The freight and supply chain industry is the lifeblood of California's robust economy. In the last 20 years, it has more than doubled from $1.6 trillion in 2003 to $3.6 trillion in 2023. With now the 5th largest economy in the world, California's ability to continue to be a global trade leader with its 12 deep water seaports, more than 250 general aviation airports, 7,000 miles of freight railroads, and nearly 2,500 interstate miles continues to boost its burgeoning market share in the national and global economy. Its ports are responsible for handling 40% of all containerized imports and 30% of all exports from the United States. These numbers represent percentage shares that are larger than any other state in the country. In 2022 Tennessee's freight system moved 552 million tons of freight, valued at $813 billion – the 11th largest value of freight moved among all states.

California transportation priorities are framed as the "Core 4" - Safety, Equity, Economic Prosperity, and Climate Action. The Core 4 guides all investment decisions from the state's transportation agencies. The Supply Chain Crisis of 2021, spurred on by the Covid-19 pandemic and labor challenges, showed the fragility of some links in the chain system. This compelled government leadership in California and the United States to get more connected with the supply chain system and provide significant additional funding and policy support. With the crisis in the rear, the conversation in California is shifting to improving efficiency and data sharing but also improving impacts on equity and climate change in the state. Can the supply chain industry continue to be an economic juggernaut boosting job opportunities while meeting universal consumer demand whilst transitioning to a more multimodal, technologically advanced industry that improves environmental and equity outcomes? The next frontier awaits, and California is continuing to navigate the path.

Toks Omishakin was appointed California's 4th Secretary of Transportation by Gov. Gavin Newsom in February 2022. In 2020, Omishakin was appointed to the Biden-Harris Transportation Transition Team. That December, he was recognized with the Excellence in Leadership Award by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials NorCal and in 2021 was named Person of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation. Born in Knoxville, Tennessee, Secretary Omishakin has a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering with a concentration in Engineering Management from UTK.