Transportation Decision Support Systems

ORNL has a staff with extensive experience in the development and implementation of automated transportation decision support models for the scheduling and routing of cargo and passenger movements both within the United States and internationally. The decision support models can be used for planning operations or scheduling actual movements.

The scheduling process includes a number of steps. The first involves pulling movement requirements, transportation assets, and transportation infrastructure characteristics from a database. Second, once the network and asset resources have been defined, the scheduling goals can be set based on the volume of requirements, desired departure schedule, and desired arrival schedule. Third, the schedules and routes are generated based on the scheduling algorithm. Different types of delivery parameters may require different scheduling and routing algorithms. Fourth, the systems allow the display of the routing and scheduling information and provide the user with the ability to modify it. As the schedule is being developed, we provide the flexibility to modify it and interactively show the impacts on resources and any scheduling conflicts.

Questions ORNL Can Help Answer

• What will be the delivery schedule for a specified volume of requirements and a set number of transportation assets?
• What will be the cost of a deployment or shipping campaign?
• What will be the use rate for transportation assets and infrastructure for a deployment or shipping campaign?
• What will be the impact on the schedule and transportation asset usage if there is a change in the operational schedule?
• What impact will the addition or subtraction of transportation assets have on the schedule?

ORNL’s Capabilities

• Database design and management of movement requirements, transportation assets, and transportation infrastructure.
• Development of system interfaces to related software systems and databases for data needs and schedule distribution.
• Algorithm development for scheduling, routing, and resource use.
• Development of analysis capabilities, including schedule feasibility, resource scheduling and acquisition, alternative schedules, and
• Development of user interface to modify and replicate schedules.

ORNL’s Comparative Advantage

• Experienced staff focused on solving the customer’s problems.
• Use of state of the art optimization software tools.
• Use of the appropriate combination of available technologies (e.g. Client- or Web-based applications, Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) interfaces, etc.) that best meet the customer’s needs.
• Leverage our previous experience to provide increased value to the customer.
Experience
ORNL staff has developed a number of Transportation Decision Support systems for government customers. The Consolidated Air Mobility Planning System (CAMPS) was developed for the US Air Force’s Air Mobility Command (AMC) to schedule cargo and passenger airlift missions and air refueling missions. This system is used 24/7 to schedule AMC’s airlift missions for contingencies, exercises, regularly scheduled, and special airlift missions.

The Transportation Operations Model was developed for the Department of Energy’s Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM). The purpose of the system is to assist OCRWM in planning for the campaign shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high level waste from the commercial utility nuclear power plants to a repository. The system provides a simulation analysis for cask loading operations at the reactor site, routing and scheduling models for the shipments, a capital equipment module that schedules the purchase of casks and transportation equipment, and a transportation services module that schedules the required transportation associated services that are required. This would include heavy haul, rail carriers, rail yards, cranes, and barges.

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