



AMPO

Association of  
Metropolitan  
Planning  
Organizations

# Policy Update

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Association of Metropolitan Planning  
Organizations



# Policy Update

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- **Congress**
- **Administration/USDOT**
- **AMPO**
- **Outlook**





## 2011 Budget & Transportation - “Big Picture”

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- Congress’ “Real Fight” - Debt Limit v. Less Federal Spending
- 2011 spending = 2010 minus what Congress cuts

### A.2-Week Extension ran March 5 – 18

- ✓ \$4 Billion cut from “total” Federal budget
- ✓ \$968 Million of that is cut from DOT
  - ❖ Cut \$650 Million General Funds to Highway account
  - ❖ Cut \$283 Million in Earmarks
  - ❖ Cut \$25 Million from FRA rail relocation





## 2011 Budget & Transportation- “Big Picture”

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2011 spending = 2010 minus what Congress cuts

### B) Current 3-Week Extension from March 18 – April 3

- ✓ \$6 Billion cut from “total” Federal budget
- ✓ \$50 Million cut from DOT
  - ❖ The cut is FRA’s positive train control grants





# Surface Transportation Authorization

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- **What the House of Rep.'s rule change means**
  - Repeals spending guarantees
  - Less certainty through annual appropriations... year by year
  - Only authorized programs...no last minute add-ins allowed
  
- **What authorization we are using now**
  - President signed **SAFETEA-LU** extension until end of September





# Congressional Authorization Priorities

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## • Priorities in Congress

- More with less (House v. Senate)
- 6-year bill v. other (3-years)
- Performance planning
- Federal interest
- Private sector participation
- Freight mobility
- Improve project delivery - 437 Day Plan
- Consolidate/eliminate programs





## White House/USDOT Authorization proposal

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- **\$556B six-year authorization**
- **Rename the Highway Trust Fund the “Transportation Trust Fund” with four accounts**
  - **Highways - \$336B (48% increase over SAFETEA LU)**
  - **Transit - \$119B (\$127% increase)**
  - **High-speed passenger rail - \$53B**
  - **The National Infrastructure Bank - \$5B/year**
- **\$50B Upfront economic boost (in 2012)**
  - **\$25 B for Critical Highway Infrastructure**
  - **\$7.5B for Transit State of Good Repair**





## White House/USDOT proposal

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- **Highways - consolidate over 55 separate highway programs into five core programs**
  - National Highway Program - \$32.4B
  - Highway Safety Improvement - \$2.5B
  - Livable Communities - \$4.1B
  - Federal Allocation - \$1.4B
  - Research, Technology, and Education - \$661M
- **Establishes a performance-based highway program in critical areas of safety and state of good repair**





## White House/USDOT proposal

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- **Promoting Regional Planning (Grant):**
  - Bolster state and metropolitan planning;
  - Award funds to high performing communities;
  - Empower the most capable communities and planning organizations to determine which projects deserve funding
- **Rail**
  - \$4B Network Development – Competitive grants for core express, regional and feeder corridors
  - \$4B System Preservation – Funds AMTRAK operating, capital, and debt requirements
  - \$223M Safety and Operations – includes a rail safety user fee of \$80M to offset costs with rail safety inspectors





## White House/USDOT proposal

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- Transit - Improve condition of assets, expand access, and increase transit safety
- National Infrastructure Bank - Investments of National and regional significance, provide grants, loans, and a combination of both; eligible projects include multimodal projects for highway, transit, rail, aviation, including equipage, ports, and maritime initiatives
- *No plan to pay* for the six-year proposal





# Authorization

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- **Time-Line**

- **House**

- Introduce bill in April/May

- **Senate**

- TBD

- **USDOT**

- Legislative proposal has been drafted and sent to OMB for review...*but introduction to the House is a courtesy– no required.*





## What is AMPO asking for?

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**Broadly—**

- 1. Increased metropolitan planning funds**
- 2. Increased sub-allocation of funding (strengthen 62.5% of STP, urbanized CMAQ and, perhaps, other programs)**
- 3. Increased project selection**

**What the key Congressional committees ask of us?**





## Outlook

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- **House/Senate conference before September or be overtaken by Presidential campaign**
- **HTF in decline**
  - **Current spending levels are unsustainable**
  - **Highway account negative in 2013**
  - **Transit account negative in 2014**
- **New revenue above current excise taxes unlikely - Both the President and Congress and oppose increasing the federal gas tax**





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**Thank you for your time!**

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