Freight Coalition Applauds PANYNJ’s Federal Award for Intermodal Improvements

WASHINGTON, DC (August 1, 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 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) 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 PANYNJ 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 PANYNJ is being recognized for its competitive and forward-thinking freight project. This award will significantly aid the movement of growing commerce across the New York/New Jersey region, which is a critical link in our nation’s economy and supply chain.”

The award will go toward the optimization of PANYNJ’s railcar float system through various improvements to the intermodal rail, including extending an existing transloading dock, paving areas of the Yard, and double-tracking a portion of the Port Jersey Division of New York New Jersey Rail, LLC (NYNJR). These improvements will help to increase capacity and facilitate more efficient carfloat service, a system that moves freight in railcars via marine rail barge, resulting in improved freight mobility.

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 advocacy by CAGTC and its members, including PANYNJ, for a freight-specific competitive grant program, 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