

## ITA/IRF POSITION REGARDING THE BERING STRAIT TUNNEL

### Submitted by the ITA/IRF

In the context of today's growing demand for transport services, motorisation and congestion, we believe effective solutions lie with intermodal systems. To create a favourable environment for efficient intermodal systems close cooperation among the various modes of transport is essential. The IRF has always been in favour of intermodal transport solutions and would like to reiterate that each intermodal link starts and ends with a road.

Since tunnels are part of the transport infrastructure, IRF attaches great importance that such ambitious projects be carried out to highest standards enabling safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Even though this particular tunnel will not be a road tunnel, the IRF partners with ITA in support of this project.

ITA and its members have always supported the promotion of transnational tunnels including subsea tunnels. As an example, ITA has conducted numerous workshops and conference sessions on planning, design and construction of the Channel Tunnel and the planning and design of the Gibraltar Tunnel.

The Bering Strait tunnel project concerns two of ITA's Member Nations, the United States and Russia, and several others indirectly. There are, of course, many issues to be resolved including technical, financial, political, environmental, public relations, etc. To resolve these issues will require additional careful and broad ranging studies and investigations. However, we believe the pursuit of the Bering Strait tunnel and the conduct of the associated studies could be of great value as a project alone but equally to the underground and transportation industry, in general.

As we have demonstrated on similar projects, ITA is prepared to contribute to these studies by assisting in the organization of workshops, seminars, etc., on appropriate topics and issues to further our knowledge and undertaking of this project.

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