



CONGRESS BRIEF

House THUD Spending Bill is Moving

The House Appropriations Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) subcommittee passed its FY 2019 spending bill yesterday. The full committee is expected to mark up the legislation next Wednesday. The bill includes \$27.8 billion in discretionary appropriations for USDOT, a \$542 million increase from FY18 and \$11.7 billion above the president's request. It includes \$750 million for BUILD grants (formerly TIGER) and rejects the administration's proposal to make BUILD predominately rural. The bill calls for even distribution between urban, rural, and port projects. Additionally, the bill does not include specific Gateway funding for New York and New Jersey but does include \$150 million for a proposed project between Baltimore and Washington, DC under the Magnetic Levitation Deployment Program.

Senate FAA Update

Earlier this week, Senator John Thune (R-SD) said that he is not sure if the Senate FAA bill will include a disaster relief title (like the House version did), but that there will be discussions about adding it as part of a manager's amendment. The amendment package may include pilot-training requirement language that previously held the bill back. Thune hopes to have his bill on the floor before July 4 and has told Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) that it is ready for the floor.

CBO Review of House Rescissions Package

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reviewed the *Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Program Act* (H.R. 3) and estimated it would save only \$1 billion over ten years. House Republicans introduced the bill last week after the president sent his rescissions request to Congress. CBO estimates that the savings in actual outlays would be significantly lower than the \$15 billion in budget authority the bill rescinds. This is true for two reasons: first, the historical spending patterns show that the funds are unlikely to be spent under current law; and second, the

bill's proposals are aimed at reducing unnecessary funding that is not required for agencies to fulfill their purposes.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FHWA TPM Resource

The third national performance measure regulation requires FHWA to determine whether a state DOT has made significant progress towards the achievement of its National Highway Performance Program and National Highway Freight Program targets. FHWA has developed an additional TPM guidance document titled, ***FHWA Computation Procedure for Travel Time Based and Percent Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (non-SOV) Travel Performance Measures (May 2018)***. This is the third in a series of performance measure computation procedures FHWA is publishing on the **TPM website**.

REGIONS BRIEF

2018 CAGTC Annual Meeting

The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors held its annual meeting yesterday, at which Congressmen Jeff Denham (R-CA), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), and Sam Graves (R-MO) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee gave brief comments on their differing opinions on the prospects of an infrastructure package. The group also heard from Senator Tom Carper (D-DE). The focus of the meeting was the need for increased dedicated funding for freight infrastructure, with many panelists and other speakers highlighting the importance of stronger federal funding for their regions and projects.

MORPC Downtown Transit Pass Program Kicks Off June 1st

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) are rolling out a "C-pass" commuter program for downtown workers. Nearly 45,000 workers will be able to use COTA's entire bus system with the new C-pass. Downtown property owners are funding the bus passes at no cost to employees, building on the success of earlier trials that nearly doubled transit ridership. According to MORPC Transportation Systems & Funding Director Thea Walsh, the pioneer program will be the largest of its kind, aiming to alleviate parking shortages and the multiple negative effects of congestion. The program is currently funded through 2020.

Brightline Train Connects Miami to Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach

The Brightline high-speed train – the only privately owned and operated passenger rail system in the U.S. – will open its second line to the public on May 19. The train should reduce commuting time for South Florida residents traveling between Miami and Fort Lauderdale by approximately 30 minutes, and a one-way ticket will cost only \$10. On the leg between Miami and Fort Lauderdale, the train reaches top speeds of about 80 mph; however, the segment to Orlando will achieve speeds up to 125 mph when it opens early next decade. Fortress Investment Group, which owns Brightline, hopes this can be a model for other cities and regions with similar distances between employment hubs.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Active Transportation Planner

Michiana Area Council of Governments, South Bend, IN

Active Transportation Planner

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Transportation Planner I or II

Maricopa Association of Governments, Phoenix, AZ

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of opportunities!

AAPA Webinar on New FY 2018 Funding Opportunities for Port Multimodal

Projects

May 22, 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

With passage of the FY 2018 Omnibus and previously authorized programs, over \$3 billion in federal infrastructure funding will be available in coming months. The American Association of Port Authorities and USDOT will host a webinar on how USDOT grant programs can fund port infrastructure projects. Learn how these grant programs work together and what funding opportunities are most appropriate for port projects in FY 2018.

Innovative Ways to Gain Insight into the Needs of Freight Activity

May 23, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

In this webinar, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) will discuss innovative ways to gain insight into the needs of freight activity at the micro and macro levels. Dr. Kawamura from the University of Illinois at Chicago will discuss the methodology his team developed to measure and examine the ease/difficulty of making freight deliveries to an area using data from Chicago, Illinois. DVRPC will present its approach to identifying freight clusters, referred to as “freight centers.” The analysis used various data sets and a “freight quotient” calculation to pinpoint 70 unique freight centers, which have been assigned to one of five categories: international gateway, heavy industrial, distribution and logistics, high-tech manufacturing, and local manufacturing and distribution. The freight centers have been included in DVRPC’s 2045 long-range plan and will form the basis for future technical work and the prioritization of capital improvements.

NARC Webinar! Fleets for the Future: Best Practices for EV Charging Infrastructure

May 31, 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national project team of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team to learn about electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), using telematics for infrastructure planning, and best practices for education and technology. There will be time for Q&A following the presentation.

USDOT ITS JPO Webinar: NYCDOT Connected Vehicle Pilot - Application Design Stage Update

June 18, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

USDOT awarded three cooperative agreements collectively worth more than \$45 million to initiate a Design/Build/Test/Deploy Connected Vehicle (CV) Pilot Deployment Program to three agencies: Wyoming DOT, New York City (NYC) DOT, and Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA). From September 2015 to September 2016, each site prepared a comprehensive deployment concept to ensure a rapid and efficient connected vehicle capability roll-out. Now the three sites are nearing the end of the 20-month phase to design, build, and test these deployments of integrated wireless in-vehicle, mobile device, and roadside technologies. This session will discuss the connected vehicle applications being developed as part of the NYCDOT Connected Vehicle Pilot. Representatives from the NYCDOT Pilot will share their experiences of designing safety-related CV applications; identify technical and other barriers they are facing and how these barriers are being overcome; and discuss how these applications will eventually be tested and their performance measured.

CONTACT US