

# Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Freight Coalition Applauds Kootenai MPO's Federal Award for Congestion Reduction

*Working with ITD, the Kootenai region receives \$5.1 million grant under highly-competitive FASTLANE program*

**WASHINGTON, DC (July 28, 2016)** – The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently released its proposed list of 18 project awards under the new Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Project program, referred to by USDOT as the FASTLANE program. One of just 18 recipients nationwide, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and project supporter Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (Kootenai MPO) competed against 212 applications in the inaugural round of the freight-focused program.

“The first round of FASTLANE grants was highly competitive and I congratulate Kootenai for earning an award,” said Coalition for America’s Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) Executive Director Elaine Nettle. “The FASTLANE program is designed to award the nation’s top goods movement projects and I am pleased to see that Kootenai is being recognized for its competitive and forward-thinking freight project. This award will significantly aid the movement of growing commerce along US 95 in Kootenai County, which is a critical link in the national and regional economy and supply chain.”

The award will improve nine miles of US 95 in Kootenai County, running through Coeur d’Alene and the surrounding area, through the implementation of adaptive signal timing and correct traffic signal spacing, among other things. These enhancements will aid in the elimination of bottlenecks caused by inefficient traffic signal timing as well as decrease travel time, resulting in improved mobility for north-south commercial truck traffic, and increased safety for all system users. The project promises enhanced freight mobility and opportunity for regional economic development.

While the FASTLANE program received funding requests totaling \$9.8 billion, just \$759 million was made available in Fiscal Year 2016, meaning the program’s demand is more than ten times its size. Following years of advocacy by CAGTC and its members, including Kootenai MPO, for a freight-specific competitive grant program, Congress authorized the FASTLANE program on December 4, 2015 through passage of the FAST Act. The program will award a total of \$4.5 billion over a five-year-period.

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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](http://www.tradecorridors.org)

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