

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MULTIMODAL IMPROVEMENTS:

UNCLOGGING CONGESTION

Los Angeles notoriously suffers from the worst traffic congestion in the country. Traffic not only stalls local residents but also impedes the efficient flow of goods to and from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. These ports are a vital gateway for waterborne trade by cargo volume in the country, serving both the major regional market and inland regions across the country. The economic impact of Los Angeles' congestion is therefore felt throughout the United States by everyone from retailers to small manufacturers and to Midwestern farmers who rely on the ports to remain competitive.

Investing in the region's ports, intermodal links and roads would help alleviate current congestion and help prepare for expected growth. While work has begun on the replacement of the Gerald Desmond Bridge, which carries about 15 percent of the nation's waterborne cargo to and from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, a number of other critical projects are stalled because of insufficient or uncertain funding. Investment in these projects would help clear congestion and reduce traffic accidents, allowing commerce to flow more smoothly between the ports and some of the nation's largest distribution, warehousing and logistics centers.

