



February 26, 2014

Today is a big day for transportation news. The President made a major announcement about the Administration's proposal for a surface transportation reauthorization bill and how to fund it, the House Ways & Means Committee Chairman released a draft of a plan for tax reform that includes a proposal for funding the Highway Trust Fund, the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee held a Roundtable on MAP-21 reauthorization, and US DOT released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the FY'14 TIGER grant program.

## President Obama's Vision for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transportation Infrastructure

Today in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the President outlined a vision for investing in America's infrastructure with a \$302B, four-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal. Here is a [link](#) to a White House Fact Sheet on the President's plan. More details about the proposal will be included in the Administration's FY'15 budget request which will be released next week on March 4. It is unclear if the Administration will submit a formal MAP-21 reauthorization bill to Congress.

The President proposes to help pay for the bill by dedicating \$150B in a one-time revenue infusion from corporate tax reform. The Administration estimates that \$63B of that amount would go to plugging the current hole in the Highway Trust Fund balance and \$87B would go to support increased spending levels for key surface transportation programs. However, this funding plan will require congressional approval. It is unclear if Congress will support this proposal or if Congress will pass a corporate tax reform bill this year (see below). MAP-21 expires on September 30, 2014 and without some additional revenue, even a short-term extension is not possible.

Other provisions of the Administration's reauthorization proposal include:

- Funding for high-speed rail
- Creating a new multimodal freight grant program
- Authorizing the TIGER grant program permanently
- Prioritizing "Fix-it-First" investments
- Improving project delivery and the federal permitting and regulatory review process
- Building more resilient communities
- Continuing to attract private investment through TIFIA, a National Infrastructure Bank, America Fast Forward Bonds, etc.



## House Corporate Tax Reform Proposal

This morning, House Ways & Means Committee Chairman, Dave Camp (R-MI) released draft tax reform legislation, the Tax Reform Act of 2014.

Here is a [link](#) to a press release on the Ways & Means proposal that includes highlights of the provisions that would impact both the personal and corporate tax code. Here is a [link](#) to the draft legislation, a section by section of the bill, an executive summary and other materials.

The proposal includes "dedicating \$126.5B to the Highway Trust Fund to fully fund highway and infrastructure investment through the HTF for eight years". It does not appear to include an extension of the currently expired transit commuter benefit parity with parking.

Chairman Camp himself admits that it is highly unlikely the House, much less the full Congress, will actually pass tax reform legislation this year since it is an election year which, if nothing else, means a shorter than usual congressional session. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has said the Senate will not take up tax reform this year.

## TIGER NOFA

The FY'14 omnibus appropriations bill included \$600M for the TIGER discretionary grant program. That amount is up from the \$474M appropriated in FY'13 after sequestration. To date, \$3.5B in TIGER grants have been awarded.

Here is a [link](#) to the NOFA

Here is a [link](#) to the US DOT press release about the TIGER NOFA

Here is a [link](#) to the US DOT TIGER website

Key points include:

- No pre-applications are required for this round of TIGER
- Up to \$35M may be awarded for Planning Grants
- Date for [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) to begin receiving applications is April 3, 2014
- Deadline for applications is April 28, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. EDT

US DOT will be offering several webinars on various aspects of the TIGER application process. There are no registration fees for these sessions, but space is limited. **Advance registration is required and available by clicking on the webinar topic listed below:**



## Washington Update

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**PARSONS  
BRINCKERHOFF**

[March 12th – How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants](#)

[March 19th – Preparing a TIGER Planning Grant Application](#)

[March 26th – Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis \(BCA\) for a TIGER Discretionary Grant](#)

### House T&I MAP-21 Roundtable

This morning, the House T&I Subcommittee on Highways & Transit heard from a variety of business and labor groups, including the American Trucking Associations, the US Chamber of Commerce, the AFL-CIO, the National Association of Manufacturers, Transportation for America, Retail Leaders Association and Highway Users Alliance, regarding the reauthorization of MAP-21. The event was well attended by committee members including the so-called “Big 4” – Reps. Shuster, Rahall, Petri and Norton. All the stakeholder participants strongly supported a long-term, predictable, well-funded reauthorization bill.

Here is a [link](#) to more information about the event.