

FEDERAL UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

REAUTHORIZATION (THE MULTI-YEAR POLICY/PROGRAM BILL)

- Current bill (FAST Act) extension likely for a while, but:
- Proposals to eventually replace it –
 - House – likely out next year
 - Senate – S 2302 reported out of EPW in July
- Will need an additional ~\$110 billion in new revenue or general fund transfers

S 2302, SENATE REAUTH PROPOSAL - OVERVIEW

- “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019” (highway title)
- FY 2021 – FY 2025
- Bipartisan
- Leaves core programs in place
- Adds several new formula and competitive programs – narrowly targeted
- Themes include: resilience, environment, pedestrians, freight and intermodal, AV impacts, wildlife collisions, higher non-federal share

S 2302 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS - CHANGES

Proposed changes to planning provisions - examples

- MPOs shall consider “equitable and proportional representation”
- More than one MPO per **urbanized area** (was “metro planning area”) only if okayed by governor and existing MPO
- MPOs should use data/docs consistent with nearby MPOs
- “Outer years” in long-range plans means four years (rather than 10)

S 2302 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS – CHANGES (CONT.)

Proposed changes to STBGP - examples

- Increases the “Transportation Enhancements” set-aside by 40%, and 57.5% must be suballocated by population (currently 50%)
- Adds eligibility for new types of projects, such as:
 - to reduce wildlife collisions
 - that incorporate “natural infrastructure” to enhance resilience of a transportation facility (wetlands, for example)

S2303 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS - CHANGES (CONT.)

Proposed changes to INFRA grants – examples:

- Increases the amount that can go to non-highway projects
- Adds eligibilities for projects related to: wildlife crossing, marine highways, etc.
- Adds consideration of: improved resilience to high wind, flooding, heavy snow, movement of energy equipment, etc.
- New set-aside to encourage use of non-federal funds

Current status: awards announced July 25 – no Iowa

S 2302 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS - NEW

Proposed new program: Bridge Investment Program (competitive)

- Auth. status to a program similar to those in approps bills in FY 18/19, maybe FY 20
- Averages \$650 million per year
- Eligible: state and local governments
- Eligible projects: bridges on the National Bridge Inventory, culverts that improve flood control or habitat connectivity for aquatic species
- Priority to projects in states that have applied unsuccessfully in the past

S 2302 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS - NEW (CONT.)

Proposed new program: Formula Safety Incentive Program

- \$500 million per year
- 65% suballocated by population
- Half must be used by states or MPOs for highway safety improvement projects (consult with RPAs)
- Half for any STBG-eligible project *if* the state is doing a “vulnerable [non-motorist] road user assessment”

S 2303 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS – NEW (CONT.)

Proposed new program: Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (grants)

- \$100 - \$300 million per year
- States and MPOs
- Deploy charging and fueling stations along designated alternative fuel corridors
 - for electric, hydrogen, and/or natural gas
 - two interstate segments in Iowa currently designated:
 - I-80 electric vehicle charging ready from Davenport to Iowa City
 - I-80 compressed natural gas ready from Des Moines to Omaha

S 2303 – PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS - NEW (CONT.)

Proposed new pilot program: Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (competitive)

- \$45-\$60 million per year
- Eligible: states, MPOs, local governments
- Projects to protect motorists and wildlife, and improve habitat connectivity
- Public-private partnerships encouraged

ANNUAL FUNDING - FY 2020

- Likely to continue FY 19 levels through ~Nov. 21 (“CR”)
- House - passed its transportation approps bill in June (HR 3055)
- Senate – transportation approps bill out of committee last week (S 2520)
 - like the House bill, includes General Fund supplements to highways, transit and airports
 - *unlike* the House bill, includes a Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation program

STATUS OF GRANTS—BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND REHABILITATION

Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (Competitive Highway Bridge Program)

- For rural states (25 qualified)
- \$225 million to 18 states
- **Iowa award - \$33.4 million – the largest award!**
- Proposal team: Iowa DOT, County Engineers Assoc., APWA, AGC, FHWA
- Improves up to 77 bridges around the state (68 county, 5 city, 4 DOT)
- Will use accelerated bridge construction technologies