

# 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

City of Industry

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

Metropolitan Transportation  
Commission

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## During National Infrastructure Week, CAGTC Calls for \$12B Annually in Dedicated Freight Funding to Ensure a Strong Freight Network

*Follow that Bubble Gum Educational Tool Illustrates Supply Chain; "Freight Can't Wait" Features 50 Infrastructure Projects*

**WASHINGTON, DC (May 14, 2019)** – In celebration of Infrastructure Week, the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) today unveiled two new educational tools, which explain why our national freight infrastructure must be improved to meet the demands of a growing economy. Number 14 in a series that began in 2005, [Follow that Bubble Gum](#) traces a supply chain that begins by sourcing ingredients at a sugar farm in south Florida, traveling to a confectionary facility, packaged and manufactured in the United States and finally ends as a finished product at a gift shop in Cooperstown, NY. In its third edition of [Freight Can't Wait](#), CAGTC has compiled examples of freight infrastructure projects across the country that stand to benefit national supply chains, and the economy as a whole, if they had funding assistance.

"Infrastructure Week offers an opportunity to focus both lawmakers and the public on freight networks that we rely upon every day. Years of underinvestment in our national freight systems has led to increased congestion and transportation costs, which pose a threat to U.S. competitiveness," said CAGTC President Leslie Blakey. "To help address these needs, our Coalition calls for a minimum annual federal investment of \$12 billion through a multimodal freight competitive grant program. Dedicated competitive grants are critical to funding large-scale freight infrastructure projects."

Experience has shown that such grants, like INFRA and BUILD, spur innovation and creative funding and financing arrangements, which leverage the federal dollar. Because of their size and scale and often multimodal and multijurisdictional nature, such projects can be difficult to fund through traditional federal programs. State and local governments can be encouraged to bring the best financing arrangement when seeking federal assistance, which results in a better deal for American taxpayers.

Existing grant programs are oversubscribed. In the combined fiscal years 2017 and 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation received \$12 in unique requests for every \$1 available in the INFRA grant program. All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have submitted applications to the program, demonstrating freight infrastructure needs across the nation.

"We're pleased to launch our latest *Follow that Freight* brochure and *Freight Can't Wait* booklet during Infrastructure Week to increase awareness of the freight network's inextricable link to our national economy and our ability to compete in the world marketplace," said Tim Lovain, CAGTC Board Chairman and also of Crossroads Strategies. "Once completed, the projects in our *Freight Can't Wait* booklet will improve the overall supply chain by reducing congestion, eliminating bottlenecks, and improving the overall safety, efficiency and reliability of the movement of goods and people."

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

Port of San Diego

Port Tampa Bay

Port of Vancouver USA

Ports America  
Chesapeake

Prime Focus, LLC

Puget Sound Regional  
Council

RAILCET

SANDAG - San Diego  
Association of  
Governments

Southern California  
Association of  
Governments

Tampa Hillsborough  
Expressway Authority

Tennessee Department  
of Transportation

Washington State  
Department of  
Transportation

Will County Center for  
Economic Development

WSP

Since 2005, CAGTC's *Follow That Freight* brochures have been used to educate the public and policymakers on the needs of the U.S. supply chain. Using comic book graphics, *Follow That Bubble Gum* illustrates a multimodal adventure that pops off the page and urges Congress to strategically invest in our freight system.

For a digital copy of the *Follow that Bubble Gum* brochure, please visit the following link:

[https://tradecorridors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Follow-that-Bubble-Gum-Brochure.Final\\_.pdf](https://tradecorridors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Follow-that-Bubble-Gum-Brochure.Final_.pdf)

Find the full *Freight Can't Wait, Third Edition* here:

<https://tradecorridors.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Freight-Cant-Wait-2019-Final.pdf>

Follow us on Twitter @CAGTC and engage in the conversation #FreightCantWait

CAGTC is proud to support Infrastructure Week's mission to highlight the state of our nation's infrastructure and the projects, technologies, and policies necessary to make America competitive, prosperous, and safe.

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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)*