

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

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
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Great Lakes Dredge & Dock
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HERZOG

HNTB Corporation

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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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement by CAGTC President Leslie Blakey on U.S. House T&I Committee Reauthorization Bill

House Democrats Propose New PNRs in Reauthorization Bill; More Focus on Dedicated Freight Investment Needed

WASHINGTON, DC (June 8, 2021) – Chairman DeFazio (D-OR) and Members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) recently introduced the INVEST in America Act, a five-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal. The proposed bill would provide a total of \$547 billion for roads, bridges, transit, and rail infrastructure, which is an increase of \$53.2 billion compared to the previous authorization.

While we appreciate the T&I Committee responding to some of the core funding and policy objectives of our Coalition, replacing Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) with Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) misses the true benefit of both these competitive grant programs. Each is essential to funding large-scale freight infrastructure projects.

An innovation in the bill is the proposal to establish a joint task force between the Department of Transportation and the Internal Revenue Service to study the establishment and administration of a fee on multimodal freight surface transportation services. Should the benefits of establishing such a fee be proven, CAGTC's long-term goal of a dedicated revenue stream for freight infrastructure could be realized.

We are encouraged by T&I's leadership in releasing proposed legislation that includes sustained, flexible levels of investment in our national freight network. In addition to the INVEST in America Act's call to study a dedicated freight revenue source, the Coalition applauds other elements in the bill, such as:

- Broad eligibility for multimodal projects in the PNRs program;
- Removal of the modal cap on available project funding for the National Highway Freight Program (the freight formula program); and,
- Commitment to rebuilding bridges by dedicating \$32 billion for bridge funding.

Since our founding in 2001, our Coalition has championed an approach to freight infrastructure funding with broad modal and applicant eligibility; we believe freight infrastructure investment will pay dividends by improving America's competitiveness for years to come.

As our national economy continues to reopen, much will be asked of our multimodal freight system. Robust, sustained, dedicated investment that is commensurate with the infrastructure needs of our supply chain is critical to supporting our nation's return to prosperity."

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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

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Moffatt & Nichol

National Railroad
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NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

Nossaman LLP

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Port Authority of
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Port Houston

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Prime Focus, LLC

Puget Sound Regional
Council

RAILCET

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Tennessee Department
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