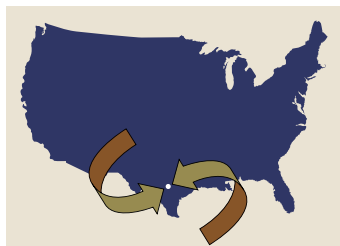


Top Research Innovations and Findings 2002

Guidebook for Inland Ports

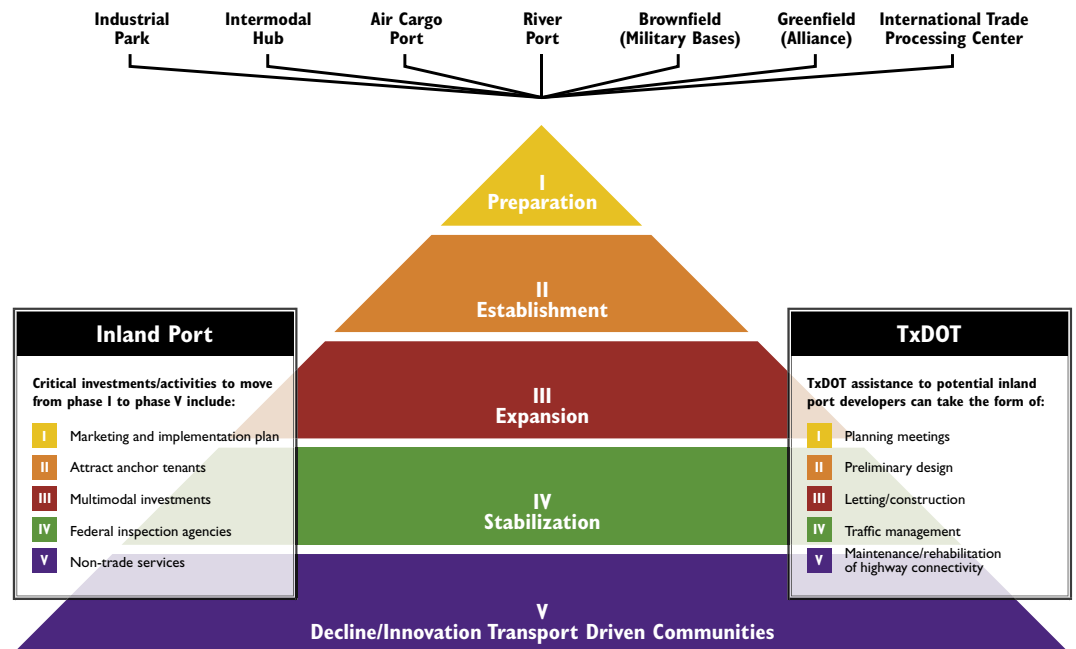
Project 0-4083: Impacts of Inland Ports on Trade Flows and Transportation in Texas

Inland ports have emerged as important nodes on U.S. transportation corridors. This research determined the characteristics that define an inland port and estimated their impact on transportation efficiencies in Texas. The study produced two reports and a guidebook to help planners understand how inland ports impact the transportation system, as well as how to accommodate inland ports into state transportation planning. Potential developers of inland ports who use the guidebook will better understand TxDOT's procedures and data requirements when working with the department.



What is an inland port?

An inland port is a site located away from traditional land, air, and coastal borders with the vision to facilitate and process international trade through strategic investments in multimodal transportation assets and by promoting value-added services as goods move through the supply chain.



2002 Benefits

The guidebook for inland ports will be a valuable tool to:

- Stimulate development of inland ports, like Alliance (Fort Worth) and Kelly USA (San Antonio), which provide transportation services and contribute to economic growth on transportation corridors.
- Assist in designing and operating true multimodal hubs with effective links to regional modal networks.
- Evaluate inland dry ports from a highway planning perspective, and should strengthen the Texas Statewide Transportation Plan.
- Assist potential developers of inland ports to better understand TxDOT's procedures and data requirements when seeking department assistance.
- Gauge the inland port's impact on the department's highway network. The guidebook includes an inland port "life-cycle" classification model that can be used by TxDOT planners.
- Encourage private participation and assistance in expediting the TxDOT planning process by providing resources, such as land, and finances. The latter could reach levels in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for larger sites.



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