

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

**June 12, 2026**

**Handout - Agenda Item 5b – 26-0581**

**Washington D.C. Legislative Update**

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**Subject:**

May 2026 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

**Issues:**

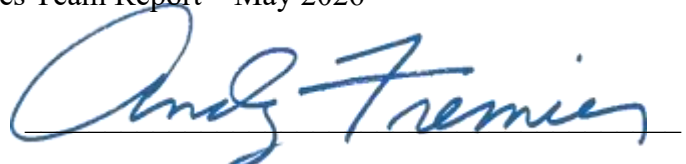
None identified.

**Recommendations:**

Information

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – May 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew B. Fremier". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Andrew B. Fremier



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**Summit Strategies Team Report – May 2026**

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**From: Summit Strategies Team**

**To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director**

**Date: May 29, 2026**

**Subject: May 2026 Federal Policy Monthly Report**

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- **Surface Transportation Markup**
  - **House Releases THUD Bill**
  - **Legislation Introduced to Protect Infrastructure**
  - **5337 Advocacy**
  - **Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress**
  - **National Transportation News Roundup**
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Below is a status update on issues of interest to MTC and the actions that we have taken to date.

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### Surface Transportation Markup

In May 2026, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee advanced its five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote (62-2). The bill, Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act (Build America 250 Act), authorizes \$580 billion in spending over the next five years. Highlights include:

- \$87.6 billion for mass transit programs from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) over five years [compared to \$69.8 billion provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)].
- The bill eliminates discretionary programs for the Low or No Emission Grant Program (commonly known as the “low-no program”) railcar replacement, American Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, and ferry programs. The \$300 million annual competitive set-aside under the State of Good Repair transit formula grant program has been eliminated, but a competitive bus grant program remains, albeit at half the size of the former program.
- Authorizing the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program at \$3 billion annually.
- Fees for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids.
- Several provisions to streamline and expedite project delivery.
- Authorizing the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program at \$1.5 billion annually.
- Creating a new Surface Transportation Accelerator Grant (STAG) program with broad multimodal eligibility authorized at \$2.4 billion annually.
- *An MTC-led provision allowing Federal aid highway program funds to be used for regional advance mitigation was included in the bill as introduced. A separate provision expanding pre-award authority for right-of-way and construction expenses on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects was also included in the Manager's Amendment, which was approved.*

The bill is now ready to be considered on the House floor. However, it is unclear when votes might take place. Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Sam Graves (D-MO) would like votes to take place before the July 4, 2026 recess. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) has not made any commitments for floor time.

Meanwhile, several Senate committees are working on their version of the surface transportation package. There is no timeline for when we can expect committee action or bill text.

While progress has been made to reauthorize the surface transportation bill before it expires on September 30, 2026, it is unlikely that a bill will be finalized in time. A temporary extension of IJA will likely be needed as negotiations continue.

### House Releases THUD Bill

This month, lawmakers released bill text for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill. The bill provides a total discretionary allocation of \$92 billion, which is \$10.7 billion below FY 2026 enacted levels. Highlights include:

- \$16.5 billion in budgetary resources for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which is \$201 million below FY 2026 enacted levels. Of this total:
  - \$14.6 billion is for transit programs funded through the HTF. This is the same total as FY 2026. During authorizing transition years, appropriators typically freeze the obligation limit at the prior year's level. That is because a short-term extension of the IJA is likely.
  - \$737 million for CIG
    - New fixed guideway (5309(d)) - \$698 million
    - Small starts (5309(h)) - \$31 million
  - \$973 million for Transit Infrastructure Grants
    - \$875 million for public transportation assistance for the Olympics and Paralympics
    - \$10 million for bus driver safety and security (this funding will be used to install bus driver protection barriers on existing buses)
    - \$87 million for Community Project Funding
    - *Of note, the bill only provided \$166.5 million in new budget authority to FTA. The remaining discretionary balance (\$1.7 billion) comes from transfers from the IJA.*
- \$150 million for Washington Metro Area Transit Authority
- \$1.6 billion for the Office of the Secretary, including:
  - \$550 million for the BUILD grant program

- \$71.4 billion in discretionary resources for HUD, which is a \$5.9 billion cut from FY2026 enacted levels.
- \$64.5 billion in total budgetary resources for the FHWA

The bill advanced out of the House THUD subcommittee on a 9-7 vote. The full committee is scheduled to mark up the bill on June 3, 2026. The Senate has not released its schedule for FY 2027 markups, but leadership is targeting mid-June.

### **Legislation Introduced to Protect Infrastructure**

This month, Representatives John Garamendi (D-CA) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) introduced a bill championed by MTC that aims to accelerate projects that protect infrastructure from natural disasters. The bill, the Accelerating Demonstration Approaches for Protecting Transportation (ADAPT) Assets ACT, was introduced at a press conference which MTC staff helped organize. The bill would provide \$2 billion annually to support the development of 10 large-scale infrastructure projects to protect transportation systems against natural disasters and facilitate coordination between federal agencies.

### **5337 Advocacy**

In May 2026, your advocacy team led an effort to support maximum funding for the Federal Transit Administration's State of Good Repair program in the surface transportation reauthorization bill. Specifically, the team organized and worked with representatives from leading transit agencies around the county to support a sign on letter led by Congresswoman Simon (D-CA) which supported maintaining IJJA funding levels (including advanced appropriations) for the Federal Transit State of Good Repair program. Nearly 40 Members of Congress signed the letter, and it played a critical role in maintaining the high level of funding that supports transit state of good repair in the Bay Area and around the country. We are very grateful for the leadership of Representative Simon (D-CA) on this effort, as well as her staff.

### **Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress**

Your DC Team has been hard at work and, during the May fly-in, subsequently had the opportunity to communicate with several congressional offices and agency officials over the last month. This list includes:

- The U.S. Department of Transportation, including Loren Smith (Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy)
- WMATA, including Jennifer Burke, Strategic Program Manager of Transit Operations (MICC); Danielle Glass, Vice President (MICC); Lauren Byrne, Director of Video Consequence Management (MICC); Kiev Richardson, Project Manager; Jordan Holt, Senior Director of Performance, Benchmarking, and Customer Research; Sarah Meyer, Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer; Allison Davis, Senior Vice President of Strategy, Planning, and Program Development; Mark Irvine, Senior Director of Strategy and Policy; Greg Garback, Director of Fare Revenue Systems and Modernization; and Dave Rickard, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
- Virginia Department of Transportation, including Nick Donohue (Secretary of Transportation)
- Maryland Department of Transportation, including Joe McAndrew (Assistant Secretary for Transportation)
- The Office of Representative Julia Brownley (D-CA)
- The Office of Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA), including Joe Sheehy (Chief of Staff)
- The Office of Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), including McKenzie Fields (Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director)
- The Office of Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), including Seamus McKeon (Senior Legislative Assistant)
- The Office of Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA), including Tyler Adams (Legislative Assistant)
- The Office of Representative Kevin Mullin (D-CA), including Nathan Dadap (Senior Legislative Assistant)
- The Office of Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA), including Kevin Fox (Deputy Chief of Staff)
- The Office of Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), including Arlet Abrahamian (Senior Legislative Counsel)
- Representative Lateefah Simon and her staffer Sydney Dahiyat (Legislative Assistant)
- Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA)

- Representative John Garamendi (D-CA)
- Representative Sam Liccardo (D-CA)
- The Senate Banking Housing and Urban Affairs Committee Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee, including Homer Carlisle (Senior Adviser)
- The Office of Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), including Nora Simón (Policy Adviser)
- The Office of Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA), including Olivia Oo (Policy Adviser)
- The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, including Kathy Dedrick (Democratic Staff Director) and Jackie Schmitz (Democratic Highways and Transit Subcommittee Staff Director)

**National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)**

- [World Cup Transit sticker shock hits fans with tickets to matches in some US host cities \(AP\)](https://apnews.com/article/world-cup-transit-new-jersey-boston-prices-f66d51bf1ed1de1bf568ac4fd319b8f8)  
<https://apnews.com/article/world-cup-transit-new-jersey-boston-prices-f66d51bf1ed1de1bf568ac4fd319b8f8>
- [Bay Area Transit Agencies Saved \\$1 Billion Since 2020. Can They Sustain Those Savings? \(KQED\)](https://www.kqed.org/news/12084766/bay-area-transit-agencies-saved-1-billion-since-2020-can-they-sustain-those-savings)  
<https://www.kqed.org/news/12084766/bay-area-transit-agencies-saved-1-billion-since-2020-can-they-sustain-those-savings>
- [Surface transportation bill approved by House committee \(Roll Call\)](https://rollcall.com/2026/05/22/surface-transportation-bill-approved-by-house-committee/)  
<https://rollcall.com/2026/05/22/surface-transportation-bill-approved-by-house-committee/>
- [Voters reject Oregon’s Measure 120 to boost transportation taxes \(KATU\)](https://katu.com/news/local/oregon-voters-weigh-measure-120-referendum-transportation-gas-tax-hike-dmv-fees-oregon-department-of-transportation-odot-oregon-legislature-special-session)  
<https://katu.com/news/local/oregon-voters-weigh-measure-120-referendum-transportation-gas-tax-hike-dmv-fees-oregon-department-of-transportation-odot-oregon-legislature-special-session>