

## [PB Washington Update - Interim Report - March 4, 2010](#)

The Senate Appropriations Committee just released an outline of its version of the FY'11 seven-month CR. Senate leaders hope to bring the CR to the Senate floor for debate next week. The Senate CR cuts federal spending by \$51B below the President's FY'11 Budget Request, as opposed to the House-passed CR which cuts approximately \$100B from the President's request (the equivalent of \$61B below the FY'10 enacted levels). The Senate CR includes no earmarks.

The primary cut to transportation programs in the Senate CR is a proposed \$150M cut in the FTA New Starts program below the FY'10 enacted funding level of \$2B. Therefore, the Senate proposes to provide \$1.85B for New Starts while the House CR includes \$1.57B.

No other transportation program cuts are mentioned, therefore it appears all other US DOT programs would be funded at their current FY'10 levels. This means the House and Senate CRs are very different and the conference to reconcile the differences in the two bills may be long and heated.

Here is a [link](#) to the Senate announcement on the CR which outlines the various program cuts. The New Starts reference is on the bottom of page 6 of the press release. On page 8 of the release, the Senate Appropriations Committee strongly criticizes the House CR reductions in transit and port security grants, US DOT's TIGER program and EPA's Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds.

Yesterday the President signed the "mini" CR which will temporarily fund the government for another two weeks (through March 18), thereby avoiding a government shutdown. The short CR included \$4B in cuts government-wide.

Also, last night the Senate passed a clean seven month-extension (through September 30) of the SAFETEA-LU authorization. The bill now goes to the President to sign, which he is expected to do.