**Project Title:** Northern Mississippi Railway Intermodal Alternatives Assessment

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**TRB Keywords:** Workforce Development: intermodal effectiveness, economic competitiveness, workforce capacity, infrastructure investment, rail

**NCITEC Funds:** $25,000

**Matching Funds:** $25,000

**Project Summary**

This proposal focuses on identifying shippers and consignees within a 60-mile radius of the 206 miles of railway in north Mississippi that have potential to ship, or receive, material by rail, or by an intermodal combination including the Grenada railway. Identifying industries, manufacturers and business customers that could be potential customers of the Grenada railway accomplishes this. The ultimate goal is to provide the gathered material to the Grenada Economic Development District.

The project targets over $25,000 in tangible economic impact annually, which will fully return the federal award. In addition, the program results in an assessment tool that may be utilized at all of Mississippi’s intermodal sites in future projects and a technical report will be submitted to NCITEC. Mississippi State University (CAVS – Extension) personnel will conduct this project.

The proposed project is a good fit for NCITEC because (1) this proposed project has a strong intermodal focus. The information gathering will involve participants within the intermodal supply chain. Also, the proposed project has received encouragement from the state’s intermodal transportation leadership; (2) it addresses safety by helping planners decide where additional loading facilities might be required; and (3) it will immediately impact decision-makers within the NCITEC region.