



## November 5, 2015

The House of Representatives has voted on final passage of its version of a multi-year surface transportation authorization bill by an overwhelming margin of 363 to 64. Republicans voted 186 to 58 to pass the bill. Democrats voted 177 to 6. The House then voted to go to conference with the Senate to resolve the differences in the two bills – STRRA and the DRIVE Act.

The House stayed in session until 1:00am this morning in an effort to get through all the pending amendments. At one point, they voted to approve 28 amendments en bloc. Most of the amendments were non-controversial and were passed or defeated by voice vote. Most of the more controversial amendments, such as eliminating federal funding for streetcars and devolving the federal program, were defeated. Out of over 350 amendments that were filed with the Rules Committee, only approximately 100 were ruled in order to be debated on the floor. A number of those related to the Export Import Bank title, vehicle safety, truck size and weight, and other non-highway/transit construction issues.

No amendments related to revenues or taxes, including several to increase or index the federal gas tax, were permitted to be debated.

An amendment that passed this morning, offered by Rep. Neugebauer (R-TX), would change the “payfors” in the bill. The amendment may potentially create significant additional revenue that could be used to extend funding in the bill for the full six-years. The full impact of the amendment is still being reviewed.

The House will adjourn shortly for a one-week recess. However, the House and Senate committee staff are expected to work through the week to “pre-conference” the bill. They will informally work through issues of agreement and identify issues that need to be negotiated by the Members. The formal conference is expected to proceed quickly since there are no overwhelming differences and no obvious deal killers in the two bills. However, it is not clear if logistically the conference can be completed by November 20 when the most recent MAP-21 short-term extension expires. It is possible that another extension into early December may be necessary.