

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

September 11, 2020

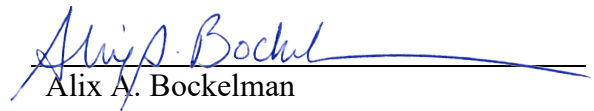
Agenda Item 6b

Tom Bulger's Report

Subject: July and August 2020 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Tom Bulger's Report – July and August 2020


Alix A. Bockelman

July and August 2020 Monthly Washington, D.C. Report



To: Therese W. McMillan, Executive Director

From: Tom Bulger, President GRI

Date: August 28, 2020

RE: Monthly Report for July and August 2020

- Congress Went on Recess
- House Passes Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Bill
- COVID Aid Stalls
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sends Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for BART's Transbay Corridor Core Capacity Program
- Legislative Intent Discussion with Rep. DeSaulnier's Staff
- Coming and Going
- New Legislation

Congress Went on Recess

Congress left Washington, D.C., on August 6, 2020. The House of Representatives did return on August 22 to vote on a United States Postal Service financial assistance bill. Congress is expected to return to Washington, D.C., on September 8, 2020.

House Passes Fiscal Year (F.Y.) 2021 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations Bill

On July 31, 2020, the House passed its FY 2021 THUD Appropriations bill on a 217 to 197 vote.

The Senate has not yet introduced their version of any of the 12 Appropriations bills for FY 2021, thereby increasing the likelihood of a short-term continuing resolution that would extend federal funding beyond September 30 to avoid another government shutdown.

COVID Aid Stalls

Federal unemployment insurance expired on July 31, 2020. Then Congress left D.C. for the first week of August. The House Bill (H.R. 6800) at \$3.4 trillion passed in May. On July 28, 2020, Senate Republicans released a package totaling around \$1 trillion.

On August 27, 2020, it was reported that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had attempted to reengage negotiations by reducing the House Bill by \$1 trillion. The White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows rejected the offer.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sends Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for BART's Transbay Corridor Core Capacity Program

On August 6, 2020, the FTA sent a mandated 30-day review notice to Congress stating its intent to award an FFGA to BART.

BART requested approximately \$1.17 billion, which is 43.2% of the Transbay Corridor Core Capacity project's \$2.7 billion costs.

Legislative Intent Discussion with Rep. DeSaulnier's Staff

On August 14, 2020, we discussed the legislative intent of Rep. DeSaulnier's legislation (H.R. 7962) related to transparency requirements for how transportation investment decisions are made. First off, Rep. DeSaulnier's staff concluded that this legislation, which would make significant changes to the Federal transportation planning process, isn't going anywhere this Congress.

Rep. DeSaulnier's staff did agree to have MTC review the proposed legislation and make recommendations in the future.

Coming and Going

Joel Szabat's nomination to be the United States Department of Transportation Under Secretary for Policy took one more step forward as the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved his nomination on July 22, 2020. Senate approval is hopefully happening in September.

New Legislation

The House passed H.R. 4686 on July 29, 2020. The bill requires transportation network companies, such as UBER and Lyft, to establish and implement a system allowing passengers to verify the driver they have been matched with.