

FEDERAL UPDATE

SEPT. 19, 2017



ON THE FALL AGENDA FOR CONGRESS

- Transportation related:
 - Automated Vehicle legislation - moving
 - FAA reauthorization - inevitable extension
 - Infrastructure package – long odds, but recent interest

FOLLOWING THAT:

- Dec. 8, 2017- current CR expires
- Possible completion of an FFY 18 appropriations package/omnibus

PROPOSED FFY 18 APPROPRIATIONS – HOUSE VS. SENATE

- FAST Act authorized levels: yes / yes
- TIGER: \$0 / \$550 million
- PFC cap raised: no / yes, to \$8.50
- EAS funded at ~ FY 17 levels: yes / yes
- Earmark repurposing: no / yes

TIGER FFY 17 - OVERVIEW

Capital investment in surface transportation with a significant impact on the nation, a metro area or a region

- Sept. 6 - NOFO out, with an Oct. 16, 2017 deadline
- 2 remaining webinars: today 1-3 (on BCA), tomorrow 1-3 (general info)
- ~\$500 million will be awarded
- Grant sizes: \$5M to \$25M except rural, where minimum is \$1M
- At least 20% of TIGER funds must go to rural projects

TIGER FFY 17 – AMONG THE CHANGES FROM LAST YEAR:

- From the conference call:
 - “Special invitation to rural communities”- “paint a picture of access to jobs”
 - Requests that applicants “articulate how the project will be maintained”
 - Specifies that competitive apps. will “exceed the minimum” non-federal share
 - Encourages creativity re. the source of the non-federal share
- Based on the NOFO:
 - Specific references to automated vehicles
 - Omits specific words: “product of a robust, inclusive planning process” – little impact?

FASTLANE / INFRA - OVERVIEW

Freight and highway projects of national or regional significance

- Solution to changing priorities: two rounds of awards
 - First round awarded in August - smaller projects, FY 17 criteria
 - 10 projects, none in Iowa
 - Second round not yet awarded (due Nov. 2) – mostly large projects, new criteria

INFRA – AMONG THE CHANGES FROM “FASTLANE”

More emphasis on:

leveraging state, local and private funds
innovation
environmental review and permitting
rural projects

Less prominent:

mobility
community/environmental

ADMIN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT – D.C. MEETING

- On Aug. 30, Director Lowe and ~150 state and local officials met with:
 - USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao
 - Budget Director Mick Mulvaney
 - President's Special Assistant for Infrastructure: D.J. Gribbin, and others

Stated purpose: “underscore the need for a different approach, outline draft guiding principles, and allow participants to brainstorm actions to help carry this conversation on the need for change and the opportunity to empower state and local leaders back to states and communities”

ADMIN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT – D.C. MEETING (CONT.)

- Expect changes to laws, regulations and policy
- Three pieces: 1. incentives (“largest”), 2. rural projects, 3. transformative projects
- “States and cities that secure some private sector financing will be given higher priority” – Sec. Chao as quoted by Reuters
- Encouraging themes:
 - Decision-making and control at the state and local level
 - Efforts to eliminate permitting delays
 - Commitment to funding strategies that meet the needs of rural states

MAASTO ADVOCATES:

- Funds over-and-above existing formula program (assured at D.C. meeting)
- A Rural America Infrastructure Program – flexible funds, multimodal
 - Eligible: state and local gov
 - Criteria: freight movement, condition, access to healthcare, etc., safety, poverty rates, leverage of non-federal resources, coordination across levels of government, public/private
- Environmental review and permitting process enhancements
- Sustainable funding for the Highway Trust Fund

QUESTIONS?