

## C. James (Jim) Kruse

*Texas A&M Transportation Institute*

As director of the Center for Ports and Waterways at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, C. James (Jim) Kruse administers research involving waterborne freight transportation and its multimodal connections—work that covers a range of ever-changing topics, from economic analyses of ports and waterways to statistical evaluations of vessel traffic to innovative intelligent transportation system technologies.

“Marine transportation is something very few individuals interact with on a frequent basis, yet it is absolutely vital for a growing and healthy economy,” Kruse observes. “Consumer goods, raw materials, oil—it all gets here by ship.”

Kruse is conducting research to determine the best use of automated identification service data in assessing the performance of marine activities in a port complex, part of a nation-

Authority to advise her on border issues.

After leaving Brownsville, Kruse joined Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation as a regional program manager for the Ports, Harbors, and Waterways Program. He assisted with port-related projects around the country, including a dredging management action plan for the Maine Department of Transportation, analysis of nearshore fill issues for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, assistance with oversight of the Alexander Island spill cleanup in Texas, and dredging and infrastructure improvements at the Port of Pascagoula in Mississippi.

“Technology and new sources of information are leading the marine transportation industry into an era of unprecedented change,” Kruse comments. “The use of new technology tools presents unique challenges in marine transportation. The field is wide open to those who can devise the best way to use technology to improve the management and control of marine assets.”

Kruse was an early member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Task Force on Marine Environmental Issues, which became a full committee in 2008. He assisted with paper review coordination for several years and has chaired the committee since 2012, serving as its representative to the Marine Group. He also was active in the Standing Committee on Ports and Channels from 2003 to 2013 and recently rejoined. In addition, he held membership in



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wide effort to develop adequate metrics for freight fluidity within specific supply chains. He recently has assessed the impact of the expanded Panama Canal on ports in the Gulf of Mexico and has conducted a peer review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Category 3 Commercial Marine Bunker Fuel Demand Update.”

“For our work to make a difference, we researchers must be able to provide context for the data we generate,” Kruse notes. “We need to help the reader understand the story the data tell and what the possible responses to the data may be. Information alone without context or analysis is not very useful.”

Kruse received a master’s degree in international business and human resources from Houston Baptist University and a master’s of business administration from the University of Kansas. From 1988 to 1997, he served in a senior executive capacity at the Port of Brownsville, Texas, including eight years as port director. He led a successful effort to acquire a presidential permit for the New International Bridge Crossing between Brownsville and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Kruse supervised the planning, design, and implementation of \$100 million in facility improvements at the port. Then-Governor Ann Richards also appointed him to the Texas–Mexico

the Standing Committee on Inland Water Transportation from 2007 to 2013 and was appointed by the National Academies to the policy study committee on Reinvesting in Inland Waterways: What Policy Makers Need to Know. The policy study was published in 2015. Kruse also has participated in TRB meetings and conferences, as a moderator for a 2009 TRB Annual Meeting session on Climate Change and Maritime Transportation and as a member of the planning committee for the 2018 research development conference cosponsored biennially in Washington, D.C., by TRB and the Committee on the Marine Transportation System.

Kruse has served as principal investigator on three National Cooperative Freight Research Program projects: North American Marine Highways, Marine Highway Transport of Toxic Inhalation Hazard Materials, and Integrating Marine Transportation System (MTS) Commerce Data with Multimodal Freight Transportation Performance Measures to Support MTS Maintenance Investment Decision Making.

Kruse has completed appointments to many local, state, and national boards and task forces and is a member of the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Committee. Fluent in Spanish, he has worked on projects in Latin America.