



November 13, 2015

- The House and Senate have each passed their own version of a HR 22, a multi-year surface transportation authorization bill – the House STRR Act and the Senate DRIVE Act. The two bills must now be reconciled in conference.
- Both bills include highway, transit and, for the first time ever, passenger rail titles.
- The Members of Congress who have been selected as conferees are expected to hold the first (and perhaps only) formal meeting of the conference sometime next week. Committee staffs are currently working to sort through the differences in the two bills.
- Leadership’s goal is to finish the conference and pass the final bill by December 4.
- This will necessitate passing another very short-term extension since the current MAP-21 extension expires on November 20.
- Congressional leaders want to have the surface transportation authorization bill completed before December 11 when the FY’16 Continuing Resolution (CR) expires. They want to assure that the final authorized funding levels are incorporated into the THUD (US DOT) portion of the FY’16 omnibus appropriations bill.
- An amendment offered by Rep. Neugebauer (R-TX), that was agreed to during the House floor debate, would provide an extra \$40B in one-time revenue by liquidating the Federal Reserve’s capital surplus. If this provision survives in conference, some Members of Congress are pushing to use the sudden windfall to fund the bill for five years at higher funding levels rather than for six years at essentially flat funding levels. Here is a [link](#) to a letter sent to the conferees signed by 40 major industry associations recommending “a reauthorization bill of less than six years duration with significant highway and public transportation investment increases is far superior to a six-year bill with status quo funding levels”. Without the extra funding, the bill only provides enough funding for an essentially flat three-year bill.
- Here is a [link](#) to the final version of the House bill as passed on the House floor last week – this version includes all approved amendments.
- The conference will be chaired by House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA).
- The House T&I Committee has named 28 conferees – 16 Republicans and 12 Democrats:

Republicans from T&I	Democrats from T&I
Bill Shuster (R-PA)	Peter DeFazio (D-OR)
John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN)	Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)
Sam Graves (R-MO)	Jerry Nadler (D-NY)
Candice Miller (R-MI)	Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Rick Crawford (R-AR)	Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Lou Barletta (R-PA)	Elijah Cummings (D-MD)



Washington Update

PREPARED BY CATHY CONNOR
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Blake Farenthold (R-TX)	Rick Larsen (D-WA)
Bob Gibbs (R-OH)	Michael Capuano (D-MA)
Jeff Denham (R-CA)	Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
Reid Ribble (R-WI)	Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
Scott Perry (R-PA)	Steve Cohen (D-TN)
Rob Woodall (R-GA)	Albio Sires (D-NJ)
John Katko (R-NY)	
Bruce Babin (R-TX)	
Crescent Hardy (R-NV)	
Garret Graves (R-LA)	

- The House Ways & Means Committee and the Energy & Commerce Committee still need to name conferees.
- The Senate has named 13 conferees – 7 Republicans and 6 Democrats. Notably missing is the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Richard Shelby (R-AL).

Senator – Majority	Committee	Senator – Minority	Committee
Jim Inhofe (R-OK)	Environment & Public Works (EPW) Chair	Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	EPW Ranking
John Thune (R-SD)	Commerce Chair	Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	Banking Ranking
Orrin Hatch (R-UT)	Finance Chair	Bill Nelson (D-FL)	Commerce Ranking
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	Energy Chair	Ron Wyden (D-OR)	Finance Ranking
Deb Fischer (R-NE)	Commerce	Dick Durbin (D-IL)	Leadership
John Barrasso (R-WY)	EPW	Chuck Schumer (D-NY)	Finance, Banking
John Cornyn (R-TX)	Finance		