Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors

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Statement by Executive Director Leslie Blakey:

Freight Coalition Applauds Administration’s FY16 Budget Request for Increased Freight Investment

WASHINGTON, DC (February 3, 2015) – The Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) Executive Director Leslie Blakey commended the Administration’s continued – and increasing – call for freight investment, as reflected in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget request.

“Underscoring its commitment to freight mobility, the Obama Administration released yesterday a Fiscal Year 2016 Budget proposal containing a request for increased goods movement infrastructure funding. In the GROW AMERICA Act, the Administration’s multi-year surface transportation proposal released in 2014, President Obama called for an unprecedented $10 billion for freight infrastructure, spent over four years. In yesterday’s announcement, the President increased this request to $18 billion, spent over six years, with a commitment to transmitting the updated GROW AMERICA Act to Congress again in the coming weeks. Freight funding distribution will mirror the 2014 GROW AMERICA Act by splitting the money evenly between formula dispersal and a competitive grant program designed to resolve the most egregious bottlenecks.

The Administration’s funding proposal, which suggests dedicating funds from corporate tax reform to pay for the program, aligns with proposals by both Republicans and Democrats in recent months. This is a logical approach, as America’s commerce benefits from transportation mobility, particularly freight mobility, and corporations’ tax dollar investment in the system will return value well beyond their contributions.”

About the Coalition

The Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) is a diverse coalition of more than 60 public and private organizations dedicated to increasing federal investment in America’s intermodal freight infrastructure. In contrast to single mode interests, CAGTC’s main mission is to promote a seamless goods movement transportation system across all modes to enhance capacity and economic growth. For more information on the Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors, please visit www.tradecorridors.org.