

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

ACS Transportation Solutions
AECOM

Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority

American Standard Companies

Cascadia Center
CenterPoint Properties Trust

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

City of Chicago

City of Industry, A Municipality

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana

FAST Corridor Partnership (Seattle-Tacoma-Everett)

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida East Coast Railway

Florida Ports Council

Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (Washington State)

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

HELP, Inc.

HERZOG

Intermodal Association of North America

Jacobs Engineering

Kern Council of Governments

Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation

Majestic Realty Co.

Maricopa Association of Governments

Maryland Department of Transportation

Maryland Port Administration

Memphis Chamber of Commerce

Metropolis Strategies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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White House Plans \$302B Surface Authorization Administration's Proposal Calls for \$10B Multimodal Freight Grant Program over Four Years

WASHINGTON, DC (February 27, 2014) – On Wednesday, February 26, President Obama unveiled an outline for his Administration's first-ever surface transportation authorization proposal totaling \$302 billion over four years and using a combination of highway trust fund revenues and corporate tax reform proceeds to pay for it. Among the bill's top-line items is the creation of a multimodal freight grant program with \$2.5 billion per year in funds available for rail, highway, and port projects that "address the greatest needs for the efficient movement of goods across the country and abroad." The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) applauds the Administration's vision for improving our multimodal freight network to support American businesses and our national competitiveness in the world marketplace.

CAGTC has long advocated for a freight-specific grant program that awards funding through the use of merit-based criteria that identifies and prioritizes projects with a demonstrable contribution to national freight efficiency. Freight projects are typically large-scale, frequently multimodal and cross jurisdictional borders, making them difficult to fund through traditional distribution methods such as formula programs.

"Southern California's 18 million residents who our 191 member cities represent, applaud President Obama and his Administration for recognizing the linkage between efficient freight movement and our nation's ability to compete in the global marketplace. Our region has one of the highest employment levels related to efficient logistics and manufacturing in the United States," said Sharon Neely, CAGTC Chairman and Deputy Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments. "Accelerating ways to reduce truck traffic and ensure goods to market both locally and nationally would result in eliminating lost productivity time and wasted fuel. A multimodal, freight-specific grant program does not just invest in our transportation infrastructure, it invests in American businesses, creates jobs and facilitates global trade."

Announced in conjunction with a new, 6th round of TIGER competitive grants now open to applications, the President's proposal also codifies and increases funding for the TIGER program. Freight has historically competed well against other types of transportation projects eligible under the program's broad scope, claiming 47 percent of funding throughout the previous five rounds. The consistent success of freight projects in TIGER awards further demonstrates, as the Administration is proposing, that a freight-only grant program is necessary to address the growing volume of freight megaprojects across the country.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Mississippi State Department of Transportation

National Corn Growers Association

National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association

Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Councils of Government

Orange County Transportation Authority

Oregon Department of Transportation

Parsons

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Port of Long Beach

Port of Los Angeles

Port Miami

Port of Oakland

Port of Pittsburgh

Port of Portland, OR

Port of San Diego

Port of Seattle

Port of Stockton

Port of Tacoma

Port of Tampa

Port of Vancouver USA

Puget Sound Regional Council

RAILCET

Riverside (Calif.) County Transportation Commission

San Bernardino Associated Governments

SANDAG - San Diego Association of Governments

Southern California Association of Governments

Tennessee Department of Transportation

Virginia Port Authority

Washington State Department of Transportation

West Coast Corridor Coalition

Will County Center for Economic Development

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"The President's proposal recognizes the prospects for investments in our national freight assets as a strategy for economic growth, jobs and opportunity," said CAGTC Founding Chairman Mort Downey. "CAGTC has been making this case for years and we look forward to working with the Congress to turn this idea into funded, multi-year, competitive projects to enhance the efficiency of goods movement."

To learn more about our national freight network's investment needs, visit our website:

http://tradecorridors.org/images/stories/news/documenting_the_need_fact_sheet.pdf

CAGTC members joined in applauding the Administration's emphasis on freight; their remarks follow:

"The Administration's proposed multimodal freight program is a welcome step toward establishing a robust national policy for freight, among the key drivers of America's economy," said Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director of the **Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning**. "These investments are necessary to keep goods moving smoothly to markets and to address congestion that affects quality of life. Projects prioritized by metropolitan Chicago's CREATE public-private partnership should benefit from this new federal support to leverage significant contributions from the State of Illinois and private railroads."

"The Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority enthusiastically applauds President Obama's proposed \$10 billion multimodal freight grant program and looks forward to Congressional consideration of this exciting proposal," said Mark Christoffels, Chief Executive Officer of the **Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority** in eastern Los Angeles County. "Southern California is the nation's leading trade gateway and a grant program is needed to improve the efficiency and safety of nationally significant freight movement in our region while also mitigating adverse impacts on local communities."

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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.