

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

AECOM

Alameda Corridor-East
Project, San Gabriel Valley
Council of Governments

Broward County's
Port Everglades

California Department
of Transportation

Cambridge
Systematics, Inc.

Canaveral Port Authority

Cascadia Center

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

Florida Transportation
Builders' Association, Inc.

Freight Mobility Strategic
Investment Board
(Washington State)

Gateway Cities Council of
Governments

HERZOG

HNTB Corporation

Illinois Soybean
Association

Intermodal Association
of North America

Kootenai Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Los Angeles
County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

Majestic Realty Co.

Maricopa Association of
Governments

Memphis Chamber of
Commerce

Metal Fatigue Solutions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAGTC Board Member Szabo to Congress: Growth in Freight Requires Growth in Funding

CMAP's Szabo Highlights Chicagoland's Role in Moving Nationally Significant Freight, Underscores Need for Federal Partnership

WASHINGTON, DC (February 26, 2019) – Testifying before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation's Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Executive Director Joseph Szabo spoke to the early success of the FAST Act's freight program and the need to increase funding in the law's reauthorization. Likewise, given its unique role supporting commerce, freight investment should be a hallmark of any large-scale infrastructure bill that Congress develops.

"Public investment in our nation's multimodal freight infrastructure is chronically inadequate to meet the system's demands," said Szabo. "In my region, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded CREATE's 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project \$132 million through the INFRA program's most recent funding round. The funds will combine with \$342 million from other CREATE partners to pay for the first portion of this project to separate several freight and passenger rail lines. While benefits will begin to accrue upon completion of the first portion, \$474 million represents less than half the funds needed to complete both portions of the project. INFRA is a critical tool for nationally significant freight projects, such as CREATE, but the program is currently oversubscribed while needs continue to grow. In its most recent FY17/18 round, the INFRA grant program saw \$12 in unique requests for every \$1 available."

Representing both CMAP and the Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors (CAGTC) at today's hearing, Szabo noted one-fourth of the nation's freight rail traffic and nearly half of all intermodal trains pass through Chicago. But the rail lines, built over a century ago, were not built for the volumes nor the types of freight being carried today. Nationally, the multimodal freight network directly supports 44 million jobs and impacts every American's quality of life. The system moves roughly 63 tons of freight per person annually; meanwhile, the U.S. population is expected to increase by 70 million by 2045. This population growth presents both challenges and opportunities: to capitalize on a growing 21st century consumer base and workforce, our infrastructure network must be up for the task.

"I commend the Committee and its leadership for their continued focus on improving freight infrastructure," said CAGTC Executive Director Elaine Nettle. "Producers, importers and exporters rely on the efficiency of freight hub communities across the nation to move their products safely, dependably and efficiently. While the benefits of goods movement frequently occur nationally, negative impacts – such as congestion, diminished quality of life, and decreased safety – are felt locally. This financial burden cannot be shouldered by states, localities and the private sector alone. Federal commitment to driving an investment plan is essential."

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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 mission is to promote a seamless goods movement transportation system across all modes to enhance capacity and economic growth. For more information on CAGTC, please visit www.tradecorridors.org.

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Metropolitan
Transportation
Commission

Moffatt & Nichol

National Railroad
Construction and
Maintenance
Association

NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

Nossaman LLP

Ohio Kentucky Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Port Authority of
New York & New Jersey

Port Houston

Port Newark Container
Terminal

Port of Hueneme

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Port of New Orleans

Port of Oakland

Port of Portland, OR

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Port of Vancouver USA

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Council

RAILCET

SANDAG - San Diego
Association of
Governments

Southern California
Association of
Governments

Tennessee Department
of Transportation

Washington State
Department of
Transportation

Will County Center for
Economic Development

WSP