

PB Washington Update - April 19, 2012 - Interim Update - FY'13 Senate DOT Appropriations

In addition to all of the activity on the surface transportation reauthorization bills, Congress has begun to act on the FY'13 federal agency appropriations bills. Today, the full Senate Appropriations Committee voted to approve the FY'13 THUD (DOT) annual funding bill. The bill was marked up in subcommittee on Tuesday. Typically, the House passes its version of the appropriations bill first, but it appears the House will not act on the DOT bill until late May or early June.

The Senate DOT appropriations bill includes:

FHWA - \$39.1B for the highway obligation limitation, the same as FY'12

FTA - \$10.4B for the total transit program including \$2.04B for the New Starts/Small Starts program, a \$89M increase over FY'12, and \$8.36B for the formula grant program, the same as FY'12.

FAA - \$3.35B for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), the same as FY'12

Amtrak - \$1.45B, the same as FY'12, although less than the \$1.55B the Administration requested and the \$2.17B Amtrak requested

High Speed Rail - \$100M, there was no money appropriated for HSR in FY'12

TIGER V - \$500M, the same as FY'12, with \$120M of that amount reserved for projects in rural communities

HUD - \$50M for the Sustainable Communities Initiative, there was no money appropriated for this program in FY'12

There are no project earmarks in the bill.

While congressional leaders have indicated they expect both the House and Senate to pass most, if not all, the annual appropriations bills out of the respective bodies, it is unclear if the bills can be reconciled in conference before the end of the fiscal year on September 30 or before Congress adjourns in early October for the elections. It is likely that many federal agencies will have to be funded under a Continuing Resolution (CR) until Congress meets after the elections in a Lame Duck session.