

CAGTC

20 years

Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors

Celebrating



Years

CAGTC Celebrates 20 Years of Telling Freight's Story

Coalition Advances Federal Freight Programming and Cements Place as Industry Leader

Twenty years ago, the term "freight" was rarely used on Capitol Hill and was typically associated with single modes of transportation. In the early Hill meetings organized by the Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors (CAGTC), there were many confused looks when our founders explained the need for increased public investment across all modes.

We have plenty of anecdotes, shared best over happy hour, but the numbers also tell our story and articulate CAGTC's success in elevating freight's profile. The last surface transportation bill passed before CAGTC's founding was the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, or TEA-21. TEA-21 contained the word "freight" just 39 times. Flash forward, and 2015's Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act, contains the word "freight" 323 times – nearly ten times that of TEA-21. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act builds on the freight programs established under the FAST Act and the word "freight" appears 279 times. It didn't happen overnight. This was the result of thousands of meetings with lawmakers, stating our case and successfully gaining supporters along the way.

What started as a small handful of members with a vision to re-shape the dialogue around goods movement, has grown into a national organization with a seat at the proverbial lawmaking table. Over two decades, we have moved from knocking on the doors of Congress asking for a chance to be heard, to being invited to sit before Congress – 10 times! – and testify as the foremost authority on multimodal freight policy. Our Coalition has served on advisory boards at the highest level, sharing our expertise with the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Transportation Research Board, to name a few.

We've increased the amount of federal funding dedicated to freight infrastructure from zip, zero, nada to \$3 billion annually (and we aren't done, by the way). We've successfully pushed for the establishment of a national freight policy and the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy at the U.S. Department of Transportation. We've worked diligently to educate lawmakers on the importance of competitive funding for significant freight projects – in fact, the IIJA contains a record \$44 billion in discretionary programming that is dedicated to or contains eligibility for freight infrastructure improvements! We've spoken, tirelessly, of the *need*. The *need* to make these critical investments to remain competitive in the global economy. The *need* to provide dedicated resources for freight infrastructure, as the federal government has for other mobility needs. The *need* to act now. The fact that these *needs* will continue to grow in lockstep with economic growth.

We have much to be proud of, but in truth, we are just getting started. What we *need* now is your support to propel us forward over the next 20 years. Much has changed since 2001, but some things remain the same. CAGTC's strength is in its membership base and its dedication to our core mission. You help make the case and tell freight's story. CAGTC's staff and leadership appreciate your support over the years and look forward to what is on the horizon. Together, we can continue telling the freight story.

To commemorate CAGTC's 20th anniversary, we've put together a short newsletter containing a look back at some of our signature achievements and products. We hope that 2022 is the year we can get together for that long-overdue happy hour. Until then, we hope you'll enjoy the trip down memory lane.

CAGTC: Carrying Freight's Message for 20 Years

Since 2001, CAGTC has issued over 170 press releases – resulting in media coverage featured in more than 500 articles across 70+ publications. This is one of the vehicles the Coalition uses to spread our advocacy message.

Please join us as we look back at a brief overview of our most noteworthy headlines over the years that exemplify CAGTC's story, influence, and industry leadership.



**Senator Cantwell
Urges USDOT
to Establish
Freight-Focused
Multimodal
Coordinating
Office**

- 2012 -

**Leslie Blakey
Named to
Department of
Commerce
Advisory
Committee**

- 2012 -

**House Panel on
21st Century
Freight
Transportation
Recommends
Spending on
Freight
Infrastructure**

- 2013 -

**Coalition's Founding
Chairman, Two
Members Named
to USDOT's
National Freight
Advisory Committee**

- 2013 -

**CAGTC Launched
"Freight Can't Wait"
Campaign at U.S. Capitol
Stressing National
Economic Benefits
of Fully Funded
Freight Program**

- 2015 -

**Landmark Freight
Provisions Signed
Into Law**

- 2015 -

**Freight Infrastructure
Takes 66 Percent of
BUILD Funding –
Highest Percentage in
Program's 10-Year History**

- 2018 -

**Amidst Pandemic,
CAGTC Highlights
A-maize-ing Role
of Supply Chain
Infrastructure**

- 2020 -

**Historic Freight
Infrastructure Investments
Secured Through
IIJA Passage**

- 2021 -

Our Signature Education Materials

Education and outreach have been fundamental components of our success. Thousands of our popular Follow that Freight brochures have been delivered to Members of Congress and their staff. The pamphlets seek to answer the question we wish more people would ask: "how did my stuff get here?"



The carefully researched and creative brochures have served as fun, educational tools, designed to illustrate the complex journeys products such as coffee beans or bubble gum take before arriving on our store shelves.

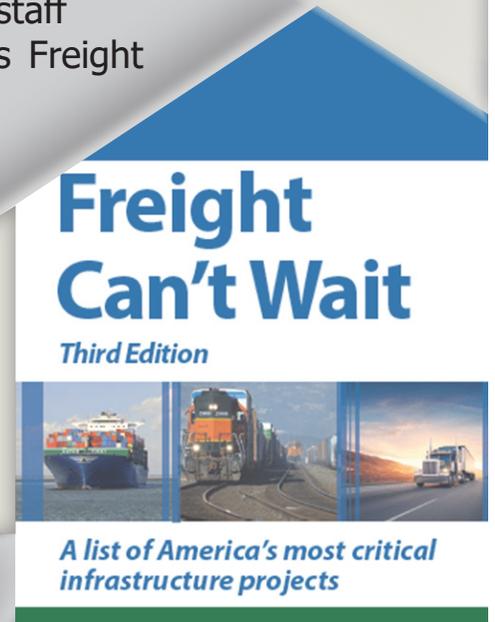
To date, we've tracked 15 products through the supply chain!

"So, what's an example of a freight project?"

It's a question we are asked time and again by Congressional staff and reporters. With this in mind, the Coalition developed its Freight Can't Wait project booklet publication. The booklet, which is updated biannually, highlights 80 transformative CAGTC member freight projects of regional and national significance in need of federal partnership.

Understanding what a project looks like, the problems it would solve, and the opportunities it stands to create all deepen understanding of freight infrastructure needs.

These products (and many more!) live on the Coalition's website and we hope that you'll remember to use them in your own advocacy efforts.



Scan to view our **Follow That Freight** brochure collection

Scan to view our **Freight Can't Wait** publication

Coalition Members

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 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
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Moffatt & Nichol
National Railroad Construction and Maintenance
Association
NASCO – North American Strategy for Competitiveness
The Northwest Seaport Alliance
Nossaman LLP
Orange County Transportation Authority
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Port Newark Container Terminal
Port of Hueneme
Port Houston
Port of Long Beach
Port of Los Angeles
Port of New Orleans
Port of Oakland
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
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
Will County Center for Economic Development
WSP

Join CAGTC, Freight's Advocacy Voice!

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