



ARKANSAS COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS

JOHN THURSTON

- 
- ❑ Why Does The Land Commissioner Care About The Arkansas River Navigation System?
 - ❑ Why Are We Here?



Where Are We Now?



12' Channel Authorized
by Congress In 2004
through Public Law 108-
137 Sec. 136



90% of the MKARNS is already at 12' depth





Rivers at 12' Channel Depth

Lower Mississippi

Gulf Inter-Coastal
Waterway





Economic Benefits

- In 2011, over 10 million tons transported on the MKARNS
- The MKARNS currently transports nearly 3 billion dollars worth of commodities





Economic Benefits

- Value of cargo rising
- MKARNS has about 65 ports and terminals





Economic Benefits

- Provide increased access to major ports
- Port of South Louisiana, Port of New Orleans





Economic Benefits

In 2011, more than 17 billion dollars in
agricultural products exported
through Louisiana ports

(Source: World Trade Center New Orleans www.wtcno.org)

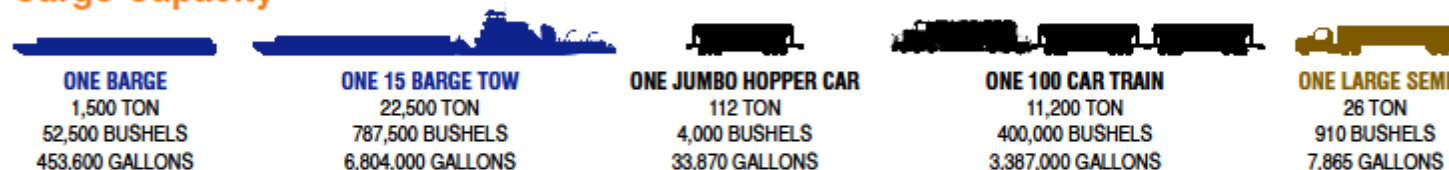
Lower transportation costs keep businesses in
business and attract *new* businesses

Compare...

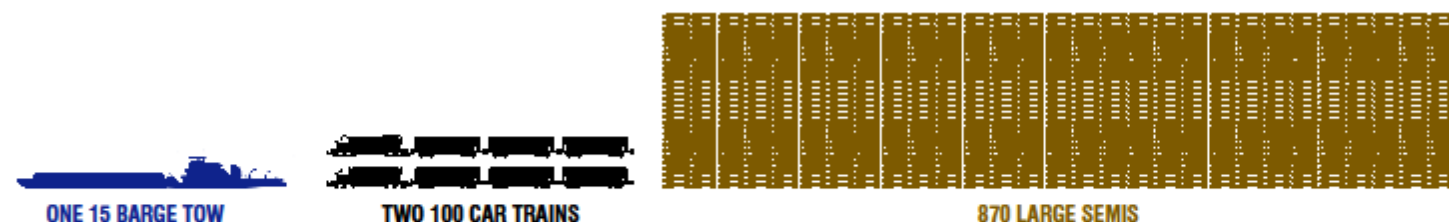


Source: Iowa Department of Transportation - 800 Lincoln Way - Ames, IA 50010 - 515-239-1520

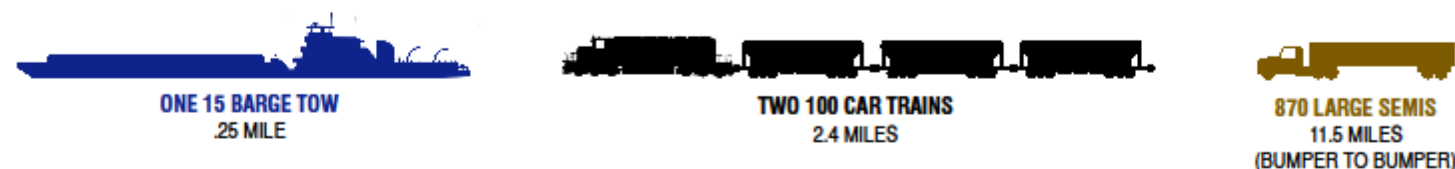
Cargo Capacity



Equivalent Units



Equivalent Lengths





What Are Other Economic Benefits?

What would the 12' channel mean to your District?



Environmental Benefits

Average Barge Tow

Per ton per gallon:

- 515 miles by barge
- 202 miles by rail
- 59 miles by truck

Average Barge Rates:

- 50% lower than rail
- 90% lower than tractor trailers



Environmental Benefits

- Reduced emissions
- One barge (1500 tons) = 60 tractor trailers
- With a 12' channel, one barge can hold 2000 tons = 80 tractor trailers





Where Are We Now?

4 Step Process:

- Authorize Study
- Fund Study
- Authorize Project
- Fund Project



What Are The Challenges We Face?

Waterways are funded by ¢20 per gallon tax on commercial users

The fund is empty because of major cost overruns on major projects (Olmsted Lock and Dam project)



What Are The Challenges We Face?

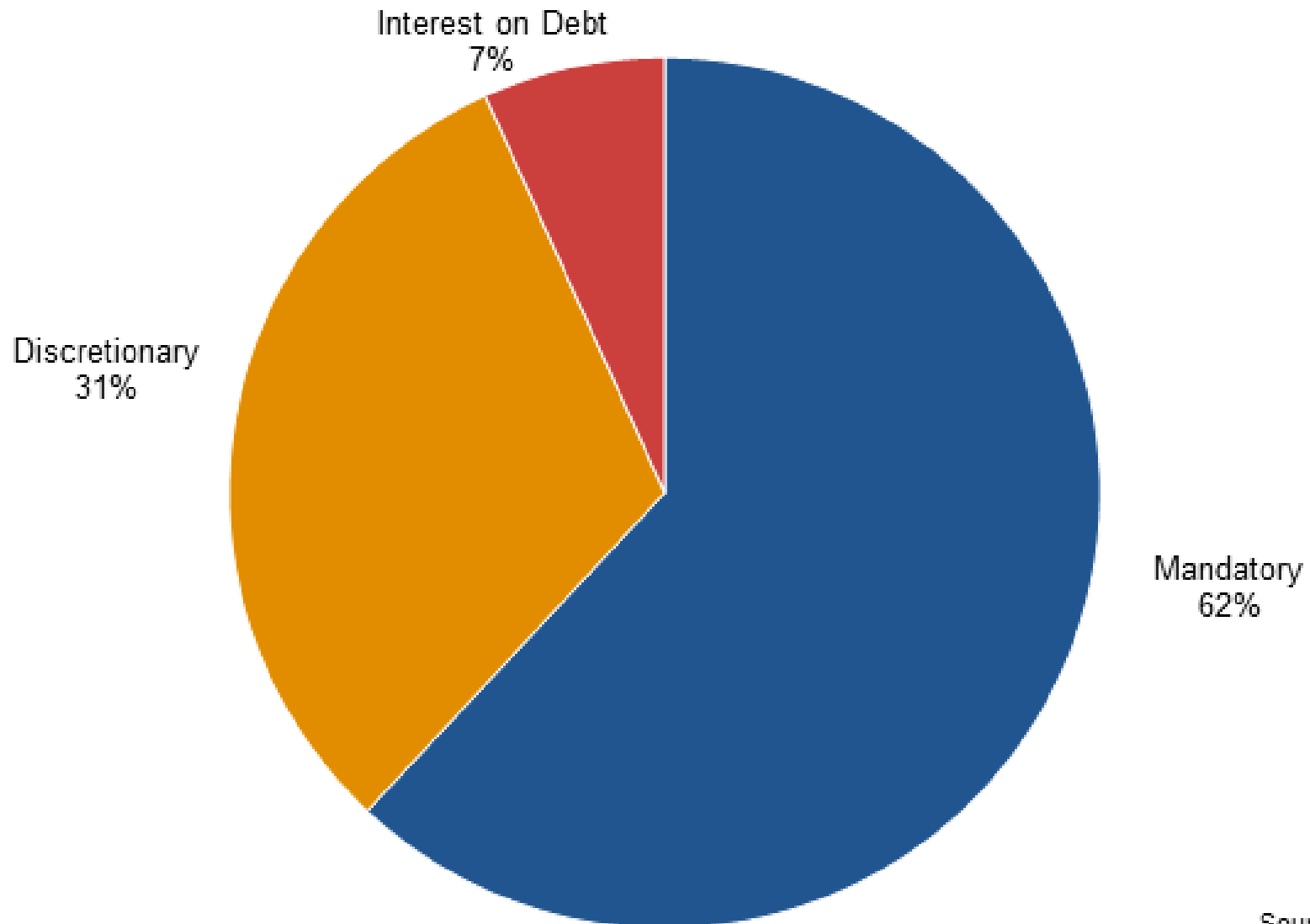
How Do We Fund Civil Works Projects?

Earmark Ban

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Senate

President's Proposed Mandatory and Discretionary Spending and Interest on Debt (FY 2013)



Source: OMB



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