

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

ACS State and Local Solutions
Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority
American Standard Companies
American Trucking Associations
Association of American Railroads
DMJM-Harris
Florida East Coast Railway
Florida Trade and Transport Council
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Genesee & Wyoming Inc.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Intermodal Association of North America
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation
Majestic Realty Co.
Moffatt & Nichol Engineers
National Association of Industrial & Office Properties
National Association of Regional Councils
National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association, Inc.
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Riverside (Calif.) County Transportation Commission
San Bernardino Associated Governments
Seattle Department of Transportation
Southern California Association of Governments
Washington State Department of Transportation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Jeff Agnew
Shannon Menard
202/828-9100**

FREIGHT VICTORY IN TRANSPORTATION BILL Goods Movement Receives Needed Attention

WASHINGTON, DC (July 29, 2005) – The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) today applauded Congress for providing more than \$4 billion for freight and goods movement infrastructure in the federal-aid surface transportation bill.

"Freight has at last been recognized," said former DOT deputy secretary Mort Downey, chairman of PB Consult and Coalition legislative spokesman. "This is a major step forward from past legislation, a new policy direction and a real opportunity to build the future of freight."

According to CAGTC, of the monies included in the Conference Report, more than \$4 billion will fund projects and improvements whose benefit primarily target goods movement, including:

- \$1.5 billion in the Projects of National and Regional Significance;
- \$1.8 billion in the National Corridors program;
- \$833 million in the Borders program; and,
- \$140 million for the National Corridor planning and development and Coordinated Border Infrastructure programs for fiscal year 2005.

In addition, funding from other programs, such as High Priority Projects, will also contain dollars for freight and goods movement.

According to Downey, "Many critical freight and goods movement projects that will receive funding to boost our local and national economies, as well as create jobs and ensure a high standard of living are (not limited to): Alameda Corridor East (ACE Project in San Gabriel Valley, CA), Cross Harbor Freight Movement Project (New York, NY), Gerald Desmond Bridge (Long Beach, CA), Alaska Way Viaduct (Seattle, WA) and CREATE (Chicago, IL)."

"This has been a long time coming," said Sharon Neely, transportation director at ACE Construction Authority. "The ACE project, and so many others like it, are a boon to the American economy and will greatly improve the cost at which goods reach consumers. Congress has set an excellent precedent with the more than four-fold increase in freight funding as compared to the previous TEA-21 legislation."

"With overall freight needs continually on the rise and expected to increase nearly 70 percent by 2020, the congressional funds provided by this legislation comprise an important down payment on future needs," said Leslie Blakey, executive director of CAGTC. "The benefits of goods mobility and improving our nation's transportation system will positively affect us all, east to west, north to south."

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About the Coalition

The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) is a diverse coalition of more than 30 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.

1150 18th Street, NW Suite 1030 Washington, DC 20036
202-828-9100 phone 202-828-9112 fax www.tradecorridors.org