

Economy in Motion:
The National Multimodal and Sustainable Freight Infrastructure Act
H.R. 5624
CONGRESSMAN ALAN LOWENTHAL

The movement of goods in our country is the engine that runs our economy, yet we do not currently have a freight-specific, national infrastructure program. Without a plan of strategic investment to expand the capacity, reliability and efficiency of our nation's goods movement, we stand to lose our place as a global economic leader.

Economy in Motion: The National Multimodal Freight Infrastructure Act will provide a dedicated and sustainable revenue source to fund multi-modal, freight-specific formula grants to states and a multi-modal, freight-specific competitive grant program to local, regional and state governments.

Freight Act Goals:

- Strengthen the contribution of the national freight network to the economic competitiveness of the United States;
- Improve the efficiency, reliability, cost and safety of freight transportation;
- Support the connectedness of all freight modalities and relieve the bottlenecks in the freight transportation system;
- Achieve and maintain the freight transportation system in a state of good repair; and
- Reduce the adverse community and environmental impacts of freight transportation, including greenhouse gas emissions, air and water pollution.

Freight Act Provisions:

- **Establish:**
 - Freight Transportation Infrastructure Trust Fund
 - National Multimodal Freight Funding Formula Program for States
 - Tier I Projects – single state formula
 - Tier II Projects – multi-state collaborative analysis
 - National Freight Infrastructure Multimodal Competitive Grant Program for Local, Regional and State Governments
 - 5% set aside for electrification demonstration projects
 - National Multimodal Freight Network and Strategic Plan
- **Qualifying Projects:**
 - A road, rail, air or water freight facility;
 - An intermodal facility such as a seaport or port on the inland waterway system, an airport or a highway/rail-intermodal facility;
 - First and last mile connectors; or,
 - A facility related to an international border crossing.

- **Grant Participation Requirements:**
 - State Freight Advisory Committees
 - State Freight Plans which include goals and strategies for reducing adverse environmental impacts.

- **Funding:**
 - Approximately \$8 billion annually provided through a 1 percent waybill fee on goods movement, requiring the entity paying for the cargo to be shipped via ground transportation within the U.S. to pay a fee of 1 percent of total cost of that transportation.

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