



AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION





Legislative Report

-

2010 Transit CEOs Seminar

William L. Volk
Chair, APTA Legislative Committee
Managing Director, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District

William Millar
President, APTA

Legislative Overview



- Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation
- FY 2010 Appropriations Legislation
- ARRA and New “Jobs” Bill
- High-Speed Passenger Rail
- Energy and/or Climate Change Legislation
- Rail Transit/Bus Safety Legislation
- Other Issues

Legislative Overview



Authorizing Legislation

- SAFETEA-LU Authorization now extended through February 28, 2009
- Oberstar Draft Bill Introduced in House
- No Bill introduced in Senate
 - EPW to begin drafting in March; Banking?; Administration?
- No Financing Title for Bill introduced in either House
- Another Extension Likely in February: House-passed “jobs” bill includes SAFETEA-LU extension for remainder of FY 10 (September 30). Senate “jobs” bill may extend SAFETEA-LU to December 31, 2010

Legislative Overview



Authorizing Legislation

- Oberstar Draft Bill authorizes \$500 billion
- Authorizes \$99.8 billion for transit
- Authorizes \$50 billion in general funds for high-speed rail
- Authorizes \$337 billion for highways
- Authorizes \$13 billion for highway safety

Legislative Overview



Authorizing Legislation

- Oberstar bill creates \$50 billion Metropolitan Mobility Access program
 - Grants for transit/highways in UZA's over 500K
- Oberstar creates \$25 billion Projects of National Significance program
 - projects of more than \$500 million
- Funding for both from \$450 billion for transit/highway programs.

Legislative Overview



FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations

- FY10 THUD Bill provides \$10.7 Billion for transit and \$2.5 billion for High-speed rail – record investment!
- THUD signed by President on Dec. 16.
- FTA is unable to release full \$10.7 billion until Congress extends SAFETEA-LU thru end of FY10 and matches funding level in THUD bill.

Legislative Overview



ARRA- signed by President Obama, 2/17/09

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - \$8.4 billion for transit.
- ARRA in action:
 - Transit systems have applied for 99% of ARRA funding
 - Grants have been approved for 86.4% of funds, \$7.2 billion
 - FTA is reviewing applications for 12.8% of remaining funds, \$1.1 billion
 - 10% of ARRA funding available for operations

Legislative Overview



New “Jobs” bill

- House of Representatives passed new “jobs” legislation on December 16.
- House-passed bill:
 - \$37 billion for transportation infrastructure, including \$27.5 billion for FHWA and \$8.4 billion for FTA (same split as ARRA)
 - \$8.4 billion for transit:
 - \$6.15 billion for urban and rural formula (5307/5340/5311)
 - \$1.75 billion for fixed-guideway modernization
 - \$500 million for New Starts
- Plan for Senate action under development.

Legislative Overview



Senate Jobs bill

- President Obama has called for Senate action.
- Instead of single bill, Senate could develop multiple bills.
- Draft Senate proposal:
 - Approx \$25 billion for transportation
 - \$7.5 billion for transit
 - \$14 billion for highways.
 - \$1.5 billion for high-speed rail
- Contact Senators!
 - Transportation investment could drop out.
 - Best chance to receive emergency operating funds.

Legislative Overview



High-Speed Passenger Rail Legislation

- \$8 billion under ARRA, awarded January 28th
- Builds on PRIIA* Intercity and High-Speed Rail Corridor Grant Program
- Oberstar Authorizing Bill authorizes \$50 billion in general funds for High-Speed Rail
- Administration previously proposed \$1 billion for High-Speed Rail in each of next four years

*Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008

Legislative Overview



Climate Change and Energy Legislation:

- House passes Waxman-Markey bill last June
 - Transit eligible only to compete for state energy grants
- Boxer/Kerry bill reported by EPW committee last October
 - 2.5% of revenues dedicated to transportation, ~\$2 billion/year
 - 50% transit formula
 - 50% discretionary grants and planning grants
- John Kerry working on compromise cap-and-trade bill.
- If climate bill delayed...provisions and incentives for transit could be included in Senate energy bill.

Legislative Overview



Rail and Bus Safety Legislation

- Administration has developed proposal to strengthen transit safety.
- DOT proposal would build on State Safety Oversight program with consistent standards
- Provide federal funding for new federal program and implementation of standards.
- Any new federal program should incorporate federal preemption to ensure that efforts at the state level remain concentrated on identified national safety priorities.

Legislative Overview



Other issues

- Extension of alternative fuel tax credits needed. Credits for transit included House-passed tax “extenders” bill in December, but Senate schedule has not been determined.
- Transit commuter benefit increase under ARRA (max \$230/month) expires at the end of 2010.
- FRA issued Final Rule on Positive Train Control (PTC) this month; federal funding for PTC remains uncertain.

