
FEDERAL UPDATE

DEC. 5, 2017

12/5/2017

FHWA ADMINISTRATOR NOMINEE

- Paul Trombino III approved by EPW committee Oct. 25
- No Senate floor vote scheduled yet
- Acting Administrator: Brandye Hendrickson

ADMIN. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

- Recent statements by WH technical advisor, Reid Cordish:
 - 70-page memo of principles
 - Plan to work with Congress to draft language
- No progress on a pay-for
- Timing?

TAX PROPOSALS: EXAMPLES OF TRANSP. PROVISIONS (AS OF DEC 4)

	House bill	Senate bill
Highway Trust Fund solvency via federal gas tax increase	no	no
Repatriation revenue for infrastructure	no	no (amdt. defeated)
Strike some tax cuts to offset \$997.5B for infrastructure	no	proposed amdt.
Tax credits for shortline railroads	no	no
Employer deductibility for transportation fringe benefits	repeals	repeals
Tax credits for electric vehicles	phases out	leaves intact
Authority to issue PABs after 2017	repeals	leaves intact
Option for early refinancing of municipal bonds	repeals	repeals
Employee tax breaks for bicycle commutes	leaves intact	repeals

TAX REFORM PROPOSALS – TRANSPORTATION, CONT.

- Deficit could trigger cuts to some programs, including EAS
- Likely that Congress will avoid this

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

- House bill passed Sept. 6
- Senate bill out of committee Oct. 4
- Some momentum to pass a bill after a tax bill passes, but 1st Senate UC attempt failed last week
- Staffers at work reconciling differences between House and Senate

FY 18 APPROPRIATIONS

- Current CR expires Dec. 8
- House is considering a CR through Dec. 22 (or Dec. 30)
- If it passes, a third likely to be introduced to go into January
- Shutdown fairly unlikely, but meanwhile:
 - FAST Act funding levels for formula funds (~ \$1 billion less, nationwide)
 - FY 18 TIGER delayed

TIGER

- Not authorized – requires an approps bill
- FY 18
 - No NOFO yet - approps proposals: Senate - \$550 million, House - \$0

Meanwhile...

- FY 17
 - Deadline was Oct. 16, 2017
 - No awards announced yet

INFRA

- An authorized program
- FY 18 round is partial FY 17 plus all FY 18 funds
 - Applications were due Nov. 2
 - No awards yet announced
 - If announced before an approps bill, will have to assume a lower limit
- Iowa DOT application: I-80/I-380 interchange reconstruction - ~\$302 million

BUS AND BUS FACILITIES COMPETITIVE GRANTS

- An authorized program
- FY 18 - No NOFO yet

Meanwhile...

- FY 17 - applications were due Aug. 25
 - DOT submitted statewide applications for rural and urban
 - No awards announced yet

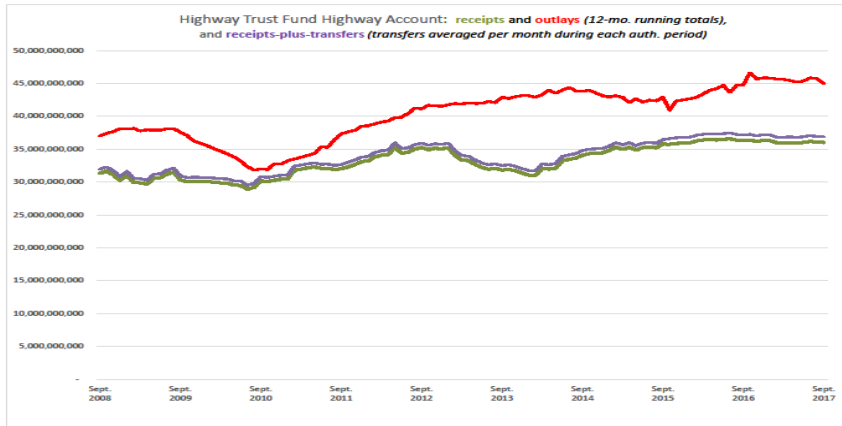
GAO REPORT ON DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

- Uses FY 16 FASTLANE (now INFRA) as an example
- Among the findings:
 - 42% of the FY 16 applications were for freight projects, although just 10% was set aside for freight
 - 58% of the applications were for small projects, but they represented a fraction of the total funds requested
- Concerns: transparency, objectivity and consistency
- FY 17 INFRA NOFO addresses some concerns, but not all
- <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-38>

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND STATUS

- HTF currently estimated solvent until after the FAST Act ends in 2020 (i.e. spring/summer 2021)
- If nothing is done –
 - Highway account faces a 40% cut in new obligations
 - Transit account – no new obligations 2021-2023

HIGHWAY ACCOUNT – RECEIPTS VS. OUTLAYS



HIGHWAY ACCOUNT: CLOSING BALANCES AND TRANSFERS

