

FEDERAL UPDATE

MAY 29, 2017



RURAL STATE PERSPECTIVE

- Sen. Ernst on EPW / Sen. Barrasso (WY) chair
- Private investment/financing can only be a part of the solution
 - Tax credits/tolls don't work on rural roads
 - Financing (infrastructure banks) less attractive to pay-as-you-go states like Iowa
- Better to send funds directly through existing formulas

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- Transition team requested lists (VERY preliminary) – possible Iowa projects:
 - Upper Mississippi River Locks and Dams Modernization
 - Lewis and Clark Regional Water System
 - Cedar Rapids Flood Mitigation
 - Interstate 80/Interstate 380 Systems Interchange
 - Des Moines International Airport Terminal Modernization

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (CONT.)

- Congressional legislation introduced so far:
 - Raise the federal gas tax
 - Index the federal gas tax (some bipartisan support)
 - Repatriation/bond sales (some bipartisan support)
 - Customs and Border Patrol revenue

FFY 17 APPROPRIATIONS

- Still under a CR at FFY 16 levels – no FAST Act increase
- Expires April 28
- Options:
 - CR the rest of the year
 - Omnibus (may be proposed soon)

FFY 17 TIGER AND FASTLANE

- TIGER – no NOFO because no FFY 17 appropriations bill
- FASTLANE – no awards yet – possibly due to conflicting criteria

THE 'SKINNY' BUDGET FOR FFY 18

- **Congress will not enact as written**
- But admin's skinny budget proposes to eliminate funds for:
 - TIGER
 - Essential Air Service
 - Amtrak long-distance routes
 - Transit New Starts/Small Starts without existing FFGAs
- Also one policy mentioned: privatize Air Traffic Control

EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND MEMOS

- **Freeze memo**
 - Regulations – two of the proposed rules impacted:
 - Bridge/pavement performance measures (PM2)- seen as non-controversial
 - CMAQ/freight performance measures (PM3) – more controversial, but can't just remove a few paragraphs if using CRA
 - Both delayed first until March 21, now to May 20

EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND MEMOS (CONT.)

- **Sanctuary jurisdictions** – Jan 25 EO
 - compile weekly list of jurisdictions that ignore federal requests to detain "removable aliens"
 - "ensure that jurisdictions that fail to comply with applicable Federal law do not receive Federal funds, except as mandated by law"
 - First list released last week: several Iowa jurisdictions listed, at least some of which dispute their inclusion
- AG Sessions: jurisdictions must certify compliance or no OJP grants

SPEAKING OF SANCTUARIES...

- Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (upper Midwest) is on now on the Endangered Species list
 - Important pollinator
 - First of any bee species in contiguous US to receive protection
 - Will further the effort to encourage monarchs and pollinators along the Monarch Highway

QUESTIONS?