

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

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock
Company

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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Statement by CAGTC Executive Director Elaine Nettle on the Government Accountability Office's Report on Project Evaluations under the INFRA Competitive Grant Program

WASHINGTON, DC (July 24, 2019) – “The Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects Program (known as INFRA) represents a significant and focused contribution to addressing national freight infrastructure needs, according to criteria established in law by Congress. In studying the Department of Transportation's (DOT) application review process during the FY 2017-2018 round of funding, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that DOT lacked consistency and transparency in following up with applicants and evaluating applications.

The INFRA program is critical to funding large-scale freight infrastructure projects, which are difficult to fund through traditional distribution methods such as formula programs. The Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors (CAGTC) has long called for such a competitive grant program that selects projects through merit-based criteria that identify and prioritize investments with a demonstrable contribution to national freight efficiency. Like GAO, CAGTC has advocated for consistency and transparency in the competitive grant evaluation process to ensure the best and highest use of public funds.

As DOT administers future rounds of the INFRA program, including the awards expected this week, I encourage decision makers to heed GAO's recommendations. As GAO states in its findings, *'competitive discretionary grant programs have promise in better targeting federal transportation spending to areas of national and regional significance; however, this promise cannot be fulfilled if DOT's process and rationale for making awards remains unclear.'*”

For more information on the GAO report, please click [here](#).

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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

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

Port of San Diego

Port Tampa Bay

Port of Vancouver USA

Ports America
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Prime Focus, LLC

Puget Sound Regional
Council

RAILCET

SANDAG - San Diego
Association of
Governments

Southern California
Association of
Governments

Tampa Hillsborough
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Tennessee Department
of Transportation

Washington State
Department of
Transportation

Will County Center for
Economic Development

WSP