



WASHINGTON UPDATE

PREPARED BY CAROLINE DECKER,
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Congress Passes Short Term Funding Bill

Thursday evening Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government operating and maintaining funding at current levels until February 18, 2022. The House passed the bill by a vote of 221-212. Shortly after House passage, and after narrowly defeating an amendment that would have defunded the Biden Administration's vaccine mandate by a vote of 48-50, the Senate passed the CR 69-28. President Biden signed the bill into law this afternoon.

House Transportation Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio Announces Retirement from Congress

After serving in the U.S. House of Representatives for 36 years, Rep. Peter DeFazio from Oregon's 4th Congressional district announced his retirement from Congress. He will serve out the remainder of his term which extends through the end of 2022. Rep. DeFazio currently serves as the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee and throughout his career has been a fierce advocate for transportation investments. More information on his accomplishments can be found [here](#) in his official retirement statement.

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) issued a statement heralding Chair DeFazio's vast accomplishments saying, "An active member of the T&I Committee since he was first elected in 1986, Chairman DeFazio has played an indispensable role in advocating for public transit, passenger rail, and all American infrastructure over a remarkable 36-year career. He has been an indefatigable advocate for access to affordable and reliable public transportation for all, and most recently has been instrumental in our efforts to secure both COVID-19 emergency relief as well as once-in-a-generation investments in public transportation in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He also continues to work tirelessly on behalf of public transit and high-speed rail investment included in the Build Back Better Act." A link to the APTA statement can be found [here](#).

Two House Democratic T&I Committee members have announced their interest in succeeding Rep. DeFazio as the next Chairman - [Eleanor Holmes Norton](#) from the District of Columbia and [Rick Larsen](#) (WA-2). This race will play out later in calendar year 2022 when members prepare for the convening of the new Congress in January 2023 with committee and leadership elections following the outcome of the national midterm elections on November 8, 2022.



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Build Back Better Act

Because Congress spent much of this week focused on the Continuing Resolution to keep the government open, there is no update on the ongoing negotiations on the [Build Back Better Act](#). The 10-year, \$1.7 trillion bill provides funding, establishes programs, and modifies provisions relating to a broad array of areas, including education, labor, childcare, health care, taxes, and the environment. The House passed the legislation November 19 and it now awaits Senate consideration. Senate Democrats would like to complete action on the package before Christmas.

U.S. DOT Infrastructure Information

For U.S. DOT information on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, visit this [link](#) for information from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has launched a new link to serve as its clearinghouse for information on the implementation of the infrastructure bill. The new FHWA link can be found [here](#). Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) information can be found [here](#).