Tenth CITT Town Hall Meeting
Closing remarks
Domenick Miretti, PhD.

This evening’s 10th Annual Town Hall meeting marks a milestone in the development of a series of neutral educational forums all designed to present and discuss relevant issues affecting the goods movement industry.

Dave Kelly’s masterfully crafted video, shown earlier, reminded us of previous Town Hall topics.

Our Town Hall topic this evening, “The Decade Ahead, Jobs, Cargo, Competition and You,” raised a number of challenging questions and concerns. What motivates supply chain decision makers to see an alternate port of entry for their discretionary cargo, normally headed for our shores? Will the ports of San Pedro Bay continue to be the gateway to Pacific Rim trade, and when can we expect job activity to increase in our local ports?

Paul Bingham’s presentation on recent trends in international trade and insightful answers given by our panelists has helped us better understand out present global economic crisis and competition from other ports.

The first Town Hall meeting was started in the face of considerable skepticism. It was said the CITT would never be able to present an ILWU Town Hall meeting that was purely educational, orderly and well attended. Fortunately, they were wrong.

Over the past decade the Town Hall Series has been well received, well attended, and has received praise and awards from many sectors.

Without a doubt the CITT Town Hall venue has been unique, creative, and trend setting.
1. It created a neutral educational forum bringing together all industry stakeholders in a spirit of engagement, cooperation and consensus, seeking solutions to goods movement problems.
2. The Town Halls helped create a broader understanding and respect for individual stakeholder needs, and eliminated finger pointing. It’s not always the other guy’s fault.
3. Award winning videos were created, setting the stage for each Town Hall meeting, and numerous white papers were written providing an overview and analysis of most events.
4. Involvement with the U.S. Department of Transportation and Caltrans has generated an ongoing effort to both expand and improve goods movement research and development.
5. Above all else, the hallmark of our decade of Town Hall meetings has been the community and industry outreach of two university centers, CITT at CSULB and METRANS at USC and CSULB, both are committed to education, community involvement and goods movement research.
A decade of Town Hall events didn’t just happen with the snap of a finger. Putting together such a program was a formidable undertaking and required the skill, hard work, and dedication of many individuals and organizations.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge and honor such efforts:

CITT’s Executive Director Marianne Venieris and METRANS under the leadership of Gen Giuliano, both guided by their Policy and Steering Committees, have been the driving force behind the success of this decade old program.

California State University Long Beach along with its University College and Extension Services must be commended for its ongoing commitment to industry and community outreach. Their unwavering support of the Town Hall meetings provided an academic atmosphere that has facilitated greater trust and cooperation among labor, industry, and the community.

The CITT and METRANS partnership has literally *brought the university to the docks and the docks to the university*—without a doubt a unique and monumental achievement.

Let’s not forget the administrative staff working behind the scenes ensuring that all program events ran smoothly.

Vicki Valentine at USC and Alix Traver at CSULB and support staff all earn A’s for their tireless efforts.

Monetary contributions large and small, woven together, have created the economic fabric from which a decade old tapestry of events has been crafted.

All Town Hall meeting have been staged free of charge thanks to USDOT and Caltrans funding channeled through the METRANS Transportation Center.

We thank all entities and organizations who have contributed to the financial success of the Town Halls.

See your program for a complete list of Town Hall supporters and sponsors and acknowledge their efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ILWU, Locals 13, 63, and 94 for their overall support and participation in the Town Hall events.

You were the first of the stakeholder groups to join hands with the CITT and METRANS in an effort to bring about greater industry understanding and cooperation in dealing with goods movement issues that affect us all. Thank you brothers and sisters for a decade of individual and collective support and ILWU outreach.
Over the years Richard Hollingsworth served as the Panel Moderator for our Town Hall meetings. Sadly, Richard is not with us this evening, he passed away last year. The orderly and cohesive nature of each conference was based on Richard’s early involvement with program speakers and panelists, apprising them of each event’s objectives and goals. Richard’s personal contact was the glue that held our conferences together and laid the foundation for orderly meetings. As panel moderator he was superb. His demeanor was concise, systematic, yet polite. He successfully navigated us through the uncharted waters of our first Town Hall meeting and provided insightful direction and smooth sailing for succeeding events.

He will be sadly missed. The ILWU acknowledges the invaluable role Richard played in insuring the Town Halls remained a neutral forum and free of controversy. And in appreciation, the three longshore locals would be honored to make a contribution to the Richard Hollingsworth Memorial Scholarship Fund.

After all is said and done those individuals who have been most responsible for the success of our Town Hall meetings have been its attendees, our audiences, each and every one of you.

Surely, each of you understands what a powerful tool education is. Education gives us the ability to highlight specific industry problems, as we have done this evening, and to ultimately choose the best problem solving approach.

This evening’s program celebrates a decade of Town Hall meetings and brings CITT’s flagship series to a close.

No, this will not mark the end of university outreach and industry involvement.

What will the CITT do next? A new event will replace our Town Halls.

Stay tuned for further announcements and initiatives that will continue to educate and inform audiences.

More than ever before and especially in these very uncertain and troubling economic times, all of us in the goods movement industry need to keep the Town Hall philosophy alive--which is continuous education, engagement cooperation, and consensus among our members and the community at large.

Now is the time for us all to collectively marshal forces and develop strategies to keep the ports of San Pedro Bay competitive and the choice port for all Pacific Rim Cargo.

Thank you for helping us celebrates the close of our Tenth Annual Town Hall meeting, a milestone of industry and community outreach and cooperation.
Plaque Presentations  
Domenick Miretti, PhD.

The ILWU is pleased to have been a part of the Town Hall series and appreciates the outreach by numerous individuals and organizations who have involved the union in educational programs along with stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

Longshore wishes to honor five organizations and select individuals for their labor outreach and union involvement.

I have the distinct pleasure of conferring those honors on behalf of ILWU Locals 13, 63 and 94, along with the presentation of plaques.

**CITT AND METRANS**

Will Marianne Venieris and Gen Guiliano please step up to the podium?

Marianne is the Executive Director of the CITT. She was the first to engage the union along with other stakeholders and the community in neutral forums and discussions in an effort to facilitate goods movement while at the same time maintaining neighborhood quality of life.

The METRANS/CITT partnership is administered by Gen Guiliano as the Director of the METRANS Transportation Center at USC. She was instrumental in helping establish a national transportation research center at USC. METRANS was the outgrowth of that effort.

The METRANS/CITT partnership administrated by Gen and Marianne has as its mission solving transportation problems of large metropolitan areas through research, education and outreach.

Thank you, ladies, for your tireless efforts.

**USDOT and CALTRANS**

I am going to ask Gen to remain standing while I call up Larry Orcutt.

The major sponsor for the Town Hall has been METRANS through funds from the USDOT and Caltrans.

Gen will be accepting a plaque on behalf of the USDOT. Larry Orcutt, Director of Research and Innovation for Caltrans, will be accepting on their behalf.

The ILWU would like to thank you both along with your respective organizations for your generous financial assistance. Those funds have provided cost free Town Hall
events, fostered transportation related research, and supported goods movement educational programs.

Thank you on behalf of the ILWU.

**CSULB**

Dr. Joshee will be accepting a plaque on behalf of Dr. Alexander, President, California State University Long Beach.

Dean Joshee, the ILWU also congratulates the University College and Extension Services for supporting a decade of Town Hall events.

Please extend ILWU thanks to the university in general for its collective role in labor industry and community outreach and for playing such an integral role in helping to facilitate goods movement in our twin ports.

It’s always a pleasure for the union to come back to the BEACH.