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PierPASS Survey Shows Port Truck Drivers Stay Positive on OffPeak

New Poll at Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach Shows Trips Numbers and Earnings on the Rise; Points to Available Capacity

LONG BEACH, Calif., February 6, 2007 – PierPASS Inc. today released the finding of its third opinion survey conducted with truck drivers servicing the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Highlighted in the poll results are an increased number of trips truckers make per shift, continued acknowledgement of traffic reduction at the ports and the recognized benefit of a flexible work schedule due to the OffPeak program. A growing number of the truckers also report higher earnings since the OffPeak program was initiated in July 2005, continuing a trend noted in a benchmark survey conducted in May of last year.

Compiled and verified for PierPASS by the Santa Monica-based opinion research firm Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates (FMM&A), the poll was conducted between November 27 and December 9 among a pool of 451 drivers serving all container terminals of the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long Beach.

The OffPeak program is a nationally recognized traffic mitigation initiative managed by PierPASS. Since July 2005, OffPeak has enabled weeknight and Saturday shifts at marine terminal gates, easing congestion on roads and in terminals during peak daytime hours.

"The news here is that OffPeak continues to impress, with drivers reporting higher earnings and more trips per shift," says FMM&A partner Richard Maullin. "In addition, new questions added since the May 2006 survey provided solid data on why the later hours of OffPeak shifts are being underutilized, with a full one quarter of drivers citing lack of customer demand."

Among truckers aware of the OffPeak program, 61 percent rate OffPeak positively, a slight decrease from the May survey findings that remains within the poll's statistical margin of error. Keeping pace with the May results, over two-thirds reported both reduced traffic congestion (67 percent) and more flexible work schedules (66 percent) since the program began. Drivers also confirmed making more delivery trips than reported in the previous survey, with 45 percent confirming an overall increase in trips, up slightly from May. More detailed information shows that 64 percent of all drivers are currently



making three trips or more per shift, compared with 58 percent just six months ago. Highlighting this continuing positive cargo movement trend, more drivers reported higher earnings, a move from 34 to 37 percent since the May survey.

“Given the number of changes in the air that may affect the jobs of truckers at the ports, it is gratifying to know that the benefits of OffPeak have staying power,” says PierPASS President and CEO Bruce Wargo. “With up-ticks in the number of turns per shift and more drivers taking home more pay as our reality check, we remain on track to change the dynamics of the ports.”

The polling data also confirmed that there is room for immediate growth of the program through underutilized OffPeak hours. According to the survey findings, 25 percent of those who responded that they are not currently working in the later hours of the OffPeak shifts – Monday through Thursday between midnight and 3 a.m. – identified a lack of scheduled delivery runs by their trucking company as the reason. The same percentage also confirmed that lack of scheduled runs prevents them from making deliveries after 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

“We view trucker observations as an early-warning system for issues that deserve our attention,” says Wargo. “With a full one-quarter of truckers responding that not being sent by their company prevents them from using early morning gates during the week and late afternoon gates on Saturdays, we see an issue and an opportunity. If we can get cargo moving more aggressively during all our OffPeak hours, it will open up additional capacity at the ports and maximize the value of our program.”

The survey 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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