

# 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**

Contact: Jeff Agnew

(703) 203-8720 - Cell

## CAGTC Applauds Congressman Lowenthal's Push to Establish Sustained Freight Funding

*"The National Multimodal and Sustainable Freight Infrastructure Act" would raise an estimated \$8 billion annually for freight and goods movement infrastructure*

**WASHINGTON, DC (May 14, 2019)** – With Infrastructure Week and developing conversations between The White House and Congress in Washington as a backdrop on transportation infrastructure, the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) applauded today's introduction of a bill to strengthen our nation's economic competitiveness through sustained freight infrastructure investment. *The National Multimodal and Sustainable Freight Infrastructure Act* will create a 1 percent fee on the cost of transporting goods, to be paid by beneficial cargo owners, raising an estimated \$8 billion annually.

"As we turn our attention to FAST Act reauthorization and its beneficial freight program, we must be ever mindful that existing grant programs remain 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," said Tim Lovain, CAGTC Chairman and also of Crossroads Strategies. "A dedicated, fully multimodal and multijurisdictional freight program such as Congressman Lowenthal's proposed legislation merits serious consideration as funding model. This proposal comes at a critical juncture, when Congress and the Administration are seeking to sustain economic competitiveness through infrastructure investment."

Fees collected would be deposited into a Freight Trust Fund and distributed evenly through a freight formula program administered to state departments of transportation, and freight competitive grant program available to states, regional and local government entities. Both programs are fully multimodal, allowing transportation agencies to invest in their most critical freight needs, regardless of mode.

"Congressman Lowenthal has been a persistent advocate for multimodal freight infrastructure needs and deserves credit for his leadership on this important issue," stated CAGTC President Leslie Blakey. "Not only is his approach to freight funding thoughtful and sensible, but it is modeled after an approach that has proven to be successful and efficient – the existing air freight tax. Dedicated investment in our nation's freight system, as *The National Multimodal and Sustainable Freight Infrastructure Act* proposes, is necessary to maintain the strength of American industry in a very competitive global marketplace."

Since its formation, CAGTC has supported the development of a multimodal freight-specific grant program that distributes money to meritorious projects on a competitive basis, using economically-driven criteria. A commitment to investment in goods movement and dedicated funding for a freight program is critical for America to ensure a safe, efficient, reliable, multimodal supply chain that will continue to stoke the engine of commerce and support job growth.

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

To celebrate Infrastructure Week, CAGTC launched two new educational tools which explain why our national freight infrastructure must be improved to meet the demands of a growing economy.

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>

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.

# # #

**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)*