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Freight Coalition Applauds Florida DOT’s Federal Award for Truck Parking ITS

Florida receives $10.7 million grant under highly-competitive FASTLANE program

WASHINGTON, DC (July 29, 2016) – The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently released its proposed list of 18 project awards under the new Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Project program, referred to by USDOT as the FASTLANE program. One of just 18 recipients nationwide, the Florida Department of Transportation (Florida DOT) competed against 212 applications in the inaugural round of the freight-focused program.

“The first round of FASTLANE grants was highly competitive and I congratulate Florida DOT for earning an award,” said Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) Executive Director Elaine Nessle. “The FASTLANE program is designed to award the nation’s top goods movement projects and I am pleased to see that Florida DOT is being recognized for its competitive and forward-thinking freight project. This award will significantly aid the safe movement of growing commerce across the state of Florida, which is a critical link in our nation’s economy and supply chain.”

Florida DOT’s award will go toward the installation of an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) that will detect truck parking availability across Florida’s Interstate System. The state of Florida moves 762 million tons of freight annually and, by increasing the ease of which truckers can find places to park at the end of their shifts, this project will help to generate economic benefits stemming from increased efficiency in truck movements. The project will also decrease emissions and positively impact safety by decreasing driver fatigue.

While the FASTLANE program received funding requests totaling $9.8 billion, just $759 million was made available in Fiscal Year 2016, meaning the program’s demand is more than ten times its size. Following years of encouragement by CAGTC and its members, including Florida DOT, for dedicated freight funding, Congress authorized the FASTLANE program on December 4, 2015 through passage of the FAST Act. The program will award a total of $4.5 billion over a five-year-period.

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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