

Legislative Activity

Iowa Freight Advisory Council

March 2015



Federal Legislative Activity

- Uncertainty
 - Program Authorization
 - Stable Federal Funding
 - Budget Status
 - Appropriations Status
 - Other Federal Legislative Activity

Federal Legislative Activity

- Program Authorization
 - Extension of MAP-21 expires May 31, 2015
 - Currently in rulemaking for many of the policy provision of MAP-21, especially the focus on Performance Management
 - Without extension cannot access HTF
 - However, need to ensure that adequate funding is in the trust fund
 - Need \$4 billion to get to end of FY and more if a longer term extension is passed.

Federal Legislative Activity

- Stable Federal Funding
 - More than a decade of investing more than available receipts into the trust fund
 - Estimates vary but around \$13 billion per year is necessary for current investment levels
 - Appears to be support for transportation investments but not enough support to find revenues to pay for it.

Federal Legislative Activity

- Federal Funding Options identified but no action taken
 - Increase in current fuel taxes
 - Mileage based user fee
 - Revenues from Corporate tax reform
 - Including options dealing with overseas profits
 - 5% tax on certain imports
 - Tax on crude oil exports
 - Tax on certain securities trading transactions

Federal Legislative Activity

- FY 2016 Budget Status
 - House passed their Budget – March 25
 - Senate passed their Budget – March 26 or 27
 - Live within current receipts with clause for additional funds if deficit neutral
 - Budget Resolution sets the funding ceilings for the Appropriations Committee to develop program details.

Federal Legislative Activity

- FY 2016 Appropriations Status
 - House and Senate hearings on the Administration's Budget are underway
 - Best hope is for level funding
 - Can't pass increase in user fees
 - Will be difficult enough to get some GF transfers
 - Expect to continue funding with a series of Continuing Resolutions

Federal Legislative Activity

- Outlook
 - No Authorization or Funding proposal has been introduced
 - Short term measures - Continue to “Kick the Can Down the Road”
 - More likely to find enough revenue to authorize into 2016, but then the Election is only 592 days away

Federal Legislative Activity

“Yes I intend to hopefully get that resolved by that time, if we can. But I have to admit there is not a lot of options.....it’s very, very difficult to find the money.”

“There are no simple answers. We’re going to come up with it one way or the other.”

“We just have to see what we can do.”

Federal Legislative Activity

- Other activity / pending legislation
 - Administration's Budget = Multi-year Authorization proposal
 - National Freight Network Trust Fund
 - Reauthorize the Surface Transportation Board
 - Partially devolve federal program
 - Postpone Positive Train Control mandate
 - Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act

Federal Legislative Activity

- Other
 - Railroad track maintenance tax credit
 - Study on diverting freight rail traffic to avoid urban areas
 - Freight funding program
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State Legislative Activity

- Iowa DOT Omnibus Bill
- Linking Iowa's Transportation Infrastructure Fund
- Fuel Tax and permitting Fees – Senate File 257

State Legislative Activity

- Iowa DOT Omnibus Bill
 - Non-controversial
 - Update Iowa Code chapters 307 and 307A
 - Remove or update various aviation and rail sections
 - Update some driver license issues
 - IRP filings and undercover license plates
 - Commercial Learner's Permit

