FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jeff Agnew
(202) 828-9100

Statement by CAGTC Executive Director Elaine Nessle on Senator Carper's Proposal to Improve the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program

WASHINGTON, DC (October 23, 2018) – “The Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (known as INFRA) designed in the FAST Act represents a significant and focused national contribution to addressing freight infrastructure needs. We thank Senator Carper for his continued dedication to the program and for seeking reforms that will improve its effectiveness. CAGTC supports his call to remove the cap on non-highway freight investments as well as his commitment to increasing transparency in the evaluation and award decision making process.

Freight does not move on highways alone: the multimodal freight network directly supports 44 million U.S. jobs and the indirect benefits extend to every corner of our national economy. However, non-highway projects can compete for just 11 percent of total INFRA program funding currently. Increasing the program’s flexibility by making investments in the best freight projects -- regardless of mode -- will allow projects with the largest benefit to the goods movement network to be successful. Beyond increasing the flexibility of the INFRA program, overall funding levels must be increased to address growing demands on goods movement infrastructure.

The INFRA program is an invaluable tool for freight infrastructure investment. To continue building confidence in the program, it is essential that USDOT disclose more information about its decision-making process both to Congress and the public to produce a program that targets resources effectively and to affirm the integrity of the evaluation process. Moreover, increased transparency will go far in ensuring the program solicitation attracts applications of the highest caliber.

We applaud Senator Carper for his ongoing dedication to supporting and improving our national multimodal freight system.”

###

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.