

Parsons Brinckerhoff Washington Update - July 30, 2015 - Interim Update

Yesterday evening, the House voted to pass a three-month extension of the MAP-21 authorization which extends current surface transportation funding and programs until October 29, 2015. This bill supersedes the five-month short-term bill (expiring on December 18, 2015) that the House had previously passed. The extension was included as part of HR 3236, a Veterans' health bill. The extension does not include reauthorization of the Export Import Bank.

The three-month extension is supposed to give the House the opportunity to introduce and act on its own version of a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill and then go to conference with the Senate's DRIVE Act bill this fall. The purpose of the shorter extension is to keep the pressure on all parties to act quickly. The House has adjourned for its five-week summer recess. They will return to session on Tuesday, September 8.

A few minutes ago, the Senate passed the House's three-month MAP-21 extension by a vote of 91 to 4 - 60 votes were required. The President is expected to sign the extension bill at some point before midnight on Friday when the current short-term MAP-21 extension expires.

Earlier today, the Senate passed its six-year (with three years of funding) DRIVE Act surface transportation bill by a vote of 65 to 34 – only a simple majority was required. Senate Majority Leader McConnell filed yet another "Manager's Amendment" with changes to the bill agreed to by leadership. With no opportunity provided to offer floor amendments, most changes to the bill and deals cut to gain votes were handled behind the scenes and included in a series of Manager's Amendments. Here is a [link](#) to how Senators voted.