

# Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

ACS Transportation Solutions

AECOM

Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

American Standard Companies

Cascadia Center

Chicago Metropolis 2020

City of Chicago

Delaware River Maritime Enterprise Council

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana

FAST Corridor Partnership (Seattle-Tacoma-Everett)

Florida East Coast Railway

Florida Ports Council

Florida Trade and Transport Council

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

Majestic Realty Co.

Memphis Chamber of Commerce

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Mississippi State Department of Transportation

Moffatt & Nichol Engineers

National Association of Industrial & Office Properties

National Association of Regional Councils

National Corn Growers Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Freight-focused Coalition Rallies Transportation Industry in Support of New Program in Stimulus

*Freight projects qualify for \$1.5B competitive grant program*

WASHINGTON, DC (February 13, 2009) – The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) today heralded the \$1.5 billion appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for a new competitive grant program for surface transportation projects with nationally or regionally significant impact. Without the Coalition mobilizing rapidly to support the new program, its inclusion in the economic stimulus bill might not have come to pass. Having much in common with a program (Projects of National and Regional Significance) originally championed by CAGTC in SAFETEA-LU, this concept survived the grueling House/ Senate conference and now has dedicated monies appropriated.

"We're pleased that Congress recognized the need to fund large projects that are multimodal, using merit-based criteria," stated Mort Downey, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation and Senior Advisor of Parsons Brinckerhoff. "We look forward to working with the Department on the development of the criteria and implementation."

"This program is a very important step forward in providing an opportunity for freight projects to compete for funding, particularly in California which has not received the federal funding support needed to keep pace with the growth in freight traffic," added Tim Spohn, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority in Irwindale, California.

Earlier this week, CAGTC unveiled *Freight 21: A National Strategic Freight Mobility Program and Trust Fund (FTF)* and called upon Congress to make it a centerpiece of the next federal-aid surface transportation legislation with dedicated funding and competitive, merit-based project selection criteria. As evidence that this is a sound policy approach, the General Accounting Office (GAO) released a report just last week encouraging Congress to create a well-defined federal role in program priorities on a regional and national level and select projects competitively based on certain criteria – both tenets of CAGTC's Freight 21 proposal.

"The Coalition has worked hard together and the results look very promising that there will be a dedicated source of funds for critical intermodal projects that are so important to keep this country economically competitive," said Dan Burke of the Port of Seattle.

CAGTC's call for a national freight program with dedicated funding is echoed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which has called on Congress to create a state-administered freight transportation program, as part of the current federal highway program, funded with \$3 billion per year from Highway Trust Fund revenues, supplemented by new revenues.

"We are grateful to Congress for appreciating and addressing the need to include freight projects as part of the stimulus generally and providing a competitive discretionary grant program specifically that will place a priority on nationally significant infrastructure," remarked Leslie Blakey, executive director CAGTC. "This lays the foundation for a new, multimodal freight program in the surface transportation authorization to be written later this year."

**About the Coalition:** [www.tradecorridors.org](http://www.tradecorridors.org)

National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association, Inc.

OnTrac

Orange County Transportation Authority

Oregon Department of Transportation

Parsons

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Port Authority of New York/New Jersey

Port of Cleveland

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Port of Oakland

Port of Pittsburgh

Port of San Diego

Port of Seattle

Port of Stockton

Port of Tacoma

RAILCET

River of Trade Corridor Coalition

Riverside (Calif.) County Transportation Commission

San Bernardino Associated Governments

SANDAG - San Diego Association of Governments

San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Seattle Department of Transportation

Southern California Association of Governments

Spokane Regional Transportation Council

Tennessee Department of Transportation

Washington State Department of Transportation

West Coast Corridor Coalition

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