

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

July 12, 2024

Handout - Agenda Item 2c

Washington DC Legislative Update

Subject:

June 2024 Report from Washington, DC advocate.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – June 2024



Andrew B. Fremier



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Summit Strategies Team Report – June 2024

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director

Date: July 10, 2024

Subject: June Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **House Releases the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Spending Bill**
 - **House Advances FY 2025 Appropriations Bills Amidst Partisan Disputes**
 - **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.

House Releases the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Spending Bill

The US House of Representatives recently released their version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 THUD and Related Agencies Act. The bill provides a total of \$25 billion in discretionary funding for transportation programs and \$81.5 billion for roads, bridges, and transit infrastructure for programs funded through the Highway Trust Fund. Combined, the bill provides \$106.7 billion in budgetary resources to the US Department of Transportation (DOT), an increase of \$306 million from FY 2024. However, the bill also includes some significant cuts, including a 66% cut to Capital Investment Grants (CIG), cutting the Amtrak operations budget by 12%, and cutting the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) budget by \$1.3 billion (for a total of \$15.3 billion). Under the bill, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will receive \$61.3 billion for formula programs and \$1.5 billion for Highway Infrastructure Programs and projects.

While DOT receives a slight overall boost in funding in this bill, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will see a \$2.3 billion cut, including cutting funding for public housing by \$600 million and eliminating the Yes In My Backyard program, which helps local governments and states expand transit-oriented development.

The House Appropriations Committee is expected to consider the bill on Wednesday, July 10, 2024.

House Advances FY 2025 Appropriations Bills Amidst Partisan Disputes

The US House of Representatives continues to make progress on their FY 2025 spending bills. The House has passed the Defense, Homeland Security, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and State-Foreign Operations bills to date. All FY 2025 spending bills have received subcommittee approval in the House, and the Financial Services and Legislative Branch spending bills have passed out of the whole House Appropriations Committee. While the House is making progress on their spending bills, it is not without pushback. House Republicans have decided not to honor the spending levels agreed to last year between President Joe Biden and Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy. The Fiscal Responsibility Act called for a 1 percent increase in non-defense spending, but the House bills so far cut domestic spending. The House bills also include conservative policy riders. The White House has vowed to veto the already passed spending bills, and the Senate is likely to push for increased domestic spending.

The Senate recently finished budget hearings. The chamber has not released any of its 12 appropriations bills to date. However, when it returns from recess in early July, the Senate plans to mark up the Legislative Branch, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, and Agriculture spending bills.

Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress

The DC Team continues to advocate for MTC's Bridge Investment Program (BIP) priorities. They are advocating for language to be included in the Senate FY 2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill that would prohibit the DOT from using any funds to implement its interpretation, limiting the number of bridge awards a state can receive from BIP.

In addition to these efforts, before a recent Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing with Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt, the DC Team worked with Senator Alex Padilla's (D-CA) office to submit a question on BIP eligibility.

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [Infrastructure Still Top Issue for Electric Truck Deployment \(Transport Topics\)](https://www.ttnews.com/articles/ev-infrastructure-concern)
<https://www.ttnews.com/articles/ev-infrastructure-concern>
- [Hochul Halts Congestion Pricing in a Stunning 11th-Hour Shift \(The New York Times\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/05/nyregion/congestion-pricing-pause-hochul.html)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/05/nyregion/congestion-pricing-pause-hochul.html>
- [The Bus Lines That Can Solve a Bunch of Urban Problems \(Governing\)](https://www.governing.com/transportation/the-bus-lines-that-can-solve-a-bunch-of-urban-problems)
<https://www.governing.com/transportation/the-bus-lines-that-can-solve-a-bunch-of-urban-problems>
- [FY25 Federal Funding Bills on Congress' Summer Agenda \(Transport Topics\)](https://www.ttnews.com/articles/fiscal-2025-congress-agenda)
<https://www.ttnews.com/articles/fiscal-2025-congress-agenda>
- [MTC, California legislators reset effort for voters to have say in future public transportation projects \(Mass Transit\)](https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/press-release/55056031/metropolitan-transportation-commission-mtc-mtc-california-legislators-reset-effort-for-voters-to-have-say-in-future-public-transportation-projects)
<https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/press-release/55056031/metropolitan-transportation-commission-mtc-mtc-california-legislators-reset-effort-for-voters-to-have-say-in-future-public-transportation-projects>