

Helen A. Brohl
Executive Director
US Committee on the Marine Transportation System



Helen A. Brohl was appointed as the first Executive Director of the US Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) in July 2006 by US DOT Secretary Norman Mineta. As a career, Tier II Senior Executive, Ms. Brohl manages the CMTS partnership that joins over 25 Federal agencies to address our Nation's waterways, ports and intermodal connections. Working with senior political, military and civilian leaders in the Federal government, Ms. Brohl directed the development and Cabinet-level approval of the first-ever National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System.

During her tenure, the CMTS has engaged in a number of dynamic issues to support the Marine Transportation System (MTS), including Federal infrastructure financing and investment; system performance measures; navigation technology integration and coordination; maritime data acquisition, use and sharing, and Arctic maritime transportation policy. From March to September 2012, Ms. Brohl was detailed by USDOT Secretary Ray LaHood to the US Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, NY, to facilitate the development of the USMMA Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

For the previous ten years, Ms. Brohl was the Executive Director of the U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association where she worked with NOAA and Congress to build the Great Lakes Water Level Observation Network, a lakes-wide system of real-time water and atmospheric observations provided directly to the mariner. She also previously served for six years as the President of the National Association of Maritime Organizations and four years as the national coordinator for the Marine Navigation Safety Coalition, which encompassed over 60 maritime-related companies. Ms. Brohl served as the Director of Marketing and Government Affairs for the Illinois International Port of Chicago and was named Woman of the Year in Maritime for Policy by the Organization of American States in April 2016.

Ms. Brohl has a Bachelors in Science in coastal geology from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, and a Masters in Science from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, in Great Lakes Land and Water Use Policy. She is currently an alumni mentor with the John Glenn College of Public Affairs and sits on the advisory board of the Women's Aquatic Network [womensaquatic.net] which she co-founded 30 years ago.