

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

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*Executive Director Elaine Nessel's Statement on the
President's FY18 Budget Request:*

President's Guiding Investment Principles Stand to Support Federal Freight Infrastructure Investment

WASHINGTON, DC (May 24, 2017) – The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) commends the Administration's initiative in releasing its targeted infrastructure investment approach, outlined in its Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request, [A New Foundation for American Greatness](#) and the complementary [2018 Budget: Infrastructure Initiative](#) fact sheet, while cautioning against any funding reductions to existing transportation programs.

"The President's commitment to improving national economic competitiveness through strategic infrastructure investment is commendable, and in particular, we appreciate his dedication to investing \$1 trillion and caution against any reductions in funding to existing transportation infrastructure programs. Key infrastructure principles released in the Administration's *2018 Budget: Infrastructure Initiative* reveal a targeted framework that stands to support increased investment in the multimodal freight network and foster desirable outcomes.

Since its formation in 2001, CAGTC has called for a freight-specific multimodal competitive grant program. The President's call to '**Encourage Self-Help**' as a principle supports competitive grants, such as the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. While formula programs invest through a standard 80 percent federal to 20 percent non-federal match, under competitive grant programs, applicants are encouraged to bring their best deal forward, rewarding innovative funding and financing arrangements.

We concur with the President's principle '**Leverage the Private Sector,**' and note that competitive grants have repeatedly shown their ability to attract non-federal dollars, including those coming from the private sector. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, every \$1 of federal monies distributed through the TIGER program leverages \$3.50 through other sources, including private funds. The first round of the NSFHP program yielded similar success: totaling nearly \$800 million, grants will be combined with funding from federal, state, local, and private sources to support \$3.6 billion in infrastructure investment. As the President correctly notes, while public-private partnerships will not be the solution to all infrastructure needs, they can help advance the Nation's most important, regionally significant projects.

The President's principle calling for '**Targeted Federal Investments,**' aligns with CAGTC's long-held priority calling for a national vision that guides long-term planning. Planning horizons, with a particular focus on projects of national significance – or 'transformative projects,' as the Administration states – should endeavor to anticipate freight needs extending over multiple decades.

Unveiled during national Infrastructure Week and illustrating the substantial need for investment in goods movement infrastructure, CAGTC featured its [Freight Can't Wait](#) booklet, which highlights 43 transformative freight projects of regional and national significance in need of federal partnership."

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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.

NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

Nossaman LLP

Ohio Kentucky Indiana
Regional Councils of
Government

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