

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

July 16, 2015

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations for 2016 (Oct. 1-Sept. 30)

While the full House has passed the THUD appropriations bill, only the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved it. The bill still needs to be heard by the full Senate.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21) Reauthorization

The current program is set to expire on July 31, 2015, only a little over 2 weeks from now. The House introduced HR 3038 on Monday (7/13/15) which would extend the program until 12/18/15 and passed the bill on Wednesday (7/15/15). The bill uses a variety of methods to provide funding of about \$8 billion to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent.

House Ways and Means Chairman Ryan has indicated that offshore corporate profits are his preference in funding a longer-term highway bill. An extension through the calendar year would allow Congress time to work on the tax changes needed. Meanwhile, there is less consensus in the Senate over the use of these tax changes.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with jurisdiction over construction and maintenance of highways marked up S 1647 The DRIVE Act (Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy) on June 24. It is a 6 year bill which would spend \$278 billion on highways. While the bill makes some changes to MAP 21 it retains most of the same programs.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation with jurisdiction over safety and interstate transportation scheduled a markup on their portion of the bill, S 1732, the Comprehensive Transportation and Consumer Protection Act of 2015 on July 15. It will be incorporated with the other committee bills to form the full reauthorization bill. The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs with jurisdiction over mass transit and the Senate Finance do not currently have a markup scheduled

The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has jurisdiction over all sections of the MAP 21 reauthorization bill in the House except financing which is the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee. Neither committee has a markup scheduled as yet.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization

The current program which covers airports and airplanes called the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2015. The House T&I committee is targeting reauthorization in September. The House T&I chairman has announced that the bill will remove federal air traffic control away from FAA responsibility.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Reauthorization

The House passed the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015, HR 749, which covers AMTRAK, other passenger rail and rail safety in March. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation but has not been scheduled yet.