

# Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Freight Coalition Applauds SANDAG's Federal Award for Border Improvements

*Working with Caltrans, SANDAG receives \$49 million grant under highly-competitive FASTLANE program*

**WASHINGTON, DC (July 28, 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, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 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 SANDAG for earning an award," said Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) Executive Director Elaine Nettle. "The FASTLANE program is designed to award the nation's top goods movement projects and I am pleased to see that SANDAG is being recognized for its competitive and forward-thinking freight project. This award will significantly aid the movement of growing commerce across our border, which is a critical link in our nation's economy and supply chain."

Working in conjunction with California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), SANDAG's award will go toward the construction of a new freeway – California State Route 11 – connecting freight traffic to the future Otay Mesa East Port of Entry and other southbound connectors. This regionally and nationally significant enhancement will expand cross-border capacity, producing significant travel time improvements and reducing border wait times. The Otay Mesa Port of Entry is the second busiest commercial border crossing in the country.

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 the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) and its members, including SANDAG, 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](http://www.tradecorridors.org)

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