

April 2017 Monthly Report for MTC



To: Steve Heminger, Executive Director MTC

From: Tom Bulger, President GRI

Date: May 1, 2017

RE: Monthly Report for April 2017

- **Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Hearing**
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Regulation Repealed**
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program**
- **Continuing Resolution Extended to May 5th**
- **Coming and Going**
- **Meetings**

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Hearing

On April 5, 2017, I attended a House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I Committee) hearing on the implementation of the FAST Act (P.L.114-94). The FAST Act was the first long term surface transportation authorization in over ten years.

The highlights of the Committee's hearing included:

- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and the ranking Democrat on the T & I Committee challenged the Trump Administration's assertion that our nation's infrastructure projects are held up due to permitting holdups. He said that only 4 percent of our infrastructure projects require an environmental review. Also, the FAST Act included 42 streamlining actions many of which have not been triggered.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Regulation Repealed

On April 27, S.496 a bill to repeal the Obama MPO regulation passed the full House 417 to 3. The legislation now goes to the President. The MTC supported the original Senate Bill and companion House Bill (H.R.1346).

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Capital Investment Grant Program

In early April, we worked with the Bay Area's Congressional House delegation to sign on to a Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations letter concerning the FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program. The letter was sent to the House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Democrat.

Continuing Resolution Extended to May 5th

On April 28, 2017, the Congress failed to enact the expiring FY2017 Appropriations. Instead they approved another short-term appropriation to May 5, 2017.

Coming and Going

- Jeffrey A. Rosen has been nominated to be the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Deputy Secretary. The Senate Commerce Committee approved his nomination on a 15 to 12 vote.
- Derek Kan has been nominated to be Under Secretary of the USDOT.

Meetings

- Meetings were held with the Bay Area House Congressional Delegation concerning S.496 the MPO regulation repeal legislation.