
Press Release

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CONTACT: Angela Rushen, Manager of Media and Public Affairs
(213) 236-1809 / rushen@scag.ca.gov



FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENTS \$45 BILLION/DAY IN GOODS MOVED ACROSS THE NATION

1. 2 million related jobs in Southern California

LOS ANGELES – November 5, 2010 – Given high unemployment rates in California (12.4%) and Southern California (12.6% in Los Angeles County, and 14.8% in the Riverside and San Bernardino area), a new Federal Department of Transportation report – the *Freight Analysis Framework* – could give the region’s leaders ammunition in its efforts to develop a predictable funding partnership for critical transportation projects which eliminate congestion chokeholds and ensure on-time delivery of goods locally and nationwide.

“We are extremely supportive of FHWA’s efforts to document the flow of goods in the *Freight Analysis Framework*,” Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Executive Director Hasan Ikhata said. “It is a comprehensive compilation of useful freight movement data, and will help support analysis to improve freight operations, and the economic impacts of goods movement to our region and across the country,” Ikhata said.

The *Freight Analysis Framework (FAF)* integrates data from a variety of sources to create a nationwide view of freight movement among states and major metropolitan areas by all modes of transportation. The FAF showed that 18.6 billion tons of goods worth about \$16.5 trillion were moved on the nation’s transportation network. This equates to 51 million tons of goods valued at more than \$45 billion a day that moved throughout the nation on all transport modes.

The volume of goods moving through the nation’s transportation network has significant implications for Southern California’s jobs outlook and overall economic sustainability. “There are nearly 1.2 million jobs in the six-county SCAG region in manufacturing, wholesale trade, and transportation and warehousing that depend on fast, efficient movement of freight to remain competitive in the global economy,” SCAG Chief Economic Advisor Jack Kyser said. “For

example, our international trade industry is facing the challenge from the expansion of the Panama Canal in 2014.” Additionally, freight movement in Southern California directly sustains almost three million jobs across the nation.

“With 1.2 million Southern California jobs at stake, the FAF report demonstrates how important Southern California’s transportation network is to our economy and the rest of the nation,” SCAG President Larry McCallon said. “A high priority for the SCAG Regional Council is the establishment of a goods movement funding partnership with a clearly defined federal role. This report further supports the need for Congress to proceed in January with pending House and Senate Freight legislation (Focusing Resources, Economic Investment, and Guidance to Help Transportation (FREIGHT) Act of 2010),” McCallon said.

More information on the *Freight Analysis Framework* is available at:

http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/freight/freight_analysis/faf/index.htm.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 190 cities and more than 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.