

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

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

Moffatt & Nichol

National Railroad
Construction and
Maintenance Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Agnew

(202) 828-9100

America's Agriculture: Built on Infrastructure

Goods Movement Coalition unveils White Paper highlighting importance of robust freight network to agribusiness

WASHINGTON, DC (July 13, 2017) – The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) today released its second in a series of White Papers that explores, through key industry sectors, why our national freight infrastructure must be improved to keep pace with the demands of our economy.

[*The Vital Role of U.S. Transportation Infrastructure in Moving Agriculture Forward*](#) reviews the impact of deteriorating infrastructure on U.S. agricultural competitiveness in the global market, focusing as an example on soybeans grown in the state of Illinois. The U.S. agriculture sector is a significant component of the U.S. economy and continues to grow. In fact, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that U.S. farm exports were worth twice as much in 2016 as they were 10 years previously. Agriculture commodities are commonly time sensitive and therefore require a stable, robust goods movement network. This White Paper examines how the reliability and efficiency of logistics and transportation networks are crucial for the competitiveness of the agriculture industry, which provides fuel, food and fiber while also sustaining the U.S. economy as a whole.

"Robust, efficient infrastructure for moving agricultural commodities to market is important to farmers and agribusinesses as it allows them to make sales and deliver products on time and in good shape – and ensure economic viability," stated Mike Levin, Director of Issues Management Analysis, Illinois Soybean Association and author of *The Vital Role of U.S. Transportation Infrastructure in Moving Agriculture Forward*. "Without a strong goods movement network, agricultural commodities cannot remain competitive in global markets and we are already starting to feel the pressure. In 2013, Brazilian exports surpassed U.S. soybean exports, a move that was primarily attributed to the differences in transportation costs."

While differences in transportation costs for some destinations and routes helped to divert trade from the U.S. to sources in Brazil or Argentina, the reverse can also be true should U.S. freight infrastructure offer greater competitiveness. Unique from other types of infrastructure investment, investment in the nation's multimodal freight network is an economic multiplier. Not only are jobs created immediately in the construction phase, but an efficient goods movement system will attract and retain U.S. businesses, support exports, and benefit the economy for years to come. Every economic sector – including agribusiness – depends on a reliable, safe and cost-effective network to move goods and services.

"Our nation's farmers rely on a high-functioning, efficient multimodal freight network from harvest to market. Although many think only of the rural component required to move agriculture commodities, in fact products travel through both rural communities and urban centers, requiring dependable and cost-effective infrastructure from end-to-end," said CAGTC Executive Director Elaine Nettle. "A strategic campaign of investment is needed to ensure that our agricultural producers can remain competitive in the global market place."

###

Find the full paper here: http://tradecorridors.org/images/memberupdates/2931-010-17%20cagtc%20whitepaper_6-28-17a.pdf

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.

NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

Nossaman LLP

Ohio Kentucky Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Oregon Department of
Transportation

Parsons

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 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

WSP