

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

AECOM

Alameda Corridor-East
Project, San Gabriel Valley
Council of Governments

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

DCLI

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

HNTB Corporation

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(850) 766-2411

Statement by Executive Director Elaine Nessel:

Freight Stakeholders Coalition Calls on USDOT to Establish the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy (Freight Office)

WASHINGTON, DC (September 1, 2023) – Together with 15 other trade associations, the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) this week called on the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to formally establish the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy (Freight Office) as required under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58).

"For 20 years, CAGTC has called for the creation of a dedicated, high level freight office within USDOT to guide policy development and investment decision making. Congress heeded this call in the IIJA, which directs USDOT to establish the Freight Office within the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.

The Freight Office should provide the necessary perspective to coordinate among the modes and work with the myriad of public and private stakeholders that rely upon and develop supply chain infrastructure. Planning and investment decisions must look beyond modal siloes and the needs of today, recognizing that tomorrow's economy will require an 'all of the above' approach to freight movement to meet growing demands.

CAGTC joins leaders from the business and transportation communities in calling for establishment of this office. CAGTC and its diverse membership remain eager to assist USDOT in this exciting endeavor and support the office through its creation and important work supporting our national economy and global competitiveness."

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About the Freight Stakeholders Coalition

The Freight Stakeholders Coalition is a long-standing group of associations representing shippers, transportation providers, and public and private owners and operators of infrastructure assets that move goods across the United States. While each member of the Coalition represents a different segment of the system and perspective, the group is united in the belief that a strong federal role in transportation is essential for the development of a robust and competitive freight network that supports commerce.

About CAGTC

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.

*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 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 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

August 30, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The undersigned organizations urge swift establishment of the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy (Freight Office) as required under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, P.L. 117-58).

Supply chain issues continue to be a major concern for the business community. While we no longer face historic backlogs at our nation's most significant gateways, new geopolitical challenges, shifting trade routes, and underlying trends of re-shoring and nearshoring are creating new challenges and opportunities. Further, the federal government is increasingly active in working with States and other freight stakeholders to drive supply chain considerations through its implementation of IIJA and other legislation such as the CHIPS and Science Act (P.L. 117-167). Simply put, supply chains will continue to drive the interest of business leaders, freight stakeholders, and policymakers at the State and Federal level.

Given this sustained interest in supply chains, the Freight Office will serve as an important tool to help coordinate activities across the federal government and provide senior-level leadership to guide federal decision making in supply chain competitiveness, security, and fluidity. The Freight Office is also designed to coordinate with the business community and States and other freight stakeholders to address freight challenges, including helping States direct funding to support their economic competitiveness and anticipate challenges to America's freight networks. With all the activity and attention around supply chains and logistics, this coordinating role is more important than ever. Indeed, the Freight Office is the natural successor to the important coordinating role that the White House's Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force played during the 2021 global supply chain crisis.

Despite the importance of this office, leadership has not been announced, a formal organizational structure has not been implemented, and a policymaking apparatus has not been developed. We find this concerning as this office promises to play a crucial role in the development of long-term multimodal freight planning, as well as serve as a critical coordination point between the Departments of State, Commerce, Energy, and Homeland Security and other agencies with jurisdiction over supply chain policy. Without the necessary leadership in place, much of this

interagency coordination is occurring on an ad-hoc basis, impacting the efficiency and decision-making in how these tasks are carried out.

For these reasons and more, we urge you to act and designate an acting leader of the Office of Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy, as well as move forward with officially establishing the office within the Department.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Transportation Coalition
Airforwarders Association
American Association of Port Authorities
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
American Trucking Associations
Association of American Railroads
Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors
Consumer Brands Association
Intermodal Association of North America
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Waterfront Employers
National Retail Federation
Travel Goods Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
The Honorable Ted Cruz, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure