

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

AECOM

Alameda Corridor-East
Construction Authority

Cambridge Systematics,
Inc.

Canaveral Port Authority

Cascadia Center

CenterPoint
Properties Trust

Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

City of Chicago

City of Industry,
A Municipality

COMPASS – Community
Planning Association of
Southwest Idaho

Dewberry

Economic Development
Coalition of

Southwest Indiana

Florida Department of
Transportation

Florida East
Coast Railway

Florida Ports Council

Freight Mobility Strategic
Investment Board
(Washington State)

Gateway Cities Council of
Governments

HERZOG

HNTB Corporation

Illinois Soybean
Association

Intermodal Association
of North America

Jacobs Engineering

Kootenai Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Los Angeles
County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

Majestic Realty Co.

Maricopa Association of
Governments

Memphis Chamber of
Commerce

Metropolitan
Transportation
Commission

National Railroad
Construction and
Maintenance Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Freight Coalition Board Member Gallegos Testifies on Importance of Border Infrastructure

*SANDAG Executive Director Addresses House Transportation &
Infrastructure Subcommittee during Infrastructure Week*

WASHINGTON, DC (May 20, 2016) – Addressing the House of Representative's Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Executive Director Gary Gallegos testified to the economic importance of cross-border trade and on the unique financing approaches being explored in the San Diego region to develop infrastructure needed to safely and efficiently move people and goods across the U.S. – Mexico border.

Gallegos, a Member of the Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors Board of Directors (the Coalition), represented both SANDAG and the Coalition at the May 18 hearing titled, "Border Station Construction: Minimizing Costs and Leveraging Private Dollars." Pointing to the mounting importance of bi-national trade, Mr. Gallegos testified that steadily growing traffic volumes, constrained infrastructure, and limited staff capacity at existing land Ports of Entry cause significant delays at the border, and have led to negative economic impacts. Illustrative of this, a SANDAG study found that border traffic congestion and delays between San Diego County and the Baja Peninsula cost the U.S. and Mexican economies an estimated \$7.2 billion in gross output and more than 62,000 jobs. That is a monetary loss equivalent to 18 Super Bowls and an annual job loss equivalent to four companies the size of Google.

To address this, in conjunction with partnering state, federal and Mexican agencies, SANDAG is developing the Otay Mesa East Land Port of Entry, two miles east of the existing Otay Mesa Port of Entry. Given limited federal resources available for this nationally and regionally significant project, SANDAG has developed an innovative funding and financing proposal to pay for the facility and in 2015, the project was accepted into the U.S. Department of Transportation's Build America Transportation Investment Center (BATIC).

Mr. Gallegos highlighted the newly-created freight-specific FASTLANE grant program as an important resource for projects like the Otay Mesa East Land Port of Entry. "The FAST Act is a down payment on our infrastructure needs, but much more is needed in order to keep pace with growing trade trends and maintain and improve aging and insufficient infrastructure," Mr. Gallegos testified. "A failure to invest hinders the efficient movement of goods and people, resulting in increased transportation costs and reduced air quality. A concentrated effort to improve border facilities, personnel, and information technology will improve goods movement and ultimately, U.S. economic competitiveness."

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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

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NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

Northwest Seaport
Alliance

Ohio Kentucky Indiana
Regional Councils of
Government

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Oregon Department of
Transportation

Parsons

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Port Authority of
New York & New Jersey

Port Newark Container
Terminal

Port of Hueneme

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Port Miami

Port of Oakland

Port of Pittsburgh

Port of Portland, OR

Port of San Diego

Port of Seattle

Port Tampa Bay

Port of Vancouver USA

Puget Sound Regional
Council

RAILCET

SANDAG - San Diego
Association of
Governments

Southern California
Association of
Governments

Supply Chain
Innovation Network of
Chicago- SINC

Tennessee Department
of Transportation

Washington State
Department of
Transportation

West Coast Corridor
Coalition

Will County Center for
Economic Development

Xerox State and Local
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