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New PierPASS Survey Shows OffPeak Program Delivers For Port Truck Drivers

Reduced Traffic Congestion and Increased Trips Highlight PierPASS Trucker Poll at Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach

LONG BEACH, Calif., June 28, 2006 – PierPASS Inc. today released the results of an opinion survey recently conducted with truck drivers servicing the marine terminals of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. According to the poll, the majority of drivers working in and around the port complexes report an overall positive opinion of the OffPeak program and the benefits of OffPeak's new night and Saturday shifts. Among the detailed results, the survey found that truck drivers credit PierPASS' initiative with reducing traffic congestion, increasing the number of trips drivers can make during a work shift, raising individual driver income levels and providing for more flexible work schedules. The 480 drivers surveyed represented more than 180 trucking companies.

The interview-based poll was completed and verified by the Santa Monica-based opinion research firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates (FMM&A) for PierPASS, a not-for-profit company created by marine terminal operators to address multi-terminal issues such as congestion, security and air quality at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports.

"The survey results really speak for themselves," says FMM&A partner Richard Maullin. "Less than one year after OffPeak was introduced, a substantial majority of truck drivers who serve the ports are well aware of OffPeak, have a favorable opinion of it and cite significant benefits for their working and personal lives. From the truck drivers' perspective, PierPASS' OffPeak is working."

Conducted between May 18 and May 27, the wide-ranging survey finds that 83 percent of those truck drivers surveyed are familiar with the OffPeak program. Among these truckers, 66 percent view the addition of night gates and Saturday operations as a positive development for their work. Seventy-one percent report overall reduced traffic, while 65 percent say they have more flexible work schedules. Additionally, a full one-third of those truck drivers surveyed (33 percent) report higher earnings since the program was introduced in July 2005.



Highlighting the positive impact of the additional OffPeak gates, forty-three percent of OffPeak-aware truckers confirm that they are making more trips per shift since OffPeak began. Significantly, the percentage of truckers reporting that they make four or more trips during a shift shot up 10 percent. “This is good news for the cargo movement industry and the neighboring communities of both ports,” says PierPASS President and CEO Bruce Wargo. “An increase in trips per shift indicates a more efficient process is at work. The result is less traffic congestion and potentially less air pollution from the reduction of long lines and idling truck engines.”

Survey results show that 67 percent of truckers aware of OffPeak have experienced less congestion outside of the terminal gates, while 55 percent acknowledge an overall improvement of congestion inside the terminal facilities. When asked specifically about local daytime traffic conditions on the 110 and 710 freeways, those responding, by a ratio of ten to one, said that OffPeak has promoted positive change.

“Shorter lines and shorter waiting times mean the terminals and the truck drivers are functioning more efficiently and profitably,” Wargo says. “Just one year ago we were being told that the truckers wouldn’t even show up for the night gates. And while the shift of nearly 35 percent of the cargo to OffPeak gates has shown the operational success of the program, it is gratifying to see that OffPeak is making the truck drivers more successful. They have a tough job, and PierPASS is glad that we’re making that job easier and more profitable.”

The survey was administered to 480 truck drivers working in the San Pedro Basin port area. Polling was conducted in equal numbers among three shifts: weekday daytime hours (3 a.m. to 6 p.m.), OffPeak hours (Monday – Thursday, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.) and Saturday (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Research subjects were interviewed at locations at or near marine terminal gates. The poll’s margin for error as a whole is plus or minus 4.6 percent.

About PierPASS

PierPASS is a not-for-profit company created by marine terminal operators at the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports to address multi-terminal issues such as congestion, security and air quality. For more information, please go to www.pierpass.org.

About Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates (FMM&A) is a California corporation specializing in independent public policy-oriented opinion research since 1981. The firm offers a full range of opinion research, communications strategy and consulting services to assist public agencies, private corporations, government and community leaders and political candidates. FMM&A conducts opinion research studies throughout the U.S., Latin America and Europe.

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