

General Manager's Report March 10, 2014

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

FEDERAL

On March 4, President Obama sent his FY15 budget request to Congress. The Administration proposes \$17.6 billion for FTA in 2015 (\$10.842 was provided in FY14 Omnibus). The proposal includes \$13.9 billion to support FTA's base formula programs, with an additional investment in programs improving the state of good repair of rail transit and recapitalizing bus and bus facilities (\$8.595 billion was provided in FY14 for these programs). The Administration proposes \$2.5 billion in new budget authority for Capital Investment Grants, to support new fixed guideway investments (New Starts and Small Starts) as well as projects aimed at improving or restoring the core capacity of existing fixed guideway systems (\$1.943 was provided in FY14). In addition, the Administration proposes \$500 million for a new program to support the development of bus rapid transit services in fast growing areas.

Rep. Ed Pastor (D-AZ), the top Democrat on the House Appropriations THUD panel, announced last week that he will leave Congress at the end of this year. His retirement after 23 years in the House means the subcommittee with jurisdiction over DOT funds will have all-new leadership in the 114th Congress. Chairman Tom Latham (R-IA) announced his retirement late last year. Their replacements will be announced prior to the start of the next Congress.

Last week, House Transportation Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) said he is aiming to mark up a transportation bill "sometime this spring, early summer," a day after his counterpart Sen. Barbara Boxer said she hoped to move a bill through her Environment and Public Works Committee in April. That puts the two chambers roughly on the same timetable. Shuster acknowledged that the main challenge is where to find enough funding to keep the Highway Trust Fund afloat, saying it's "a huge challenge for us." He reiterated that any funding solution must be fiscally responsible and not raise the deficit. He said he's "encouraged" by proposals released yesterday by both House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp and President Barack Obama.

The Senate will not move a fiscal 2015 budget resolution even as House Budget begins early work on its tax and spending blueprint for the fiscal year starting October 1 and the White House readies to release its own budget on today. Senate Budget Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) said no new budget resolution is needed because the budget deal (PL 113-67) Congress approved in December already sets the discretionary spending limit for the coming year. Senator Murray said that with the appropriations committees already working on fiscal 2015 spending bills based on the budget agreement, "we should work together to build on our two-year bipartisan budget, not create more uncertainty for families and businesses by immediately re-litigating it." Congress in that agreement reduced the cuts required under sequester by raising the discretionary caps to \$1.012 trillion in fiscal 2014 and \$1.014 trillion in fiscal 2015. House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) has yet to confirm he will mark up a budget, but his staff and other lawmakers say he intends to do.

STATE

Nothing to report at this time.

RT CALENDAR

Regional Transit Board Meeting

March 24, 2014
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

April 14, 2014
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

April 28, 2014
RT Auditorium
6:00 P.M

Executive Committee Meetings for 2014

Will be approved and scheduled by the Chair
on an as needed basis.

Mobility Advisory Council

May 1, 2014
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

July 10, 2014
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

September 11, 2014
RT Auditorium
2:30 P.M

Quarterly Retirement Board Meeting

March 19, 2014
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

June 18, 2014
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

September 17, 2014
RT Auditorium
9:00 A.M

Paratransit Board Meeting

March 27, 2014
Elk Grove Adult Community Training
6:00 P.M

May 22, 2014
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M

June 26, 2014
2501 Florin Road
6:00 P.M