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Collaboration in Regional Civilian and Military Transportation Planning

Abstract

The Strategic Mobility 21 (SM 21) Project is investigating new concepts for improving the utilization of the ports in Southern California for military and civilian purposes. Among project goals are justifying the building of new regional transportation infrastructure to both double the present throughput of container shipments through the ports as well as efficiently support the surge deployment and sustainment of US military combat assets through the ports. This paper describes how the SM 21 program is using web-based collaboration technologies including wikis, blogs; and M&S connectivity to address two key program areas: a regional planning interface that makes data, models, and analyses available to all stakeholders in an interactive and configurable manner and a specific interface that enables collaboration between military land transportation planners and military ship load planners. A goal of both efforts is to make significant improvements of both how information is shared and how the consequences of different courses of action are explored.
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Outline

1. Introduction (Strategic Mobility 21 research funded by ONR; project objectives)

2. The opportunity (state of military and civilian transportation planning and operations; requirements for military surge deployments; minimizing interference with civilian port operations; need to increase civilian throughput at ports)

2.1 Regional planning (current state and notable gaps; ineffective collaboration; data)

2.2 Military transportation planning (TC-AIMS II, ICODES, etc.; current gaps)

3. Background (review of past relevant research; our own work on collaboration on the DARPA IBC startup - presented at 10th ICCRTS; related work of others)

4. The SM 21 approach

4.1 Regional planning (describe the wiki based environment we have constructed and are using for regional planning; describe our approaches to key issues such as: understanding and using models, analysis, and data; wikis as persistent, evolving consensus; definition and interconnection of data and models; searching for relevant data; organizational and social issues; metrics to help understand the effectiveness of the wiki and the state of collaboration in each topic area)

4.2 Military transportation planning (TC-AIMS II, ICODES, etc.; current gaps; describe the wiki based interface we are developing for collaboration between military transportation planners (notable rail car load planning) and ship stow planners; visualization issues)

5 Conclusions and future work (including our SM 21 research plans for the next two years of the project)