**Future Freight Flows**

**Scenario Planning Workshop**

Welcome to the Future Freight Flows workshop. The objective of this workshop is to think how we should prioritize investments into various segments of the freight infrastructure for a long-term future. Here, long-term means 30 years. Since forecasting the demand for the freight infrastructure 30 years from now is extremely difficult, we instead think of multiple – and very different – plausible scenarios of the world that the freight infrastructure may have to serve. MIT’s Center for Transportation & Logistics created has created four such scenarios specifically for this project.

In the Future Freight Flows workshop, we invite a select group of individuals – you being one of them – to bear their knowledge and insights to identify the implications of these different scenarios on the selected segments of the freight infrastructure. In the first half of this workshop, you will immerse yourself in one scenario. You will identify the implications of this scenario for the freight environment and vote how various freight infrastructure segments should be prioritized to prepare for this scenario. In the second half, we will bring together the insights from all the scenarios to understand how we should think about investing in the segments by considering these diverse scenarios. You will get to see the other scenarios and their implications in this half of the workshop.

**Key things to keep in mind as you participate in this exercise:**

* The scenarios you will use are **not** forecasts. They are *thinking devices* created to *stress-test* our investment decisions.
* You will work with individuals with different backgrounds than yours. Just because their views are different from yours does not mean they (or yours) are wrong – you just have different perspectives. In fact, there will be very different views in each group, because we have assembled the groups with people who view the transportation system from different angles. We encourage you to build on the insights of your team mates.
* Your most valuable contribution is your insightful engagement in the workshop.

We look forward to having an exciting workshop with you!