

Transportation Information Update*

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September 2005, No. 13

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AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. WestJet shareholders approve amended capital structure, two classes of common shares created

On August 30, 2005, WestJet announced that the majority of its shareholders voted in favour of creating two new classes of shares to replace its common shares in order to address non-Canadian ownership limits. Non-Canadian ownership of airline voting shares is limited to 25% of outstanding shares.

2. WestJet tries to bring travel agents on side

WestJet has increased the commissions paid to travel agents from 9% to 12% for the month of September in its latest attempt to attract passengers from Air Canada and CanJet Airlines. The more commission the travel agents obtain from a particular airline the greater is the incentive for them to book travellers on it. WestJet's attempt to attract passengers was immediately matched by CanJet who increased their commissions. So far Air Canada has not reacted.

3. July load factors reach 79.6% - soaring oil prices make cost reduction critical

Statistics released by IATA show passenger growth of 8.5% for July 2005 and cargo growth of 2.2%. For the year-to-date, these statistics were 8.8% and 3.5%. The high load factors and fuel surcharges are helping the airlines mitigate the soaring price of fuel. It is the biggest factor forcing structural change and cost reduction.

4. WestJet commences service to Las Vegas

WestJet began its new non-stop service between Las Vegas and Toronto on September 5, 2005. Beginning October 6, 2005, Westjet will commence two non-stop return flights per week between Kelowna and Las Vegas, and Winnipeg and Las Vegas. Two additional non-stop return flights will be commenced per week between Calgary and Las Vegas, and Edmonton and Las Vegas.

5. Toronto hot on Vancouver's Asian heels

Toronto airport is rivalling Vancouver as a gateway to Asia. Toronto's airport has served as a hub for Air Canada's recent non-stop route expansion to Beijing, Tokyo, Hong Kong and New Delhi. It is more economical to fly non-stop to Asia as a stop over in Vancouver adds three and half hours to the 13-hour flight from Toronto to Beijing. One commentator indicated that there is great potential for both airports. Vancouver remains strong in the visiting friends and relatives market and Toronto is strong in the business travellers market. Air Canada indicated that Asian flights have become important in the airline's financial recovery.

6. Shanghai portion of Canada's transportation mission to China concludes

Transport Minister has concluded his business meetings in Shanghai, the middle portion of his mission to the People's Republic of China. The Shanghai portion of the mission focussed on marine, rail and intermodal transportation. The Minister of Transport launched the Canada-China Intermodal roundtable.

7. WestJet August load factor increases to 83.5%

WestJet's load factor for August 2005 increased 3.7% to 83.5% compared to 79.8% in August 2004. For the first eight months of 2005, the company's load factor increased 4% to 75% compared to 71% for the same period in 2004.

Current Developments in Brief

Air Transportation

CANADA

1. WestJet shareholders approve amended capital structure, two classes of common shares created, August 30, 2005, www.westjet.ca
2. WestJet tries to bring travel agents on side, *National Post*, August 31, 2005, p. FP6.
3. July load factors reach 79.6% - soaring oil prices make cost reduction critical, September 1, 2005, www.iata.org
4. WestJet commences service to Las Vegas, September 1, 2005, www.westjet.ca
5. Toronto hot on Vancouver's Asian heels, *Globe and Mail*, September 6, 2005, p. B3.
6. Shanghai portion of Canada's transportation mission to China concludes, September 6, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
7. WestJet August load factor increases to 83.5%, September 7, 2005, www.westjet.ca
8. Air Canada reports highest system load factor in airline's history for second consecutive month, September 8, 2005, www.aircanada.ca
9. Fuel costs lift hurdles for airlines, *National Post*, September 8, 2005, p. FP7.
10. Soaring fuel costs start to hit air travel sector, *Globe and Mail*, September 9, 2005, p. B6.
11. WestJet Announces Fuel Risk Management Strategy, September 8, 2005, www.westjet.ca
12. Soaring fuel costs cause turbulence for air carriers, *National Post*, Sept. 10, 2005, p. FP6.
13. Update on planning initiative for the federal Pickering lands, September 9, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
14. Airport debt deals take off, *National Post*, September 12, 2005, p. FP 10.
15. US \$7.4 billion losses for global aviation in 2005, September 12, 2005, www.iata.org
16. Air Canada stumbles on fashion runway, September 12, 2005, www.globeandmail.ca
17. Air Canada launches North America Unlimited Pass, 'an airline industry first?', September 13, 2005, www.nationalpost.ca
18. CHC Helicopter reports \$18.3 m quarterly profit, down 20% from year ago, September 13, 2005, www.nationalpost.ca
19. WestJet Announces Extended Service to Charlottetown, September 14, 2005, www.westjet.ca
20. WestJet maps ambitious Ontario flight plan, September 16, 2005, www.westjet.ca
21. Air Canada launches new flights, September 18, 2005, www.globeandmail.ca
22. Aeroplan to push members to boost mileage, *Globe and Mail*, September 19, pp. B1/B11.
23. Air Canada to benefit from US Air Merger, *Financial Post*, September 17, 2005, p. FP4.
24. Ottawa to raise foreign cap on airlines, September 20, 2005, www.globeandmail.ca
25. Aloha! WestJet announces all-jet service to Honolulu and Maui, September 20, 2005, www.westjet.ca

* The CTRF is not responsible for the information provided in this Update.

** The information provided is from the Authors and neither the Competition Bureau or Industry Canada is responsible for it.

8. Air Canada reports highest system load factor in airline's history for second consecutive month

Air Canada reported a 85.3% system passenger load factor and a 85.7% domestic passenger load factor for August 2005, the highest on record for any month. This is the seventeenth consecutive month of record load factors. They were 2.1 points and 3.8 points higher than the load factors in August 2004. Traffic for Air Canada and Jazz together rose 7%.

9. Fuel costs lift hurdles for airlines

Despite the increasing demand for air travel and the demise of Jetsgo which dragged down fares, the airlines are faced with other problems. The price of jet fuel has soared and Hurricane Katrina has had an impact on US Gulf coast petroleum production and refining. Both airlines have taken significant steps to deal with this. WestJet has sped up plans to replace its older aircraft and ACE Holdings has launched a fuel management program. The airlines have raised fares twice by introducing fuel surcharges. However, analysts feel that this is not enough and some say that smaller carriers may be forced out of business.

10. Soaring fuel costs start to hit air travel sector

The high cost of jet fuel has not only affected the aviation industry but also other holiday travel companies. Transat A.T. Inc.'s profit plunged 94% and WestJet has begun hedging. Transat has also begun examining the merits of converting to a trust which analysts claim is not ideally suited to it. In the meanwhile, to cope with higher fuel costs Transat has reintroduced a \$75 fuel surcharge on its Winter vacation packages. Other tour operators implementing fuel surcharges include Air Canada Vacations, Sunwing Vacations and Sunquest Vacations.

11. WestJet Announces Fuel Risk Management Strategy

WestJet indicated that seats are sold weeks or months before travel date and the price paid is based on the price of fuel on the date of purchase. As a result, the cost to fly a passenger can be considerably higher due to the rapidly increasing price of fuel. It has therefore announced that it has implemented a disciplined fuel-risk-management strategy using financial instruments to help mitigate the effects of volatile fuel prices.

12. Soaring fuel costs cause turbulence for air carriers

The US Air Transport Association plans to ask Washington for a 4.3 cents reprieve per gallon on jet fuel. This represents a \$600 million in tax relief for US carriers. This has raised concern among Canada's airlines as it would put them at a competitive disadvantage with US air carriers. The Vice-President of Air Transport Association of Canada has recommended that Ottawa abandon its excise tax on jet fuel, the second biggest cost of an airline after labour. This recommendation is similar to a recommendation made by the HOC Standing Committee on Transportation which called for reducing the excise tax by half for a minimum of two years.

13. Update on planning initiative for the federal Pickering lands

The Minister of Transport Canada announced that Transport Canada would coordinate further study on the role of airports in southern Ontario to accommodate future air traffic growth. The department will then be in a position to recommend whether or not to proceed with an environmental assessment for a future possible airport.

14. Airport debt deals take off

Aéroports de Montréal is expected to receive \$300 million from last weeks proceeds of its bond issue. This is the third time that Aéroports de Montréal has raised external capital. This will likely prepare the way for other airports such as Halifax and Winnipeg to raise capital in the near future. So far the Greater Toronto Authority is the only airport to have borrowed in public markets.

15. US \$7.4 billion losses for global aviation in 2005

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has revised its forecasted estimate of industry losses in the air industry for 2005. The original estimate was \$6 billion based on the average price of oil being \$47US per barrel. The revised estimate is a loss of \$7.4 billion based on the new average price of \$57US per barrel of oil. The Director General for IATA claimed that oil is once again robbing the industry of a return to profitability.

16. Air Canada stumbles on fashion runway

The latest fight between management and unions at Air Canada is about new uniforms. Management has received complaints about uniforms ranging from belts to dress design from the Canadian Union of Public Employees and

26. Agreements now in place with all unions in Canada, September 22, 2005, www.cpr.ca
27. Canada's Ministers of Transport Annual Meeting, September 22, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
28. National Highway system expansion announced, September 22, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
29. Canadian Transportation Awards winners announced, September 22, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
30. Air Canada and ACCA reach agreement on process to resolve issues relating to Boeing wide body order, September 23, 2005, www.aircanada.ca
31. Air Canada seeks union deal on planes, September 24, 2005, www.aircanada.ca
32. Union deal lets Air Canada buy Boeing jets, *National Post*, September 24, 2005, p. FP5.
33. Revamped Air Canada flies high a year after emerging from bankruptcy, September 26, 2005, www.nationalpost.ca
34. ACE Aviation completes investment in merged US Airways-America West carrier, September 28, 2005, www.aircanada.ca
35. IATA critical of EC plans to bring aviation into European emissions trading scheme, September 28, 2005, www.iata.org
36. Passenger growth slows in August - fuel prices begin to dampen, September 30, 2005, www.iata.org
37. Travel Advisory - Travel information for customers flying to, from, via the United States, September 29, 2005, www.aircanada.ca

US/EU

1. Airline crisis deepens, *National Post*, September 15, 2005, p. FP1.
2. Northwest, Delta expected to resemble discount rivals, *Globe and Mail*, September 16, 2005, p. B6.
3. Airline woes may trigger mergers, *Financial Post*, September 16, 2005, p. FP6.
4. Airline captive to costs and Competition, *Globe and Mail*, September 19, 2005, p. B8.
5. United States, Thailand Sign Open-Skies Aviation Agreement, September 19, 2005, www.dot.gov
6. BTS Releases Second Quarter 2005 Airline Financial Data: Regional Passenger Airlines and Low-Cost Airlines Report Domestic Profit; Network Carriers Report Loss, September 19, 2005, www.dot.gov
7. West Coast imports herald of peak season, September 20, 2005, www.joc.com
8. BTS Releases July passenger airline employment data: July, 2005 employment data down 2.9 percent from July 24, September 20, 2005, www.dot.gov
9. U.S. Mexico Agree on Expanded Aviation services, September 21, 2005, www.dot.gov

Canadian Auto Workers that represents flight attendants and airport counter staff, respectfully.

17. Air Canada launches North America Unlimited Pass, 'an airline industry first'?

Air Canada indicated that it will offer a subscription to unlimited flights, the airline industry's first. The price of a two month pass will be \$6,998, plus tax. The unlimited pass will offer holders 100 destinations served by Air Canada and subsidiary Jazz in Canada and the continental United States.

18. CHC Helicopter reports \$18.3 m quarterly profit, down 20% from year ago

CHC Helicopter indicated that it earned \$18.3 million or 40 cents per diluted share for the three months ended July 31, 2005 compared to \$22.3 million or 49 cents a year ago. Revenue in the first quarter of 2005 increased \$231.3 million up from \$225.5 million for the same period last year.

19. WestJet Announces Extended Service to Charlottetown

WestJet announced an extension of its non-stop service between Charlottetown and Toronto with six flights per week starting October 17, 2005. The new schedule also offers connecting flights to several other WestJet destinations.

20. WestJet maps ambitious Ontario flight plan

WestJet plans to expand in Ontario while maintaining its hold in the West. In addition, it plans to develop an in house vacation package, expand its cargo unit and attract more business travellers. The goal is to boost annual revenue to \$2 billion by 2007.

21. Air Canada launches new flights

Air Canada will have begun to Hamilton from Montreal and Ottawa. Air Canada Jazz will operate four daily non-stop flights between Hamilton and Montreal and three daily direct flights between Ottawa and Hamilton using 50-seat regional jets. Hamilton was abandoned earlier by WestJet and Canjet.

22. Aeroplan to push members to boost mileage

Aeroplan is planning in the Fall of 2005 to encourage members to earn more miles than they normally would. They plan to do this by encouraging members to earn miles at new partners such as Esso, Bell, Future Shop, etc. besides the traditional members such as CIBC VISA and American Express. Getting more members to earn more miles means Aeroplan gets more revenue on the books. It increases Aeroplan's cash flow. It also generates a wealth effect to its members.

23. Air Canada to benefit from US Air Merger

The merger between US Airways and America West Airlines will benefit Air Canada as it will generate \$1.5 billion worth of maintenance contracts for ACE Aviation Holdings. ACE has also agreed to sink US \$75million into the merger in exchange for a seat on the new airlines's board of directors and commitments for \$1.5 billion worth of outsourced maintenance and overhaul contracts to Air Canada Technical Services (ACTS) over a five year period. ACE may also consider selling part of ACTS as it did with regard to Aeroplan. The downsizing that is occurring at Delta and Northwest Airlines may also benefit Air Canada as it could reduce their capacity on transborder routes.

24. Ottawa to raise foreign cap on airlines

Transport Minister said that Ottawa plans to raise foreign ownership limits on Canadian airlines to 49% from 25% because greater investment by non-residents would strengthen the domestic industry. ACE Aviation Holdings Inc. (Air Canada's parent), Westjet and Transat all support the higher cap. The Minister also indicated he will not be advocating any more breaks in rent and indicated that though he is committed to liberalizing Canada-US air-policy, cabotage is not being considered.

25. Aloha! WestJet announces all-jet service to Honolulu and Maui

WestJet indicated that it will offer five flights a week to Honolulu starting December 9, 2005 and two flights a week to Maui starting December 17, 2005. The flights will be from Vancouver to these markets.

26. Agreements now in place with all unions in Canada

Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) announced that a five-year collective agreement has been ratified by employees who maintain railway signal systems. The agreement extends till December 31, 2009. CPR has collective agreements in place with all its employees.

27. Canada's Ministers of Transport Annual Meeting

Canada's Ministers of Transport are to meet on September 22, 2005 in Calgary, Alberta.

28. National Highway system expansion announced

At their meeting in Calgary on September 22, 2005, the Council of Ministers responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety agreed to expand the National Highway System following a report and recommendations by the National Highway System Review Task Force. These roads are being expanded because of their strategic importance to Canada. **29.**

Canadian Transportation Awards winners announced

Transport Minister and the President of Transport Association of Canada announced the winners of the 2005 Canadian Transportation Awards. The three awards were presented to: Mr. Dan Doyle of British Columbia (Person of the Year); Mr. Di Tota of Operation Lifesaver and Mr. Lawson of Transport Canada (Award of Excellence); and Mr. Carrasco of Transoft Solutions Inc. (Award of Achievement).

30. Air Canada and ACPA [Air Canada Pilots Association] agreement on process to resolve issues relating to Boeing wide body order

On September 23, Air Canada indicated that it had reached an agreement with ACCA on a process to resolve all issues relating to the airliners's acquisition of Boeing 777 and 787 aircraft. Subject to a satisfactory outcome, Air Canada would re-engage Boeing to conclude an agreement.

31. Air Canada seeks union deal on planes

Air Canada is trying to revive a \$6 billion order for new Boeing wide-body aircraft by asking a mediator to help resolve union dispute over pilot seniority.

32. Union deal lets Air Canada buy Boeing jets

Air Canada and its pilots' union have reached an agreement that should clear the way for the airline to buy jets from Boeing Co. Earlier in the year Air Canada was forced to cancel deal after the pilots voted against a tentative deal.

33. Revamped Air Canada flies high a year after emerging from bankruptcy

After reducing its debts and labour costs and reworking its operations Air Canada has been doing well after emerging from bankruptcy. The impact of rising cost of fuel has somewhat been dealt with surcharges and other price increases. But it is expected to have an impact in the long run. However, if the economy remains healthy, business travel holds and vacation travel to the South in the winter is maintained the results in the next quarter will not show any deterioration.

34. ACE Aviation completes investment in merged US Airways-America West carrier

ACE Aviations Holdings Inc. announced on September 27, 2005 that it has completed its US \$75 million investment in the merged US airways-America West entity following successful exit from bankruptcy.

35. IATA critical of EC plans to bring aviation into European emissions trading scheme

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) sharply criticised the European Commission's plan to bring air transport into the EI's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Since air transport is a global industry and the environment is a global concern, IATA was of the opinion that a European solution is a regional effort and was not a solution. It would only act as a distraction from finding a true solution.

36. Passenger growth slows in August - fuel prices begin to dampen

IATA indicated that for August 2005, growth in international passenger and cargo traffic was 6.1% and 2.8%, respectively. This indicates a slowing down as revealed in the statistics for the first seven months of 2005 namely 8.3% and 3.6%. IATA attributes this decline to the rise in oil and gasoline prices.

37. Travel Advisory - Travel information for customers flying to, from, via the United States

As of October 4, 2005, the US Department of Homeland Security will require additional information upon check-in for passengers flying to, from and via the United States.

WATER TRANSPORTATION

1. Vancouver containers up 5%

The Port of Vancouver reported overall growth of 4% in the first half of 2005 and a 5% rise in containers from 809,453 to a record 853,258 TEUs. The port strike is expected to impact container volumes in the third quarter.

2. CMA CGM won't bid for CP Ships

CMA CGM indicated that it will not make a counter offer for CP Ships given the current offer by Hapag-Lloyd. There were rumours that both CMA CGM and China Shipping Group had been considering bids. The Chinese company also decided not to make an offer given concerns over US security issues.

Water Transportation

Canada

1. Vancouver containers up 5%, September 8, 2005, www.joc.com
2. CMA CGM won't bid for CP Ships, September 16, 2005, www.joc.com

US/EU

1. Asia cargo fuels growth at NY-NY port, September 1, 2005, www.joc.com
2. Five-year extension for New World Alliance, September 9, 2005, www.joc.com
3. FMC OKS NVO service agreements for shippers' group, September 23, 2005, www.joc.com

RAIL TRANSPORTATION

1. Sulphur-loaded CN train derails in B.C.

There has been another CN train derailment near Cheam, British Columbia. It is not known how many cars left the track. The train was loaded with dry sulphur. CN's railway is calling for a federal inquiry to look into safety issues and staff cutbacks.

2. CPR [Canadian Pacific Railway] Western Capacity Program on track

CPR has indicated that its \$160 million Western Corridor Expansion Program is

on schedule with 70 per cent of the work completed. This program is in addition to its planned capital investment program of approximately \$760 million. These programs are being undertaken to expand its capacity to move more bulk

Rail Transportation

Canada

1. Sulphur-loaded CN train derails in B.C., September 1, 2005, www.nationalpost.ca
2. CPR Western Capacity Program on track, September 2, 2005, www.cpr.ca
3. CN and steel workers agree to forge new working relationship, September 9, 2005, www.cn.ca

commodities and resources to the Port of Vancouver to meet the demand of Asian markets.

3. CN and steel workers agree to forge new working relationship

CN and the United Steelworkers (USW) announced they have agreed to build a better working relationship. USW represents about 3,000 employees who maintain and repair CN's track, bridges and structures in Canada.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

1. International travel account

Canada's international travel deficit reached its highest level in 12 years for the second quarter of 2005 as spending by Canadians abroad reached an all-time high of \$ 5,713 million. The deficit (the difference between spending by Canadian residents abroad and spending by foreigners in Canada) reached an estimated \$1.5 billion up \$71million for the first quarter of the 2005.

2. Characteristics of international travellers

Canadian residents made over 2 million overnight trips to overseas countries during the first three months of 2005, a 7.9% increase from the same quarter last year. Trips to the US were 3.3 million an increase of 11%.

3. For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers

The number of for-hire trucking companies (with revenue \$1 million or more) for the first quarter of 2005 increased to 3,309 compared with 3,260 for the first quarter of 2004. Operating revenues increased 3.2% to \$6.36 billion and operating expenses increased 1.4% to \$5.93 billion for the above periods. The operating ratio improved to .93 compared to .95

4. VIVA Rapid transit takes to the streets of York Region -from a to being on the move

On September 6, 2005, VIVA, the first bus rapid transit service of its kind in the Greater Toronto Area was launched. The Minister of Transport said it is great news for the commuters of York Region. As population grows, the need for strong public transportation becomes critical to ending gridlock in our community. The Governments of Canada and Ontario each contributed \$50million to the first phase of this initiative under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

5. Construction underway to complete twinning of Trans-Canada highway in New Brunswick

The Government of Canada and the Province of New Brunswick officially launched the final phase of construction for the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway in New Brunswick. The project is being jointly funded by a \$400 million cost-shared agreement between the governments of Canada and New Brunswick.

6. Large urban transit

Ridership on the ten large urban transit systems was 1.6% higher in July than it was for the same month a year ago in 2004. These systems account for 80% of total urban transit in Canada. The 97.7 million passenger trips generated \$158.3 million revenue in July, 2005, a 4.7% increase over July of 2004.

7. National Highway System

In 1987, the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety commissioned a study to establish criteria to define a National Highway System. The was accomplished and endorsed in 1988. In September 2003, the Council of Deputy Ministers directed a review of the highway system route to assess whether conditions have changed. In September 23, 2004, as a result of changes, the Council of Ministers agreed to add approximately 2,700 kilometres of additional routes. These routes together with those existing in 1988 are considered the core system. On September 22, 2005, the Council approved the Task Force's recommendation of adding about 4,500 kilometres of feeder routes, 5,900 kilometres of northern and remote routes, key intermodal connectors and corrections to the system.

8. Couriers and Messengers Service Price Index

The Couriers and Messengers Services Price Index was up .6% from July to August 2005. The courier portion and local messengers component also rose 0.6%.

9. Vancouver's Main Street poised to be a national transit showcase

Vancouver's Main Street is being renewed as part of the Urban Transportation Showcase Program. In total, the Program

Current Developments in Brief

Highway Transportation

CANADA

1. International travel account, *The Daily*, August 29, 2005, www.statcan.ca
2. Characteristics of international travellers, *The Daily*, August 29, 2005, www.statcan.ca
3. For-hire motor carriers of freight, all carriers, *The Daily*, September 2, 2005, www.statcan.ca
4. VIVA Rapid transit takes to the streets of York Region -from a to being on the move, September 7, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
5. Construction underway to complete twinning of Trans-Canada highway in New Brunswick, September 13, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
6. Large urban transit, September 23, 2005, www.statcan.ca
7. National Highway System, September 22, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
8. Couriers and Messengers Service Price Index, *The Daily*, August 26, 2005.
9. Vancouver's Main Street poised to be a national transit showcase, September 26, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
10. The Cumulative impact of US import compliance programs at the Canada/US land border on the Canadian trucking industry, September 29, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
11. Official launch will celebrate iXPRESS service, September, 29, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca

US/EU

1. BTS Releases North American surface trade numbers for June: June surface trade with Canada and Mexico rose 7.2 percent from June 2004, August 29, 2005, www.dot.gov

is providing more than \$8 million in federal funding.

10. The cumulative impact of US import compliance programs at the Canada/US land border on the Canadian trucking industry

Several security measures and compliance programs have been put in place since September 2001 both in the US and Canada that impact trade flows. A study commissioned by various transport groups found that truck delay is the key factor in the cost impact of the US security measures on Canadian trucking. Other more visible costs are: driver training costs, investment in security installation, administrative and data transmission costs; and additional investments in programming and computer system costs. Estimates of the cost impacts range from \$179 million to \$406 million per annum. Assuming a mid range estimate of \$290 million, this amounts to 4% of total Canadian for-hire long-distance trucking industry transborder expenses. The study also revealed other findings such as the security measures are exacerbating driver shortage, the economic impact extends beyond trucking, etc.

11. Official launch will celebrate iXPRESS service

The opening of iXpress bus service was officially launched on September 6, 2005. It offers fast, limited stop, direct bus service from Contestoga Mall in Waterloo to the Ainslie Street Bust Terminal in Cambridge.

GENERAL

1. Transport Minister completes Beijing portion of Canada's transportation mission to China

Transport Minister has successfully completed his official business in Beijing, the first part of his mission to China. A highlight of the Beijing portion of the mission was the highly successful Canada-China Aviation Symposium. After the symposium, the Minister participated in a number of bilateral meetings. He also signed a memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation on Civil Aviation Safety .

2. Transport Minister concludes successful mission to China with visit to Hong Kong

Transport Minister has concluded his very successfully transportation mission to the People's Republic to China with a visit to Hong Kong. He began his visit by addressing the Chamber of Commerce and then held a series of bilateral meetings with a series of Hong Kong leaders. He then met with the Secretary of Economic Development and Chairman of Orient Overseas Container Lines. Other highlights of the mission include events on: aviation, rail, marine, tourism and trade.

Current Developments in Brief

General

CANADA

1. Transport Minister completes Beijing portion of Canada's transportation mission to China, September 2, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca
2. Transport Minister concludes successful mission to China with visit to Honk Kong, September 8, 2005, www.tc.gc.ca

Publications

1. *ECMT Newsletter*, September 2005, Issue No. 19, www.cemt.org
2. The Final Report, The Cumulative impact of US import compliance programs at the Canada/US land border on the Canadian trucking industry, www.tc.gc.ca

Conferences

1. WESTAC Semi-Annual Meeting, October 18-19, 2005 - Transportation for 21st Century Prairie Economies.
2. Northern Transportation Conference, November 8-10, 2005, Yellowknife, NWT.
3. International Conference on Fatigue Management in Transportation Operations, September 12-15, Seattle, Washington, U.S.