

PB Washington Update – Interim Report – March 2, 2011

A quick status report on key pending legislative issues:

FY'11 Continuing Resolution (CR) – Yesterday the House passed a “mini” two-week CR lasting through March 18 in order to avoid a government shutdown this Friday when the current short-term CR expires. The Senate is expected to pass an identical CR later today. Unlike past CRs, which extended funding at FY'10 levels, the House mini CR includes \$8B in program cuts. The infrastructure-related cuts include elimination of a one-time \$650M FY'10 general fund contribution to the highway formula program, \$293M in highway Surface Transportation Priority Projects (FY'11 funding for highway STPP earmarks), \$24M from the FRA Rail Line Relocation program and \$516M from various Corps of Engineers Civil Works programs.

In the meantime, the Senate is working on its version of the longer CR which would fund the government through September 31. Two weeks ago the House passed the longer CR which included over \$60B in cuts for the remaining seven months of the fiscal year, including significant cuts and rescissions in transportation and other infrastructure programs. See the [February 21 PB Washington Update](#) for more details.

FY'12 Appropriations – The House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees have started the hearing process on the Administration's FY'12 Budget Request in advance of drafting their own version of the FY'12 spending bills.

FAA Reauthorization – The full Senate has passed a multi-year authorization bill. The House T&I Committee passed its version of an FAA bill on February 17 which is waiting to be scheduled for House floor vote. It does not appear it will come up for a vote this week. The current short-term extension expires on March 31.

SAFETEA-LU Extension – The House T&I Committee has approved a new extension of the current short-term SAFETEA-LU authorization bill. The current extension expires on March 4. The new extension goes through the end of the fiscal year – September 31. The full House is scheduled to vote on the extension (HR 662) today. It is a clean bill with no added provisions or spending cuts. The Senate is expected to take up the bill sometime before Friday.