

**FTA**

Foreign Trade Association

January 7, 2022 Volume 3, Nr. 1

Happy New Year and welcome back everyone. The first week of the year has certainly not disappointed with a slew of breaking news, as well as big things that happened while we were away (looking at you, Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act). We are excited to catch everyone up on the issues of the past few weeks - so let's get to it.

Number of the Day:

25,757,345

Total rail traffic in combined carloads and intermodal units carried by U.S. railroads in the first 51 weeks of 2021, a 5.9% increase over the year before and 2.2% behind the same period in 2019, according to Association of American Railroads figures.

**FIRMs Code: W517**

DISCLAIMER: The weekly FTA Newsletter includes content from recognized and respected national and worldwide sources. Some of these sources may link a paywall, requiring a subscription.

OSRA 21 Coalition Update

The Advocacy Committee of the FTA has been working in collaboration with the other national and local trade associations seeking passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021. On Dec. 8, 2021, under [House of Representatives Suspension Rules](#), (which allow non-controversial bills to be voted on quickly), the House passed [HR 4996](#) by a vote of 364 to 60. Now the Senate is working on a companion bill and despite the momentum gained,

adoption in the Senate will be a challenge. As a Senate bill is introduced we will provide the details.

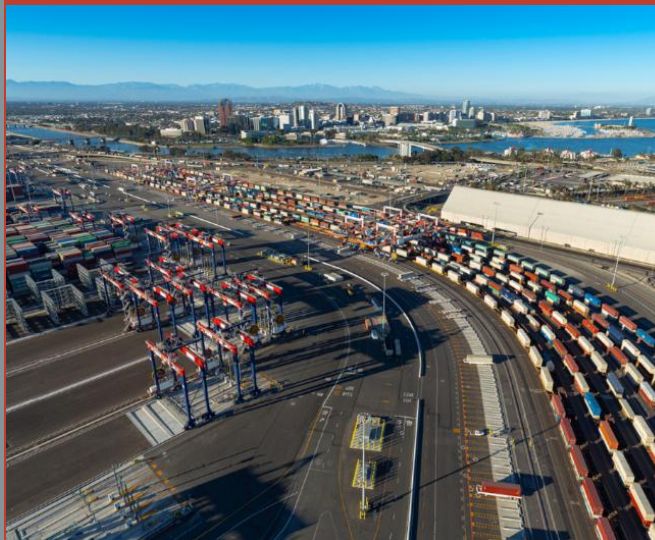
SoCal Infrastructure Coalition: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Infrastructure is one of the words on everyone's lips these days given the amount of money associated with the bills being discussed in Congress as we go to press. The FTA is part of a SoCal coalition that is discussing possible uses of the money once approved by Congress. Bearing in mind the pressing port congestion issue, one broad topic the coalition is trying to tackle is how possible infrastructure funding could be used to at least partially address the congestion challenges currently being faced. The goal of the coalition is to find a handful of priorities on which everyone can agree and raise those topics with Members and Senators as these bills work their way through the legislative process.

FTA wants to hear from its members about possible infrastructure projects in the SoCal area, whether designed to help impact port congestion or otherwise. Send your suggestion to ac@tradeandcargoconsulting.com

FTA ADVOCACY MEETING

Do you have import, export and other trade related issues about which you are concerned? FTA's Advocacy Committee is the place to raise those issues. Our next meeting is February 3, 2022 from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM PT - Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/93386806211>



Outside the Box

Innovation, sustainability
and vision make Long Beach
the Port of Choice.



Port of **LONG BEACH**
THE PORT OF CHOICE

Government Actions and Trade

U.S. on Sidelines as China and Other Asia-Pacific Nations Launch Trade Pact

The U.S. wants to counter China's influence around the world by providing everything from infrastructure to vaccines and green energy. WSJ's Stu Woo explains how the plan, dubbed Build Back Better World, aims to compete with

China's Belt and Road Initiative.

What's Next for China-US After Phase-one Trade Deal?

Over the past two years, while China has been facing all kinds of headwinds to fulfill the promises it made in the hard-won deal and striving to bring some certainty to a battered global economy, the U.S. has never stopped setting up roadblocks on a path that could have steered the two countries' relations back on track.

CBP Officers at South Texas Ports of Entry Post Significant Increases in Fentanyl, Cocaine Seized in FY 2021

"Faced with significantly less traffic due to travel restrictions imposed for public health reasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the drug and contraband threat remained the same and our frontline CBP officers rose to the challenge to meet that threat head on," said Director, Field Operations Randy J. Howe, Laredo Field Office.

Europe Struggles to Meet China's Trade Challenge

China's economic pushback against the European Union over Lithuania's outreach to Taiwan has sparked divisions in the EU and raised fresh doubts about its ability to shield its giant market from Beijing's pressure.

FACT SHEET: The Biden-Harris Action Plan for a Fairer, More Competitive, and More Resilient Meat and Poultry Supply Chain | The White House

Over the last few decades, we've seen too many industries become dominated by a handful of large companies that control most of the business and most of the opportunities—raising prices and decreasing options for American families, while also squeezing out small businesses and entrepreneurs.

World's Largest Free Trade Agreement Takes Effect

The world's largest free trade agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, RCEP, entered into force on Saturday, January 1, giving 15 countries around the Pacific Rim access to trade with each other with fewer tariffs. Eventually, more than 90 percent of merchandise trade between approved RCEP member nations will be subject to zero tariffs.

U.S. Dairy Industry Claims Victory Over Canada in Trade Pact Dispute

Members of the cross-border panel agreed with U.S. assertions that Canada breached the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) by earmarking most of its lower and zero-tariff dairy import quotas for domestic processors.

Japan asks Indonesia to Revoke Coal Export Ban as China, South Korea Shrug off Supply Worries for Now

Jakarta's stranglehold over local coal supplies has driven a wedge into the free market economics of the global coal trade as miners and Indonesian authorities weigh up an export ban.

Joe Biden's Inflationary Trade Policy - WSJ Opinion

The White House claims its policies are 'worker-centric,' but only a handful of workers benefit.

TRADE AND TRANSPORT ATTORNEYS

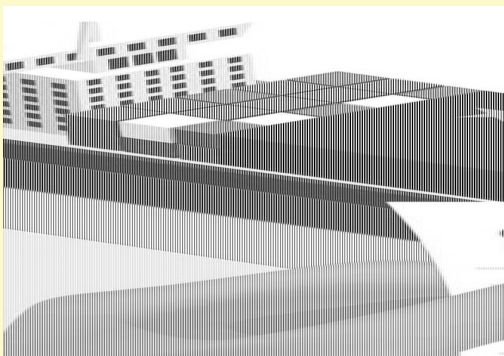


ROBERTS & KEHAGIARAS LLP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

LEARN MORE

FTA NEWS

FTA AND UPCOMING SECTION 301 PROGRAM



The Foreign Trade Association is closely monitoring the Section 301 Action filed with the Court of International Trade and Section 301 updates provided by the USTR. We are pleased to announce that we will be preparing a program that will shed light on the recent changes. Details on this program are soon to follow!

FTA Webinars/Courses



FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
Customs Brokers License Examination Course

This comprehensive course to prepare for the upcoming Customs Broker License Exam provides detailed review in areas such as:

- Customs Broker Regulations
- Entry Requirements
- Valuation of Imports
- Harmonized Tariff Classification
- Free Trade Agreements and Other Duty-Free Exemptions
- Fines and Penalties
- Various other topics typically covered on the exam
- Exam-Taking Techniques

In addition to being well-prepared for the exam, the course will also assist in developing a better understanding of critical areas of Customs Compliance even for people not planning on taking the brokers exam. The knowledge you receive will assist in enhancing skills for career advancement. If you already possess a broker's license, this is an excellent review course. Certified Customs Specialists completing the course will receive 20 CCS credits from the NCBFAA.

The course is recommended for individuals with some experience in customs brokerage or import operations. If in doubt about your level of experience, please call the instructor, Erik Smithweiss, at 213-624-1970.

INSTRUCTORS:
Erik Smithweiss & Tony Piscitelli

Erik Smithweiss is a partner with Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman & Klestadt. Erik has over 20 years experience in the field of customs law and procedure and has taught customs broker exam preparation courses for over ten years.

Tony Piscitelli is the owner of TP CBP Importing Compliance, which offers consulting and training services. Tony was a Compliance Specialist with Expeditors International for 11 years as well as a 32-year career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in NY and Los Angeles. Tony has taught customs broker exam preparation courses for over 6 years.

Course Material

CBP has yet to announce the next exam date in April 2022.

Reference materials and an amended flyer will be issued when CBP publishes the exam notice listing the required HTS and 19 CFR, which the students will be required to purchase.

11 WEEK EXAM PREP COURSE
Monday evenings 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Starts: Jan. 24, 2022
Ends: Apr. 4, 2022

Credits:
20 CCS provided by NCBFAA

Cost:
Member Price \$445
Non Member Price: \$550
Partner Price: \$500

Note: Note: Course materials are not included in the registration fee.

Location: Virtual classes will be held for now.


100 W. Broadway, Suite 600
Long Beach, CA 90802
P. 888-223-6456

January 24, 2022 - April 4, 2022

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- Exam-Taking Techniques

Time: Mondays, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM PT

REGISTER NOW

Pricing:

\$445 - Members

\$500 - Partner

\$550 - Non-members

REGISTER
HERE



Environmental

Conoship Unveils Series of 'Future-Proof' General Cargo Ships

The fuel-efficient 3,600 dwt ships will feature a diesel-electric propulsion system, with an enlarged propeller in combination with a ConoDuctTail® and optimized hull lines for best-in-class fuel consumption. The design is also ready for wind-assisted propulsion with space for the placement of two Econowind VentiFoil®.

Alternative Low-carbon Fuels Predicted to 'Steal Headlines'

Tyler Cole, director of carbon intelligence at FreightWaves, said that sustainability commitments will grow the most, and he predicted that alternative low-carbon fuels such as renewable natural gas (RNG), e-fuels, hydrogen and electric vehicles, will "steal headlines" in 2022.

The Minnesota Company Turning Shipping Containers into Your Next Office

We've all gotten creative over the last two years with our space. One Minnesota couple decided to fix a problem they were experiencing, knowing other families were in the same boat. Kelly O'Connell introduces us to the team at Latitude Studios Company, who's turning shipping containers into a variety of living spaces.

China's Capital Meets Own Clean-Air Standards for First Time as Olympics Approach

Beijing's current level is nearly seven times the recommended average set out by the World Health Organization, and is roughly three to four times higher than 2020 levels in cities like Washington, D.C., and London, according to data provided by the annual air-quality report by Swiss-based air-quality technology

company IQAir Group. India's capital of Delhi ranked worst in the world for air pollution, it said.

Where Light Pollution Impacts Marine Life Most – New Global Atlas Highlights Areas of Concern

Light pollution is simply a reality of modern urban life, so much so that some people in China are willing to fork out over 10,000 yuan (US\$1,570) to travel to less densely populated regions of the country to see clear stars for the first time in their lives.



Got a story idea?

The FTA wants to hear from you! Is there a topic or industry that we're not covering that you'd like to see more of? Drop us an email by clicking the button below with your suggestions.

**EMAIL YOUR STORY
IDEA**



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FTA New Member Thank You!

The FTA would like to acknowledge our new members each week in our newsletter. We sincerely appreciate their support and participation. Your FTA leadership continues to focus on delivering value during this time of social distancing and know that as we move back to in-person events that the opportunities will only continue to expand.

Your Name Here!



Maritime

Field Guide To Shipping Containers

In the 1950s, trucking magnate Malcom McLean changed the world when he got frustrated enough with the speed of trucking and traffic to start a commercial shipping company in order to move goods up and down the eastern seaboard a little faster. Within ten years, containers were standardized, and the first international container ship set sail in 1966.

Truck Drivers, Seafarers Quit as Omicron Spreads

As omicron infections surge and governments tighten restrictions, logistics companies around the world, from global giants to small businesses, can't find enough staff. According to the International Road Transport Union, around one-fifth of all professional truck driving jobs are unfilled, despite many employers offering increased wages. Some pockets of shipping are also sounding the warning bell about future hiring prospects.

Seaspan Completes Full Financing for 70-Vessel Newbuild Program

Seaspan charters its vessels primarily on long-term, fixed-rate time charters to the world's largest container shipping lines. Its fleet consists of 134 vessels with a total capacity of 1,156,800 TEU, plus another 67 vessels under construction, increasing total capacity to 1,959,200 TEU.

White House Prioritizing Imports of COVID-19 Rapid Tests

The administration has asked ocean carriers to evaluate options for offloading containers with critical medical goods at prior ports of call in a rotation to reduce transit time. The Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force recently worked with a medical device company, an ocean carrier, port and terminal operators, and rail operators to expedite import of two dozen shipping containers with critical equipment used in intensive care units, moving up the scheduled arrival

date by weeks, according to a White House blog entry on Wednesday.

Rising Tide of Complaints Over Perceived Profiteering by Global Container Shipping Lines

BIFA is joining a growing number of organizations, including CLECAT and FIATA, the US Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), and the Australian Productivity Commission, in calling for governments at a national and pan-national level to give careful consideration to the evolving business arrangements in the container shipping market to see whether they are in breach of competition law.

Department of Transportation Announces Over \$241 Million in MARAD Grants for Nation's Ports

"U.S. maritime ports play a critical role in our supply chains," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg. "These investments in our nation's ports will help support American jobs, efficient and resilient operations, and faster delivery of goods to the American people."

Takeaways from a Staggering Year in Container Shipping (2021)

Container shipping this year has been thrown into a completely different place, first with the remarkable pictures of the Ever Given stuck in the Suez Canal and later the line of ships waiting in the San Pedro Bay filling mainstream media. However, what it really took to bring shipping out of the shadows was shockingly poor reliability and record-high costs, driven by the stop and then start nature of trade during the pandemic.

5 Alternative Container Ports for Avoiding Congestion

The Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex was the poster child for supply chain gridlock in 2021, with dozens of vessels scattered for miles off the coast waiting for a berth and piles of containers bringing landside cargo flow to a crawl. Vessels are taking five days or more to unload, and importers and exporters are experiencing extensive delays to secure containers and the chassis to transport them.

British Freight Lobby Slams 'Profiteering' in Container Shipping

The lobby group, which represents freight-forwarding and logistics firms, said its members are concerned that certain practices and exemptions provided to shipping firms are leading to "distorted market conditions."

LA Port Pressures Ocean Carriers to Remove Empty Containers Faster

Whether the new fee will help declutter the port more than a similar \$100 fee schedule on import containers is unclear. The import storage fee was approved at the end of October but has been postponed for seven consecutive weeks because of some progress in reducing long-stored containers.

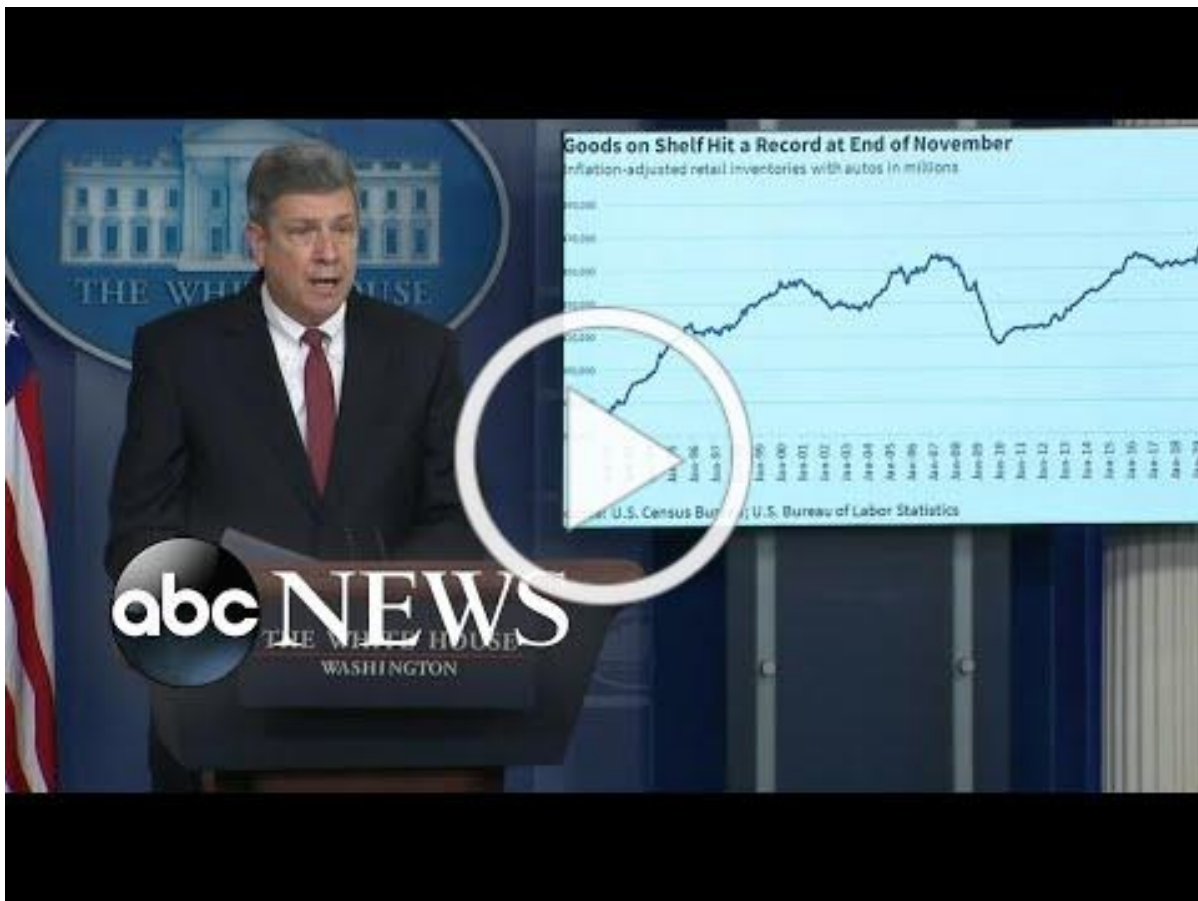


**KNOWLEDGE...
EXPERIENCE...
DEDICATION...**

Video of the Week

Port Envoy Update

Earlier this week from the White House Briefing Room podium, Port Envoy John Pocari provided the public with an update on the current state of supply chain and the statistics the administration is citing that conditions are improving.



Logistics and Trade

Flytrex Drones Can Fly Over People, Vehicles with New FAA Approval

Increasing volume to drive efficiency is just as important for Flytrex's business as it is for companies offering ground transportation for last-mile deliveries. The FAA approval will bring more potential customers into Flytrex's delivery range, helping the company in its goal to make drone deliveries 10 times more affordable than those completed by a human courier.

Firms Hit by New Brexit Red Tape as IT System Stops Trucks

As of Jan. 1, imports from the EU must be processed using the so-called Goods Vehicle Movement Service (GVMS), yet haulers have encountered setbacks such as shipments not loading on the system and reference codes not being accepted. Japanese automaker Honda Motor Co. is among companies that have seen cargoes hit so far.

New Index Measures Supply Chain Pressure — and it's Really High

The new measure aggregates 27 indicators — including two shipping indexes, the Baltic Dry Index (BDI) and Harpex index — into a standard deviation from the average since 1997. It's designed to provide "a more comprehensive summary of potential disruptions affecting global supply chains."

For Logistics Events, the Show Must Go On

Big logistics-industry conferences are moving ahead with in-person events in the coming weeks even as the Omicron variant rips through the U.S. and snarls domestic and international travel.

U.S. Needs to Guard Exports From Supply Chain Snarls, Biden's Envoy Says

U.S. port authorities and ocean carriers, dealing with record import volumes, need to ensure that exports aren't hindered amid the unprecedented supply chain logjams that aren't showing clear signs of dissipating, President Joe Biden's port envoy said.

There's No End in Sight for Chip-Constrained Auto Sales Slump

Industrywide, carmakers had about 18 days of inventory in December, according to TrueCar, an automotive pricing website. That's up slightly from the end of the third quarter, when automakers had 16 days worth. But it's still less than half what they had a year earlier.

Upcoming Events

January 13 - LACBFFA Annual Election Featuring CBP's State of the Ports 2022 (VIRTUAL) - 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM PT - Come join us to hear about the cargo volumes, what's new and upcoming in infrastructure, what our two ports are doing to stay ahead of other ports, and how they ensure the operations would continue to run smoothly through the pandemic - Register [here](#)

January 24 - April 4 - FTA Customs Broker License Exam Preparation Course - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM PT - Join us for our virtual course - Register [here](#)

January 25 - PAEI Webinar: Trade Compliance Assessment: An Executive Tool for 2022 - 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM PT - Join us for this interactive "webinar" with our industry experts on an overview of the Trade Compliance Assessment program with a focus on the fine points of conducting an effective assessment - Register [here](#)

February 24 - 25 - TPM Tech - The Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach - Register [here](#)

February 27 - March 2 - TPM22 - The Long Beach Convention Center, Long

Beach - The must-attend conference for the trans-Pacific and global container shipping and logistics community - Register [here](#)

February 27 - March 2 - ICPA Annual Conference- The Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA - Register [here](#)

May 1 - May 4 - NCBFFA Annual Conference - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM PTFort Lauderdale, FL - Register [here](#)

May 24 - CITT Town Hall - 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM PT- Hyatt Regency Long Beach - Register [here](#)

May 25 - May 27 - 2022 I-NUF 9th METRANS International Urban Freight Conference - The conference brings together researchers and practitioners in urban freight, supply chains, and logistics from around the world. It is a showcase for cutting-edge research and dynamic information-sharing and provides a forum for researchers, policy makers, and practitioners to reimagine and guide the future of the industry - Register [here](#)

July 19 - 20 - CBP 2022 Trade Symposium - Hilton Anaheim, Anaheim, CA - Register [here](#)

October 6 - 9 - WESCONN 2022 - Loews Coronado Bay Resort, San Diego, CA - Register [here](#)