

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

April 11, 2025

Agenda Item 4a

Washington D.C. Legislative Update

Subject:

March 2025 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

Issues:

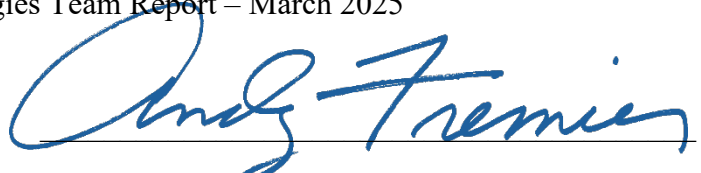
None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – March 2025



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Summit Strategies Team Report – March 2025

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director

Date: March 25, 2025

Subject: March 2025 Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **Trump Signs Fiscal Year 2025 Stopgap Funding Measure**
- **Duffy Rescinds Biden-Era Memos**
- **Duffy Directive on Discretionary Grant Reviews**
- **Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress**
- **National Transportation News Roundup**

Below is a status update on issues of interest to MTC and the actions that we have taken to date.

Trump Signs Fiscal Year 2025 Stopgap Funding Measure

President Donald Trump has signed a continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the federal government funded for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. The CR will boost funding for defense, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and veterans' health care while cutting non-defense spending below FY 2024 levels. The stopgap funding measure will make some changes to transportation funding. The bill increases the obligation levels for the Federal Highway Administration by \$1.2 billion, Federal Transit Administration by \$289 million, as well as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, levels consistent with the amounts authorized in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The measure does not include member project earmarks. After subtracting the amounts allocated for member earmarks from the FY 2024 appropriations bills, the CR would provide the following amounts in additional funding for infrastructure programs: \$340 million for highway infrastructure, \$100 million for rail infrastructure, \$50 million for port infrastructure, and \$45.6 million for transit infrastructure. With FY2025 appropriations in the rearview mirror, Congress will now focus their attention on the budget reconciliation process and FY2026 spending bills.

Duffy Rescinds Biden-Era Memos

On Monday, March 10th, 2025, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy announced that the department had rescinded two memos issued by the Biden Administration relating to social and environmental justice. The memos were both titled "Policy on Using Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Resources to Build a Better America."

While the original memos have been scrubbed from the U.S. Department of Transportation's website, the memos set out the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) preferred projects for funding under the IIJA.

Specifically, the Biden-era memos stated "The intent of the guidance also is to ensure that the funding and eligibilities provided by the [IIJA] will be interpreted and implemented, to the extent allowable under statute, to encourage States and other funding recipients to invest in projects that upgrade the condition of streets, highways and bridges and make them safe for all users, while at the same time modernizing them so that the transportation network is accessible for all users,

provides people with better choices across all modes, accommodates new and emerging technologies, *is more sustainable and resilient to a changing climate, and is more equitable.*” Further, the memos outlined how funding should be made available to modernize *all* eligible streets, highways, and bridges – not just those owned by state departments of transportation.

Duffy Directive on Discretionary Grant Reviews

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy also sent a directive to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s modal administrations to undertake a project-by-project review of all unobligated discretionary grant awards to ensure compliance with five executive orders issued by President Trump targeting the diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility goals of the Biden administration. Duffy stated that the focus of the reviews was to identify “project scope and activities that are allocating funding to advance climate, equity and other priorities counter to the Administration's executive orders.” The memo instructs agencies to rescind funding or narrow the scope of projects that involve "equity analysis, green infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure and EV and/or EV-charging infrastructure."

Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress

Your DC Team has been hard at work and has communicated with several congressional offices and agencies over the last month. This list includes:

- The DC Team met with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) career staff to discuss the grant review process and timelines.
- The DC Team reviewed DOT materials regarding grant review and the impacts of Executive Orders.
- The DC Team met with Senate Appropriations Committee staff regarding grant funding and rescissions.
- The DC Team met with Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff regarding rescissions.
- The DC Team met with Senator Alex Padilla’s (D-CA) and Senator Adam Schiff’s (D-CA) staff to educate them on Metropolitan Planning Organizations and funding implications.

- The DC Team met with Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) to discuss the impacts of grants on bikes.

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [How to Turn Cities Into Biketopias? Make it Harder to Drive There \(Wired\)](https://www.wired.com/story/new-york-city-congestion-pricing-urban-design-biketopia/)
<https://www.wired.com/story/new-york-city-congestion-pricing-urban-design-biketopia/>
- [Senate confirms Steve Bradbury as next U.S. deputy secretary of transportation \(Mass Transit\)](https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/article/55273954/senate-confirms-steven-bradbury-as-next-us-deputy-secretary-of-transportation)
<https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/article/55273954/senate-confirms-steven-bradbury-as-next-us-deputy-secretary-of-transportation>
- [States Want to Move Funds to Hard Infrastructure \(Transport Topics\)](https://www.ttnews.com/articles/states-funds-infrastructure)
<https://www.ttnews.com/articles/states-funds-infrastructure>
- [NYC Congestion Pricing Toll Gains Support Among City Residents \(Bloomberg\)](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-03-10/nyc-congestion-pricing-toll-gains-support-among-city-residents)
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-03-10/nyc-congestion-pricing-toll-gains-support-among-city-residents>