



Association of
Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations

Federal Update

Richmond Regional
Transportation Planning
Organization

Community Transportation Advisory
Committee Meeting

September 17, 2020

Federal Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

CARES Act

(Signed into law March 27)

- \$25B for Transit Infrastructure Grants distributed via formula; 100% federal share
- \$10B for Airport Grants
- \$56M for essential air service program
- \$492M for Amtrak Northeast Corridor
- No funding for DOTs

HEROES Act - \$3.4T

(Passed by House May 15th)

- \$500B in aid for states
- \$375B for cities and counties
- \$15.75B Transit
 - \$11.75B will go out in formula grants to 14 very large urbanized areas (NYC - \$4.4B, Boston \$866M)
 - \$4B in grants to transit agencies requiring significant assistance
- \$15B for State DOTs
 - Suballocated to TMAs

Senate - \$500B

- \$300B unemployment benefit
- Liability protection for business, hospital, churches, school against Covid-19 related personal injury claims
- Funding for PPP loans
- \$10B USPS
- \$150B for schools
- \$16B testing
- \$31 for vaccine development
- Relief for farmers

AMPO COVID-19 Response

Working independently and with the LOT Coalition to request Congressional action on:

- Increased funding to address local revenue short-falls (\$15B in HEROES Act)
- 100% Federal cost share (HEROES Act)
- Suballocate transportation funds (HEROES Act but only to TMAs)
- Extend deadlines for planning documents – Plans, TIPs, UPWP
- Extend time to spend 2019 BUILD Grant funding [FY21 House THUD Appropriations]

AMPO/LOT Coalition collaborated with US Senate offices to secure a letter to House and Senate leaders to provide relief

Comparison of House and Senate Surface Transportation Bills

HOUSE - HR 2 INVEST Act became part of larger infrastructure bill Moving Forward Act that passed the House of Reps in July 2020

- \$494B, 5-year Highway, Transit, Safety, Rail, Motor Carrier, Research
1st year of the bill is an extension with increased funding & 100% Federal cost share
Highways increase 42% over FAST Act [\$225.2B to \$319.6B]
Transit increase 68% over the FAST Act [\$49B to \$82.2B]

SENATE - S 2302 America's Transportation Infrastructure Act approve by Senate EPW Committee July 2019

- \$287B, 5-year Highway, Safety, Research
Highways increase 27.5% over FAST Act [\$225.2 to \$287.2]

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

FAST Act Expires September 30th

- Transportation stakeholders advocating for 1-year extension plus increased funding

Funding dependent on HTF resources and ability to meet obligations

- HTF will require additional amounts to get through a full year
- Congressional Budget Office estimates - \$6.7B
- USDOT estimates - \$18.6B
- Why the difference? Different projections of HTF receipts
 - CBO - \$40.3B (6.9% drop from earlier forecast)
 - USDOT - \$30B (30% drop from earlier estimates)

Appropriations Committee will need to set an Obligation Limitation

FY21 Federal Budget

Congress and the President are negotiating a Continuing Resolution(CR) to avoid a government shut down

- Length of the CR?
- Clean?
- Combine Covid-19 relief?
- No Surprise that politics remains a large factor in answering these questions.