

# **Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee**

**Distribution Working Group**

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# Introduction

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**Shawn M. Johnson**  
**Grants Manager**

**Biobased Transportation Research**  
**Advanced Vehicle Technology Program**  
**Alternative Fuel and Life Cycle**

[Shawn.johnson@dot.gov](mailto:Shawn.johnson@dot.gov)

202-366-1762

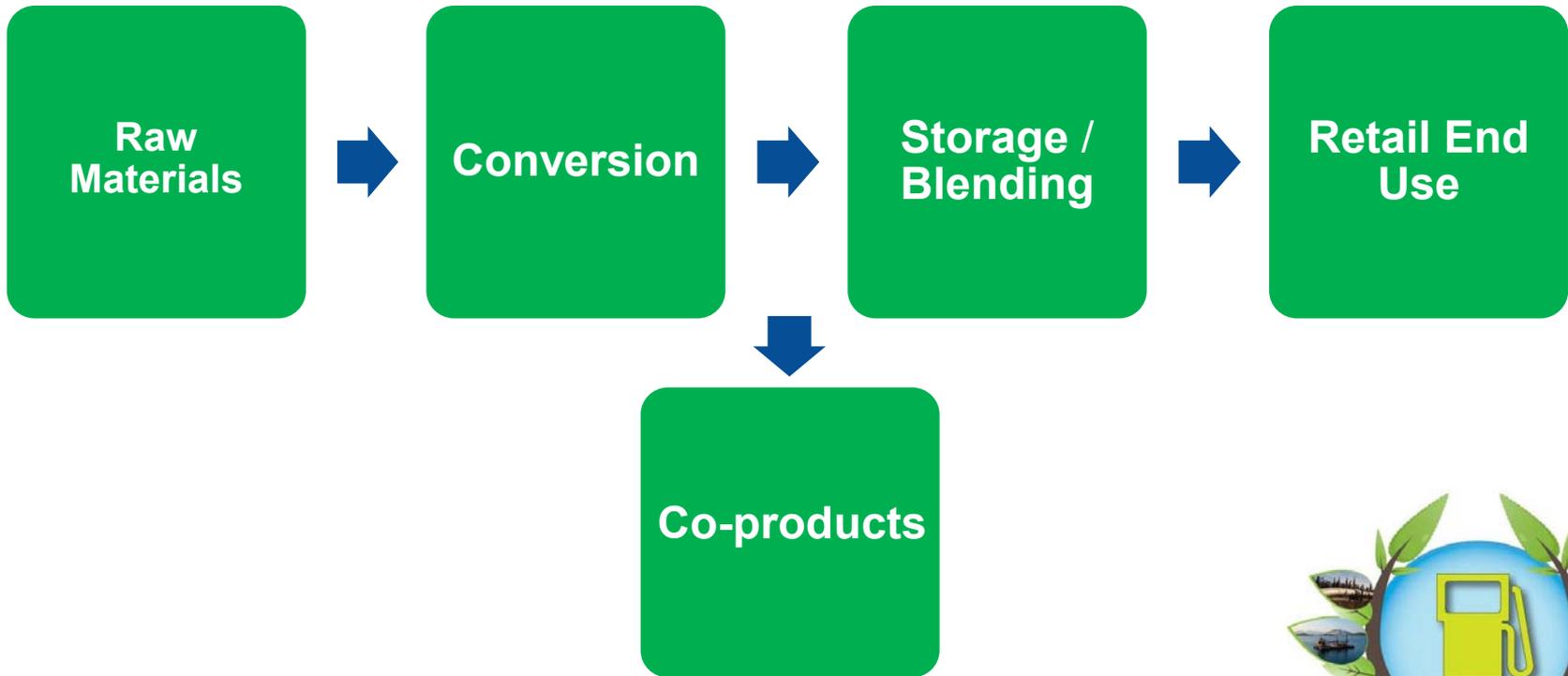
# Overview

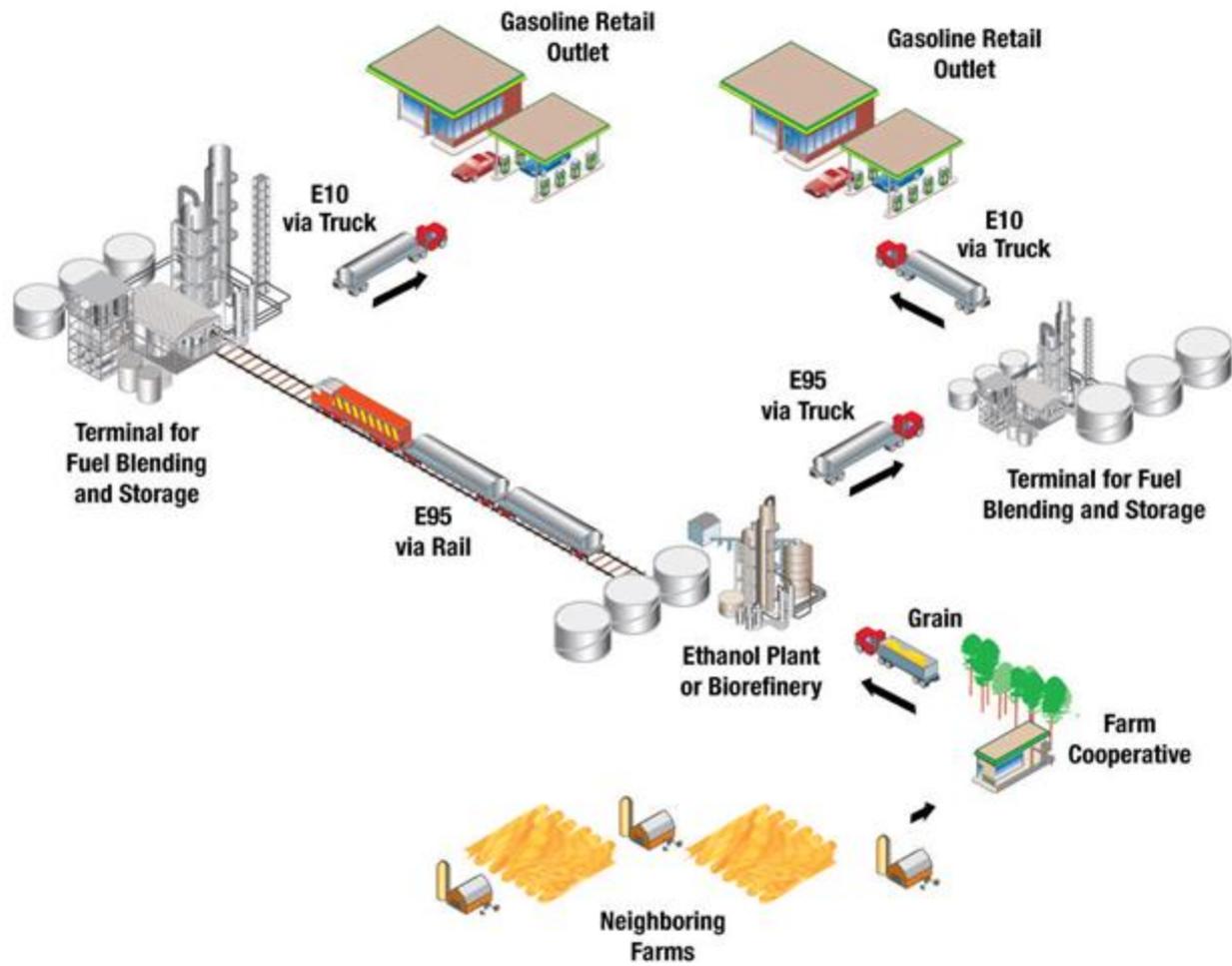
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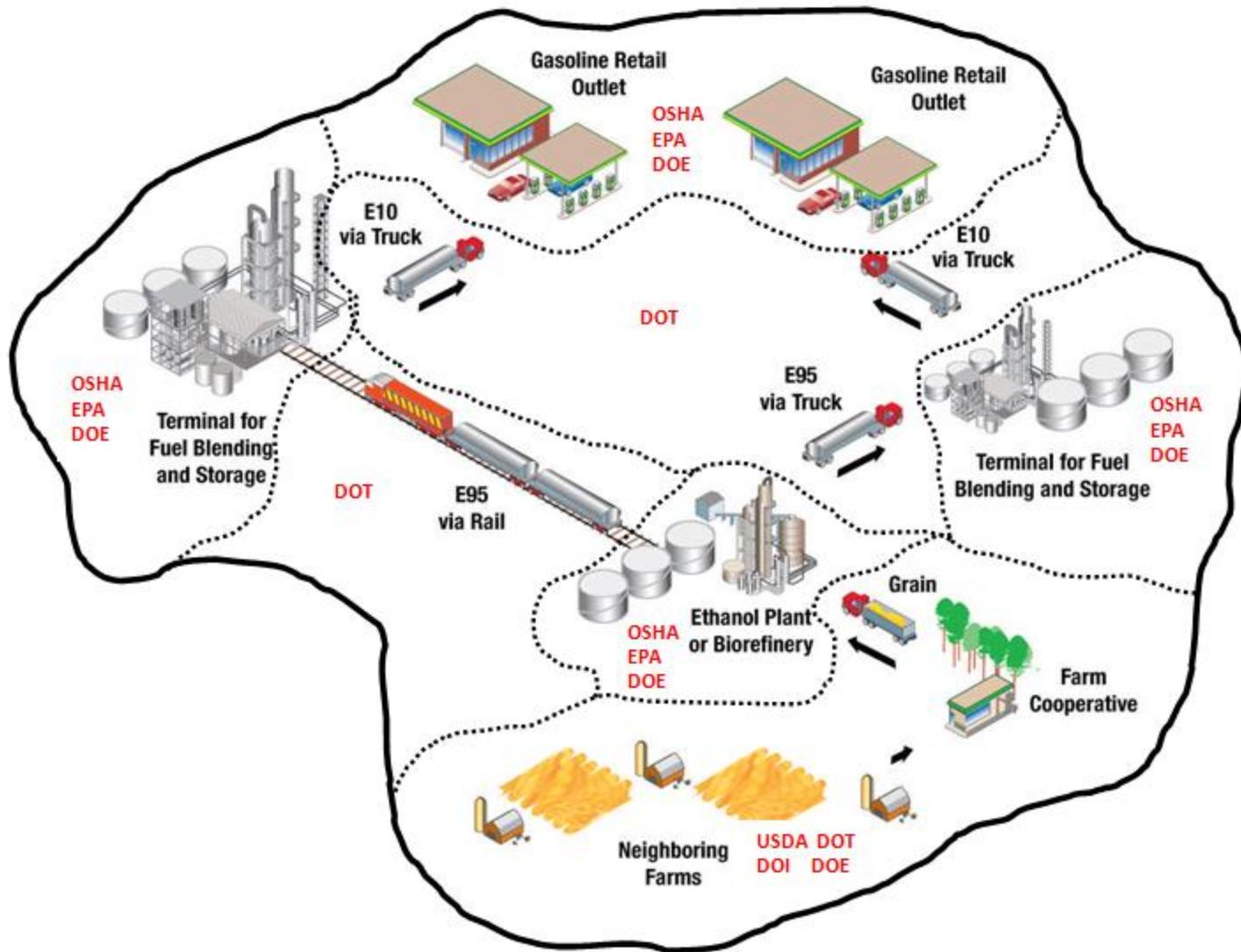
- Transportation's role in the biofuel industry
- Interagency Distribution Working Group
- Interagency Biofuels Infrastructure Workshop

# Transportation's Role in Biofuels Industry

There is a transportation component in each step of the supply chain!







# Distribution Working Group

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- The interagency *Distribution Working Group* is defining means to overcome technical challenges to systems integration, scalability, and deployability, and is evaluating storage and transportation options and trade-offs for both upstream logistics and downstream fuel distribution and end use requirements.
- Participating members currently includes interagency federal technical staff from DOT, USDA, DOE, EPA and DOI .

# Distribution Working Group Activities

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- What: Interagency Biofuels Infrastructure Workshop
- When: April 11-12, 2011
- Where: U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters, Washington, DC
- Who: Federal, State, Industry & Academic Stakeholders  
*(capacity is limited)*
- Why: To examine and discuss factors that cumulatively may impede the ability of the existing U.S. surface transportation infrastructure to support expanded biofuels production and end-use, as mandated by the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS-2).

# Workshop Focus: Multimodal Challenges

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## Technical & Geographic Issues

- Greatest potential demand areas far from biorefineries
- *Rail:* Railroad access not always available Lack of tank cars; Long turnaround time at biorefineries aggravating congestion; Insufficient unit train terminal facilities; Lack of capacity to move ethanol by-products
- *Truck:* Highway congestion; Need for additional rural hard-surface roads; Shortage of truck drivers
- *Water:* Insufficient production quantities to justify tank ships; antiquated locks; freezing closes important waterways in winter; biorefineries typically have no direct access to navigable waterways



# Workshop Focus: Economic, Regulatory & Policy Challenges

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- Increased burden in obtaining hazardous material certifications required to move additional loads;
- Safety cannot be compromised;
- New commercial vehicle drivers require training, oversight, and periodic inspection, potentially draining limited resources;
- Insurance costs for carriers may rise;
- Distribution end points for biofuels usually in dense, urban centers where real estate is expensive, permitting complex, and safety equipment not always readily available;
- Better coordination among relevant federal agencies and biomass product shippers, infrastructure owners & operators needed.



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# Questions?

