The Case for Freight

Increasing capacity on our nation’s transportation system will:

• Unlock Gridlock,
• Generate Jobs,
• Deliver Freight,
• Access Energy,
• Connect Communities

Did you know?

• The amount of freight moved in this country—from milk, toothpaste and toilet paper to sparkplugs, wheat and wind turbines—is expected to double in the next 40 years?

• The Interstate Highway System represents only 4 percent of total miles but carries 70 percent of commercial truck traffic?

• Each of the top ten worst freight-truck bottlenecks cause over one million hours of delay a year?

“These projects can create thousands of jobs and generate millions of dollars in state and local revenues. This is a strong example of how partnerships between the federal, state, local and private sectors can help unlock the capacity of freight, increase efficiencies and open up business development opportunities. These types of projects greatly benefit communities, regions and states.”

—Jolene Molitoris, Ohio Department of Transportation Director

Freight Capacity Needs
Ohio Heartland Corridor

There are two very strong projects that will help to unlock freight-rail movement in Ohio: the Heartland Corridor (Norfolk Southern) and the CSX National Gateway.

The Heartland Corridor offers the most-efficient double-stacked route from Mid-Atlantic ports to Columbus, Chicago, and points west. The five-year effort to clear 29 tunnels and other overhead obstacles will create the most-direct route for freight movement in the eastern United States.

The project also creates a new state of the art intermodal facility adjacent to the Columbus Regional Airport Authority at Rickenbacker Airport just south of Columbus. This project will reduce travel between Columbus and Norfolk, Virginia, by 300 miles.

For more information: http://expandingcapacity.transportation.org/
These Heartland Corridor terminal projects in Columbus will provide the following benefits by 2028:

- $101 million in annual direct and indirect taxes
- 9,473 in annual direct jobs
- 10,860 in annual indirect jobs
- $1.044 billion in other economic impact

CSX National Gateway

This is an $842 million, multi-state infrastructure project aimed at reducing congestion, lowering emissions, and conserving energy. The CSX National Gateway Project will provide double-stack clearance between Washington and Northwest Ohio via Pittsburgh; North Carolina and Baltimore; and Wilmington to Charlotte. The project will create a highly efficient double-stack rail corridor between East Coast seaports and consumption centers and Midwest distribution centers, improving the nation’s economy and environment. The project also includes the construction of a new intermodal terminal in North Baltimore, Ohio.

The benefits to Ohio from the CSX National Gateway include:

- Creation of more than 20,000 jobs
- $400 million savings in shipping and logistics costs
- Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 2.5 million tons
- Reduction of highway congestion
- Reduction of highway maintenance costs by $80 million
- CSX investment of $130 million in Ohio for terminal construction and expansion