

Parsons Brinckerhoff Washington Update - December 10, 2014 - Interim Update

FY'15 Appropriations

Last night, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees unveiled a \$1 trillion FY'15 funding bill. It is being called a "CRomnibus" bill because it provides full year appropriations (through September 30, 2015) for 11 federal agencies, but only a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) through the end of February for the Department of Homeland Security. The package, which will be voted on by the House and Senate tomorrow, includes funding for US DOT programs. Congress is cutting it close, as usual, since the current CR expires at midnight tomorrow. While the bill is expected to pass, there are a number of House and Senate members on both the right and the left who are indicating they plan to oppose the bill for one reason or another.

The chart below shows the US DOT funding by program. Most programs are frozen at the FY'14 funding levels. The final bill restores most of the funding cuts that the House had proposed for discretionary programs, such as Amtrak, FTA Capital Improvement Grants and TIGER, that are funded with General Funds. Despite expected passage of a full-year appropriations bill, programs funded with Highway Trust Fund money, such as the highway and transit formula programs, will not be authorized to expend any funds as of May 31, 2015 when the short-term MAP-21 authorization bill expires, unless Congress passes another short-term extension or preferably, a multi-year bill.

Here is a [link](#) to the legislative text of the bill. The US DOT/HUD portion of the omnibus bill is Division K - pages 1404 to 1486.

Here is a [link](#) to the explanatory statement for the DOT/HUD portion of the bill.

Program	FY'14 Funding	FY'15 US DOT Request –per the GROW AMERICA Act authorization	FY'15 Full House – Passed 229 to 192	FY'15 Senate Full Comte	Final FY'15 Funding Level
Core Highway Program – Obligation Limit	\$40.25B	\$47.32B	\$40.25B	\$40.25B	\$40.25B
Transit Formula – including Bus and Bus Facilities	\$8.6B	\$13.91B	\$8.6B	\$8.6B	\$8.6B
Transit Capital Improvement Grants (New Starts/Small	\$1.94B plus unused prior year funding	\$2.5B	\$1.69B	\$2.16B	\$2.12B

Starts/Core Capacity)	= \$2.13B total				
Airport Improvement (AIP) Grants	\$3.35B	\$2.90BB	\$3.35B	\$3.48B	\$3.35B
TIGER Discretionary Grants	\$600M	\$1.25B	\$100M	\$550M	\$500M
Amtrak Total	\$1.39B	\$2.45B	\$1.19B	\$1.39B	\$1.39B
High Speed Rail	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

In addition:

House language prohibiting federal funding for the California High-Speed Rail project was dropped. House language restricting TIGER funding to only highway, bridge and port projects was dropped. TIGER funds will continue to be available for transit, freight and passenger rail and other projects, but planning activities will no longer be eligible.

Within the FTA Capital Improvement Grants total funding there is:

- \$1.5B for existing FFGAs
- \$120M for Core Capacity projects
- \$143M for Small Starts plus \$27M from reprogrammed prior year discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities for a total of approximately \$172M
- \$325M for new/pending FFGA projects with a priority for projects seeking less than 40 percent federal share
- \$21M for Project Management Oversight activities

See the attached document for the list of specific projects designated to receive or be eligible for FTA Capital Investment Grant funds.

### House T&I Committee Assignments

This morning the House T&I Committee leadership announced the new Republican members of the committee. The new members, expected to be officially approved by the Republican Conference in January, are (in order of seniority):

U.S. Rep. Rob Woodall (GA-7) – 3<sup>rd</sup> term  
U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita (IN-4) – 3<sup>rd</sup> term  
U.S. Rep. John Katko (NY-24) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Crescent Hardy (NV-4) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Ryan Costello (PA-6) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Garret Graves (LA-6) - Freshman

U.S. Rep. Mimi Walters (CA-45) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (VA-10) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Carlos Curbelo (FL-26) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. David Rouzer (NC-7) - Freshman  
U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin (NY-1) - Freshman

The new Democratic members of the House T&I Committee have not yet been announced.