

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

June 10, 2022

Agenda Item 4a

Washington D.C. Legislative Update

Subject:

June 2022 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – June 2022


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Summit Strategies Team Report – June 2022

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Therese McMillan, Executive Director

Date: June 1, 2022

Subject: June Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **MTC and ABAG June 2022 Washington, D.C. Advocacy Visit Update**
 - **Lawmakers Kick Off Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Appropriations**
 - **Reconciliation Negotiations Continue Behind the Scenes**
 - **Key Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Transportation (DOT) Appointments**
 - **Agency Actions and Competitive Grant Update**
 - **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.

MTC and ABAG June 2022 Washington, D.C. Advocacy Visit Update

Your federal affairs team has been working hard over the past few months to prepare for the fly-in later this month. We look forward to hosting Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) members in Washington, DC, including folks we have met only over Zoom. We are in the process of setting up a schedule for you including meetings with key members of Congress, committee staffers, agency personnel, and relevant advocacy groups. All of these meetings will help to reinforce MTC's federal agenda and keep the needs and concerns of MTC on the minds of key policymakers in DC.

Lawmakers Kick Off Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Appropriations

Over the past month, House and Senate appropriators have continued hosting agency heads to discuss budget requests for federal departments, including U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg testified before the House and Senate Appropriations Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) subcommittees. Additionally, the THUD subcommittees hosted HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge to discuss the administration's HUD budget request. FY23 THUD appropriations remain critical for various transportation and housing programs.

Following the appropriations hearings, key Senators requested a meeting among top appropriators to set top-line FY23 spending levels as the Senate Appropriations Committee seeks to markup funding bills in the next two months. Last week, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-AL) met to discuss how to move the measures this summer. The two senators also expressed their intentions to meet with their House counterparts Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Ranking Member Kay Granger (R-TX), to work toward an agreement. However, that will not happen until after the Memorial Day recess.

Reconciliation Negotiations Continue Behind the Scenes

President Biden and Senate Democratic leaders are mounting a final push to reach an agreement with Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) on a reconciliation package before this summer's August recess; Democrats are working to advance this legislative package ahead of the upcoming midterm elections. Negotiations continue around increasing taxes on wealthy individuals, prescription drug price reforms, and clean energy investments. At an event in Davos, Switzerland, last month, Senator Manchin touted the possibility of advancing legislation this year to tackle inflation, drug pricing, and climate change. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) has maintained private negotiations with Manchin to discuss inflation and his other top priorities.

Key HUD and DOT Appointments

On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Administrator Nuria Fernandez announced the appointment of Veronica Vanterpool as Deputy Administrator to its staff. Vanterpool had previously served as Senior Advisor in the FTA Office of the Administrator, where she coordinated and provided executive direction on the agency's work on climate change, equity, and innovation.

On Friday, May 20, 2022, Julian Gordon was sworn in as HUD's Assistant Secretary for Housing and Federal Housing Commission. Commissioner Gordon most recently served as president of the National Community Stabilization Trust, a nonprofit organization that supports neighborhood revitalization and affordable homeownership through facilitating the rehabilitation of residential properties in underserved markets.

Agency Actions and Competitive Grant Update

DOT Opens Application Period for Vision Zero and Other Safe Streets Grants

On Monday, May 16, 2022, DOT announced that the application process is now open for local governments to apply for \$1 billion in FY 2022 funding to help them ensure safe streets and roads for all and address the national roadway safety crisis. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program to provide dedicated funding to support regional, local, and Tribal plans, projects and strategies that will prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. [Applications are due on September 15th, 2022, and the NOFO can be found through this link.](#)

FTA Opens Application Period for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grants

On Thursday, May 26, 2022, DOT announced the availability of nearly \$13 million in discretionary grants through the FTA's Pilot Program for TOD Planning. The pilot program was established in 2014; BIL continued the program and increased funding by roughly 40 percent. Program supports comprehensive or site-specific planning projects that improve economic development and ridership, foster multimodal connectivity and accessibility, improve transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, engage the private sector, identify infrastructure needs, and enable mixed-use development near transit stations. Applications are due on July 25th, 2022 and [the Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for this program can be found through this link.](#)

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Announces Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Funding Awards

On Thursday, June 2, 2022, FRA announced the award of more than \$368 million in CRISI grant program funds to 46 projects in 32 states and the District of Columbia. These investments will play a crucial role in modernizing our country's rail infrastructure and strengthening supply chains, helping to reduce congestion and get people and goods where they need to go quickly and more affordably. [A full list of selected and remaining projects can be found through this link.](#)

Of the 25 remaining projects, five are California-based, including:

- Southern San José Grade Separations (Monterey Rd) (Up to \$7,500,000)
- Alameda County Rail Safety Enhancement Program - Phase A (Up to \$25,000,000)
- Southern San José Grade Separations (Bascom Ave) (Up to \$1,220,000)
- Climate Change and Extreme Events Training and Research Program (Up to \$4,666,011)
- Pacific Surfliner Bridge 257.2 Replacement Project (Up to \$8,042,730)

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [U.S. pedestrian fatalities reach highest level in 40 Years, GHSA estimates \(Transportation Today\)](#)
- [Transit agencies struggle to access funding, rights-of-way, due to complex governance structures](#)
- [White House Wants to Ensure Good Stewardship of Infrastructure Funds](#)
- [Nation's neglected bus stops pose early test for infrastructure money \(Washington Post\)](#)
- [Autonomous transit buses will still need skilled operators, researchers say. \(Smart Cities Dive\)](#)