



October 19, 2012

Congress continues its pre-election recess. They will return to Washington after the election on November 13 for a Lame Duck session. The length of the session will depend on whether Members of Congress are in the mood to tackle the many critical issues facing them such as sequestration, tax reform, expiring tax cuts, debt ceiling, etc. or will opt to punt things into next year and the new Congress.

In the meantime, US DOT continues its efforts to implement the MAP-21 surface transportation authorization law. While many issues remain under discussion as DOT staff works with congressional committee staff to determine congressional intent, in recent weeks FHWA and FTA have released additional MAP-21 guidance and information.

## MAP-21 Implementation

TIFIA – On October 11, US DOT released the latest list of projects that have submitted Letters of Intent (LOI) for the significantly expanded MAP-21 TIFIA financing program. Here is a [link](#) to the list of the 19 applicants. The total estimated cost of the projects is \$27.5B.

FTA Program Guidance and Apportionment Notice - On October 16, FTA published a notice in the Federal Register on "Transit Program Changes, Authorized Funding Levels, and Implementation of MAP-21" as well as the "FY'13 Apportionments, Allocations, Program Information and Interim Guidance". Here is a [link](#) to the Federal Register Notice. Here is a [link](#) to the FTA website about the notice.

State Freight Plans – On October 15, US DOT published a notice in the Federal Register on interim guidance on MAP-21 state freight plans and state freight advisory committees. Here is a [link](#) to the notice. Also recently available is a fact sheet by FHWA titled "[Significant Freight Provisions](#)".

### Webinars/Listening Sessions:

On October 25, DOT will hold a listening session on performance measures related to Traffic Congestion and NHS Performance from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM EDT. The event will be streamed live and participants will have an opportunity to contribute via a live chat room. Here is a [link](#) to register for the webcast.



### Other News

On October 11, FTA conducted a webinar overview of Circular 4703.1 – Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy Guidance for FTA Recipients. The presentation, an audio recording of the webinar and the text of the Circular can be found [here](#). The circular became effective on August 15, 2012. It clarifies the differences between Environmental Justice and Title VI and recommends techniques for incorporating EJ principles into transportation planning and the NEPA process.

On October 1, 2012 a new FTA Title VI Circular became effective. Here is a [link](#) to the Circular. The revised circular provides detailed guidance to help FTA funding recipients comply with Title VI requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibit discrimination based on race, color or national origins. Major changes include a new requirement that Title VI programs be approved by a grantee's Board of Directors and a threshold for determining the fixed route systems that are subject to detailed reporting requirements. FTA is currently hosting a series of webinars through November 15, 2012 to review the new circular in detail. The schedule and registration information for the webinars can be found [here](#).

FTA is finalizing a proposed Joint Development Circular which should be published shortly for public comment. Here is a [link](#) to an FTA presentation on the issue. The circular will clarify FTA's guidance on joint development. It will not establish new policies or requirements; rather it will compile existing ones into a single document for reference when pursuing joint development projects using FTA funds. The circular is expected to include an FTA definition of joint development, clarification of FTA's joint development policy, and a framework for FTA to review joint development applications.