American Public Transportation Association

Legislative Committee
Agenda

October 4, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CT

Hilton Chicago
Room: Continental A-B (Lobby Level)
Chicago, IL

1. Welcome and Call to Order—Beth Holbrook, Chair
2. Approval of Minutes of June 28, 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting—Beth Holbrook
3. Remarks from APTA Leadership—
4. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Update—Matthew Cahill, Acting Deputy Administrator and Chief Counsel, FTA
5. Legislative Update and Fiscal Year 2027 Continuing Resolution (CR) Strategy—Ward McCarragher, Vice President, APTA Government Affairs and Advocacy
6. FY 2027 CR and Advance Appropriations Priorities Discussion—Phillip Eng, Vice Chair, and Mark Hybner, Senior Director, APTA Government Affairs and Advocacy
7. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Federal Grants Rule Update—Sarah Saadian, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Campaigns, National Council of Nonprofits
8. APTA CR Advocacy Messaging and Communications—TJ Doyle, Vice President, APTA Communications and Marketing
9. Open Discussion
10. Adjourn

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS

- Minutes of June 28, 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting (10.04.2026)
- APTA Advocacy Palm Card (09.16.2026)
- APTA TALKING POINTS Surface Transportation Authorization Policy Priorities (09.16.2026)
- APTA Insights: BUILD America 250 Webinar Series
- APTA FACT SHEET H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 Act, Investments and Policy Provisions (06.15.2026)
- APTA TALKING POINTS Transportation Appropriations and Extension Act (09.16.2026)
- APTA TALKING POINTS Block OMB Final Rule on Federal Grants (09.16.2026)
- APTA FACT SHEET Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2027 (09.02.2026)
- APTA Government Affairs 2026 Legislative Calendar (10.01.2026)

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 28, 2026
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order—Beth Holbrook, Chair

Legislative Committee Chair Beth Holbrook welcomed APTA members to Baltimore, Maryland, and called the meeting to order. She welcomed members who have joined the Legislative Committee since the APTA Mobility Conference in May.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 17, 2026 Legislative Committee Meeting—Beth Holbrook

Chair Holbrook presented the minutes of the Legislative Committee meeting, which occurred on May 17, 2026, for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes, which was seconded, and then approved without objection.

3. Remarks from APTA Leadership—Leanne Redden, Chair, APTA, and Paul Skoutelas, APTA President and CEO

APTA Chair Leanne Redden provided opening remarks, noting the fast-approaching September 30 expiration of the current authorization law and emphasizing that APTA's advocacy work is likely to stretch into next year. Chair Redden encouraged members to engage now to help shape the next authorization law. She also urged members to tell their positive stories about how investments in public transportation are growing the economy to their elected officials, in letters to the editor, at Town Hall meetings, and at community and business gatherings.

APTA President and CEO Paul Skoutelas noted that the House Surface Transportation bill was a good first step, but not all that APTA had hoped for, especially regarding funding for public transit and passenger rail. He emphasized that there is a great deal of work to do and he urged members to advocate for what our industry and communities need to be safe, efficient, and successful.

4. Legislative Update and Surface Transportation Authorization Strategy—APTA Government Affairs and Advocacy Staff

Ward McCarragher, Vice President, presented a legislative update, providing key dates to watch through 2026, including House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advancing the Build America 250 Act (May 22) and House Appropriations Committee advancing the FY 2027 THUD Appropriations (June 3); September 30 expiration of both the IIJA and FY 2026 Transportation Appropriations; and the November 3 midterm elections.

McCarragher highlighted APTA's three advocacy focus areas including: 2027 Transportation Appropriations, Surface Transportation Authorization, and the Continuing Resolution and Surface Transportation Authorization Extension Act. In addition, he discussed H.R. 8870, the BUILD America 250 Act, noting that the bill was a good first step, but more needs to be done to ensure that any final Surface Transportation Authorization maintains and builds upon the guaranteed funding (i.e., advanced appropriations) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. McCarragher noted the extraordinary list of 25 APTA policy priorities that were included in H.R. 8870 and then turned it over to APTA Government Affairs and Advocacy staff to discuss provisions of particular importance.

Benji Schwartz, Director, presented changes H.R. 8870 made to the Capital Investment Grants program. His presentation covered the Streamlined (formerly Small) Starts program, Core Capacity Improvement Program, New Starts program, reforms to the overall grant structure, and the Expedited Project Delivery program.

Katie Mabry, Legislative Representative, briefed APTA members on provisions relating to Accelerating Project Delivery, including allowing public transit and passenger rail agencies to acquire real property prior to National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review, as well as the expanded use of Categorial Exclusions (CE) for certain types of projects and new authorities for transit agency implementation of CEs. In addition, she discussed changes to NEPA procedural requirements, including page limits for certain environmental documents.

Mark Hybner, Director, discussed the newly proposed Consolidated State Block Grant (CSBG) program. The CSBG provision in H.R. 8870 authorizes States to apply to receive a combined block grant for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funds that includes funds that would otherwise be apportioned to designated recipients in the State. Within such participating States, a majority of direct recipients in an Urbanized Area (UZA) must determine whether to join the CSBG program or continue to receive apportionments in the standard manner. Hybner noted that on May 20, 2026, APTA sent a letter to leaders of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (House T&I) expressing concern that this program creates more bureaucracy and further removes key decisions from the local communities served.

Stacie Tiongson, Senior Director, briefed APTA members on section 3102 of H.R. 8870, which requires the installation of fully enclosed barriers for operator workstations on new fixed-route buses 30 feet or more in length and purchased with Federal funds. The bill also establishes a working group to review bus design and make recommendations for retrofitting existing vehicles. APTA's May 20, 2026 letter to House T&I Committee leaders also noted this provision as a significant concern.

5. APTA Advocacy Messaging and Communications—TJ Doyle, Vice President, APTA Communications and Marketing

TJ Doyle explained the recent "That's Transit" campaign to support APTA's *Surface Transportation Authorization Recommendations*, including fully funding public transportation in the Surface Transportation Authorization. The "That's Transit" campaign is centered on the economic impact of public transportation and how it fuels jobs, economic growth, and

innovation. In addition, Doyle noted that ahead of the first U.S. FIFA match, APTA hosted a media briefing with host city leaders to tell the national story of public transit putting America on the world stage and has also organized a robust social media campaign surrounding the events. Doyle also discussed APTA's Voices for Public Transportation (VPT), which is a grassroots campaign to build a national movement of public support to drive momentum towards comprehensive public transportation and infrastructure efforts. Doyle provided an overview of all VPT's activities over the last year.

6. Regulatory Update—Taria Barron, General Counsel, APTA

APTA General Counsel, Taria Barron, provided a regulatory update focusing on APTA's regulatory engagement and comments filed in 2026. In addition, she highlighted two rulemaking that APTA is currently seeking member comments on, including the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Proposed Rule on Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance and the FTA's Request for Information on Family Friendly Transit. Members discussed the importance of commenting on the OMB Financial Assistance proposal given the potential impact on Federal grants.

7. Adjourn

Chair Holbrook thanked everyone for their participation. There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded, and then approved without objection. Chair Holbrook adjourned the meeting.