



Washington Update

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October 26, 2015

Late in the day on Friday, House T&I Committee leadership introduced HR 3819, another short-term MAP-21 extension to continue authorization and funding for federal highway and transit programs. This latest extension will last three weeks - through November 20 - right before Congress leaves for the week-long Thanksgiving recess. The current extension expires this week on October 29. There are sufficient funds in the Highway Trust Fund to pay for the new extension.

HR 3819 will be brought up on the House floor early this week under a suspension of the rules and is expected to easily pass. Senate leadership has indicated it will also expedite passage of the bill before the 29th.

The extension does not include any changes to existing highway or transit programs, but it does include an extension of the December 31, 2015 deadline for implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) until December 2018. An identical PTC extension was also included in the House six-year STRRA reauthorization bill, but that bill is not expected to pass in time to avoid affected railroads having to begin to shut down operations.

House leaders continue to devise a strategy to bring HR 3763, the House six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill, to the House floor in the next few weeks despite the fact that no new revenue has been identified to pay for the bill.