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 approved by Senate EPW Committee July 2019

- $287B, 5-year Highway, Safety, Research
- Highways increase 27.5% over FAST Act [$225.2B to $287.2B]
FAST Act Expires September 30th

- Transportation stakeholders advocating for a 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.
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.