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ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

Congress Needs \$8.1B for HTF Fix: The highway account of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is expected to dip below \$4 billion (B) by the end of July. Once it dips below this level, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) will take measures to ensure that the account will be able to cover existing obligations (see post below). [The Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#) indicates that the highway account of the HTF will need \$6.6B to remain solvent through the end of the 2014 calendar year; the transit account will need another \$1.5B. Leaders from the U.S. Senate Finance Committee have reportedly been working with leaders from the U.S. House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee to secure the necessary funds; it's possible that an agreement will be announced shortly after the July 4th Congressional recess.

U.S. DOT Secretary Warns State DOTs and Transit Agencies: U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx recently sent letters to the states outlining U.S. DOT plans for managing the impending HTF shortfall. U.S. DOT will institute cash management procedures for payments from the HTF starting on August 1, effectively limiting state reimbursements from rolling reimbursements to every other week. A similar cash management plan for the Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account would be required sometime later this year. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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LEGISLATIVEBRIEF

Time for an Assessment: Both Chambers of Congress will return from the July 4th recess with one “must pass” transportation item to accomplish - the HTF. According to CBO, Congress needs to find \$8.1B to keep the fund solvent through the end of 2014. The Senate Finance Committee proposal would use the Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) Trust Fund surplus, plus a number of unrelated (to transportation) pay-fors to offset a transfer to the HTF. Chairman of House Ways & Means Committee Dave Camp (R-MI) has previously expressed support for using repatriated dollars to provide an HTF patch, though it is more likely that he'll work with his Senate Finance counterparts on a patched together solution, at least this go-around. This approach only gets the HTF through the end of the year, and would require additional action during a lame duck, post-election Congress to keep it functioning beyond that. Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH) proposed a nine-to-twelve month fix, but has not proposed the funding mechanism to generate the \$16B needed (ballpark figure).

REGIONALBRIEF

A \$90M Investment in Illinois' Metra West Line: Last week Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Union Pacific Railroad President/COO Lance Fritz announced that the Union Pacific (UP) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are making a combined \$90 million (M) investment in Metra's West Line. UP and IDOT will each invest \$45M to construct a new third main line track on the UP/Metra's West Line, from River Forest to Melrose Park, and then from West Chicago to Geneva. This announcement was made during a celebration commemorating the completion of a CREATE rail project that was primarily funded through a \$52M TIGER grant. The CREATE program has completed a total of 21 projects. Click **[HERE](#)** for additional information.

OPPORTUNITYBRIEF

Click **[HERE](#)** to view the list of grants and events still open!

SURVEY: Scenario Planning Snapshot Survey - NCHRP 8-36

Deadline: July 11

Planning Partners - The third survey in AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning's (SCOP) Snapshot of Planning Practices is now available. This snapshot will focus on the use of Scenario Planning in state and regional planning efforts. AASHTO asks that you share your knowledge and experiences on this timely topic by completing a brief 15 min survey. The insights you provide will be reported in the ongoing "Snapshot" series. These snapshots are prepared once per quarter and provide current information on what states and regions are doing on a variety of topics. Information collected will be summarized and published in aggregate only. Individual comments will not be reported. The survey can be passed on to your peers and planning partners, but please coordinate responses and submit one survey for your agency. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey.

WEBINAR: Eno Center Online Course on Public Private Partnerships

July 21-July 31, 7:00 AM-5:00 PM ET

The Eno Center for Transportation is pleased to announce a course offering of *Delivering Public-Private Transportation Projects* beginning the week of July 21st. *Delivering Public-Private Transportation Projects* is a 10-hour, online course taught by Roy Keinitz, former U.S. DOT Undersecretary for Policy. This course is an introduction to P3 concepts, including financing programs, deal structures, and regulatory frameworks. The course content is suitable for any transportation professional interested in P3s, regardless of their place of employment. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

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