

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS
FREIGHT POLICY AND MOVEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
PORT CONGESTION DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK: ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Port Congestion Factors:

1. Carriers' increasing use of megaships and impacts on port operations
2. Inefficient infrastructure (including cargo handling, technology, dredging needs and physical layout of the terminals) and inadequate intermodal connectors at various gateways
3. Communication gaps and inefficient coordination among shippers, terminals, ocean carriers, and land transport companies in the scheduling and movement of containers in and out of the ports
4. Chassis availability at various ports, especially on the U.S. West Coast
5. Increased risk of disruption during labor-management contract negotiations
6. Landside infrastructure inadequate to handle impacts of industry and market trends (including megaships, surges, and trade flow trends)

Short-term issues (one to five years):

- How can we improve coordination and communication among shippers, terminals, and carriers, to improve terminal / cargo handling efficiency and address megaship impacts on port operations? (*Factors: 1, 2, 3*)
- How can we improve coordination and communication between ports and among ports and shippers to find ways to reduce congestion? (e.g. new port working agreement between LA and Long Beach; various gray chassis pools) (*Factor: 1, 3, 4*)
- How can we improve truck and chassis availability? (e.g. gray chassis pools at various seaports) (*Factor: 4*)
- How can we improve operational factors at seaports where needed to facilitate cargo flow? (e.g. better operational practices in stacking / storage arrangements, collaboration among terminals) (*Factors: 1, 2, 3*)
- How can industry enhance their use of technology, information, and data to improve port operations and cargo movement fluidity? (*Factors: 1, 2, 3*)
- How can we improve regulatory coordination and cooperation among state and municipal agencies and ports to facilitate permitting for port congestion relief purposes? (e.g. improving port-related intermodal connectors and landside infrastructure and truck permitting) (*Factors: 1, 2, 6*)

- How can transportation agencies and municipal planning organizations better incorporate changing industry and market trends (such as megaships, surges, and trade flow trends) into their infrastructure planning and development process? (*Factors: 1, 6*)

Long-term issues (five years or more):

- Terminals should be merged to expand storage space and improve container handling and cargo flow. What's the best way to accomplish that given that terminals are owned by different terminal operating companies? (*Factors: 2, 3*)
- How can we incentivize and reduce barriers to public and private investment in port operations and technologies that improve the efficient flow of cargo and promote freight fluidity? (*Factor: 2*)
- What steps can we take to improve the funding process to attract more national and international private sector investment in port and connecting infrastructure that reduces congestion? (*Factor: 2*)
- How can we speed up dredging and secure more private/public partnership funding for it? (*Factor: 2*)
- How can we attract and train more truck drivers? (*Factor: 3*)
- What can we do to train more people at the ports on how to use technology to reduce congestion? (*Factor: 2*)
- What needs to be included in national freight policy and North American freight initiatives to reduce port congestion? (*Factors: 1, 2*)
- How can industry and government improve coordination and cooperation to better prioritize projects in order to reduce port congestion? (*Factors: 1, 2, 6*)