

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)

Great Lakes Dredge &
Dock Company

HDR Engineering, Inc.

HNTB Corporation

Intermodal Association
of North America

Jacobs

Joliet Arsenal
Development Authority

Kootenai Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Los Angeles
County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

Majestic Realty Co.

Maricopa Association of
Governments

Memphis Chamber of
Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cecile Entleitner
(850) 766-2411

*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 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*

*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

Statement by Current and Past CAGTC Leadership on Passing of Mort Downey

Goods Movement Coalition Honors Founding Chairman's Invaluable Contributions

WASHINGTON, DC (November 20, 2023) – Mort Downey, Founding Chairman of the Coalition for America's Gateways & Trade Corridors and renowned transportation policy expert, passed away on November 2. Mort spent his decades-long career improving transportation policy and programming across the industry. As CAGTC's Founding Chairman, Mort steered CAGTC since its formation in 2001.

In CAGTC's infancy, he guided policy development that helped the group grow from just a handful of members to the 60-member organization it is today. What's more, is that these same policies have been widely adopted across the nation. His expertise was rivaled by few, and despite the many demands on his time over the years, Mort was always generous with his knowledge and experience. Moreover, he was a joy and pleasure to know. A man dedicated to his work, his family, and his nation, Mort will be remembered as a tremendous leader and friend. Mort will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know him.

"I was honored to work with Mort beginning in the mid 80's. In those days, west coast transportation agencies were seen as 'newcomers' to the industry and whose transportation policies were hotly debated amongst the trade agencies. Mort's consensus skills during those hot leadership policy debates made me want to learn as much as I could from him and apply to vast California transportation expansion needs. Many colleagues have already spoken on Mort's accomplishments that literally improved the national transportation network. As I look over those years until now, it is easy for me to say that he was truly the 'Father of Transportation.' Since the 80s, he was the go-to problem solver on transportation matters, taking on issues no one wanted to with his quiet but effective charm and ability to work out solutions. There never was a subject on transportation that Mort did not only have specific detailed knowledge of but well considered options for resolving challenges. Mort's leadership and problem-solving skills had a lasting impact on so many of us across the country who have gone on to try to emulate and pass down 'what would Mort do skills' to our colleagues. Mort's quiet demeanor would steer away from 'Father of Transportation' title. As founding chairman of CAGTC, there can be no better example of his skills leading to the successes and resulting partnership with Congress and the Administration on intermodal funding, which supports goods movement and eliminating bottlenecks in the U.S. I thank Mort's family for sharing him with us and understand truly how much he meant to us across the country," said **Sharon Neely, 2013-2016 CAGTC Chair.**

"Mort possessed a rare combination of enormous expertise, great judgment and sheer amiability that made him a real pleasure to work with. He will be sorely missed by the CAGTC Board and many others in the transportation world," said **Tim Lovain, 2016-2019 CAGTC Chair.**

Follow CAGTC on Twitter  or connect on Facebook 

1625 K Street, NW Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20006
202-828-9100 phone 703-721-8409 fax www.tradecorridors.org

"Mort Downey embodied the highest qualities of a public servant, continually learning and sharing his expertise with those seeking, like him, to improve our nation's transportation investments and outcomes. Mort's powerful intellect and encyclopedic knowledge of transportation policy and programs were legendary. Mort was founding chairman of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors in 2001 and remained an active guide and mentor to those, like me, fortunate to have served with him on the Board of Directors. Thanks to Mort's wise counsel, the coalition has delivered robust and profound federal funding and policy initiatives to strengthen our nation's goods movement infrastructure. In reading recent tributes to Mort, the impressive reach of his career accomplishments came into focus. I served a three-year stint as chairman of the coalition nearly 20 years after Mort did and am grateful for the path he and others blazed. I count myself among those who drew strength from Mort's example and advice and am proud to stand with them in cherishing his memory," said **Paul Hubler, 2019-2022 CAGTC Chair**.

"Working with Mort Downey during his many years of service to both CAGTC and the broader transportation industry can only be described as a true honor and privilege. Throughout his remarkable career, Mort led with passion, kindness, and integrity – generously sharing his time and vast expertise with all who were lucky enough to have known him as a colleague, mentor, or friend. His leadership as CAGTC's Founding Chairman and his numerous contributions to national transportation policy have left a profound legacy that will continue to serve as an inspiration to me and many others," said **Paul Anderson, 2022-present CAGTC Chair**.

"Mort Downey was a giant in the field of transportation. From his in-depth knowledge of budgetary practices to his meticulous reading and analysis of legislative language, he was an invaluable resource to us at CAGTC. In the earliest days of our group's organization, he guided the Coalition's principles so that today, they still reflect a clear vision and evergreen concepts. For more than 20 years, he has generously given his time and knowledge, cordially taking calls at all hours to advise on late-breaking developments. We will miss him greatly," said **Leslie Blakey, President of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors**.

Mort's obituary may be viewed [here](#).

The Eno Center for Transportation created The Mortimer L. Downey Fellowship to honor Mort's contributions to the industry. To learn more or to make a contribution, click [here](#).

###

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