research in this area, and this project represents an important contribution toward achieving the development of an efficient intermodal passenger transportation system. No such system can succeed unless it is secure.

To date, the TSA has focused predominantly on airport and aircraft security, as those were the means by which terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon on 11 September. But the TSA's mandate is far wider than that and encompasses all modes of transportation. The federal emphasis on air transportation may lead terrorists to focus on more vulnerable portions of the transportation system. Disrupting intermodal connectivity could wreak serious damage on the economy.

Once the security requirements have been identified and catalogued, attempts will be made to analyze and assess the efficacy of the various security requirements imposed on the transportation industry. The vulnerability of the transportation system as a whole requires prudent regulation, which is both effective in prohibiting another terrorist event and avoids creating costly and inefficient barriers to the free flow of passengers and cargo, which may thereby jeopardize the economic health of the transport sector.

- This project contributes to the existing body of knowledge by going beyond existing research to provide a compilation of intermodal policies and identification of security laws and policies that impede seamless intermodalism;
- This research will affect or enhance other research or projects by providing a legal dimension not elsewhere covered;

- The results will be used to benefit the transportation industry, transportation lawyers, and government officials in informing them of what the legal “lay of the land” is; and,
- The customers or users of the findings would be transportation industry executives, transportation lawyers, and governmental policy makers.

TRB Keywords

Intermodal, Intercity Passenger Transportation, Bus, Rail, Air, Motor Carrier, Law, Regulation, Policy, Security