

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

June 14, 2024

Agenda Item 2c

Washington D.C. Legislative Update

Subject:

May 2024 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

Issues:

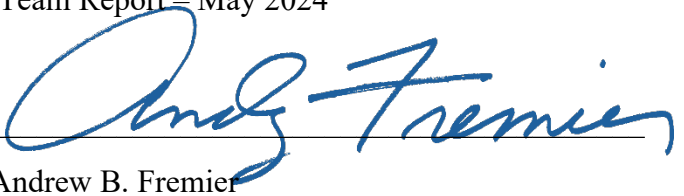
None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – May 2024



Andrew B. Fremier



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Summit Strategies Team Report – May 2024

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director

Date: June 6, 2024

Subject: May Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **Cole Announces Subcommittee Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025**
 - **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.

Cole Announces Subcommittee Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025

House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-OK) has announced interim subcommittee allocations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 spending bills. The announced spending allocations fall under the caps outlined in the agreement reached between President Biden and then-Speaker McCarthy and contained in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. That statute capped annual spending increases for defense and non-defense spending at 1 percent. While defense spending will see an increase of nearly \$9 billion (totaling \$895 billion) under Cole's allocations, non-defense spending will see a 6 percent cut (totaling \$710 billion dollars). Combined, the topline allocation for FY 2025 is \$1.6 trillion. Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies allocations for non-defense spending will total nearly \$91 billion, and defense spending will total \$378 million.

As part of the announcement, Cole released an ambitious markup schedule. The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill is scheduled to be considered by the appropriations committee on June 27, 2024.

While Cole has an ambitious plan for marking up FY 2025 spending bills, he does not anticipate all bills will pass Congress before the fiscal year ends on September 30, 2024. Cole hopes the committee's aggressive schedule will help the House gain leverage on negotiations with the Senate, which has not released its subcommittee allocations and will likely resist cuts to non-defense spending.

Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress

Last month, the DC team scheduled a fly-in trip for the MTC delegation. Highlights from the trip include landing Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), House Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA), Federal Highway Administration Administrator Shailen Bhatt, and Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) as speakers at the California Transportation Reception; meeting with Federal Transit Administration Executive Director Matt Welbes; meeting with Office of the Secretary Deputy Assistant for Transportation Policy Scott Goldstein and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mariia Zimmerman; meeting with Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations Patrick Byrne; meeting with Representatives Mike Thompson (D-CA), Kevin Mullin (D-CA), Mark DeSaulnier

(D-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA); meeting with Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA); meeting with the Offices of Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Eric Swalwell (D-CA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Doris Matsui (D-CA); meeting with the Senate Commerce Committee (Majority Staff), House Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Majority and Minority Staff), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Majority and Minority Staff), Senate Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Majority and Minority Staff), Senate Banking Committee (Majority and Minority Staff), and House Highways and Transit Subcommittee (Majority and Minority Staff); and being joined at dinner by Former Federal Transit Administration Administrator Nuria Fernandez.

In addition to organizing meetings for the entire MTC delegation, the DC team supported Executive Director Andrew Fremier at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations event while he was in town.

The DC Team also continues its ongoing advocacy work on behalf of MTC. We have worked on appropriations language to address the Bridge Investment Program bridge cap and letters of support for MTC's Multimodal Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) grant application.

The DC Team is also planning for Surface Transportation Reauthorization. The team discussed reauthorization issues with Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA).

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [Latest Mineta Transportation Institute survey finds 51 percent of Americans support pollution-emission based mileage fee to raise transportation revenue \(Mass Transit\)](https://www.masstransitmag.com/technology/miscellaneous/press-release/55041363/latest-mineta-transportation-institute-survey-finds-51-percent-of-americans-support-pollution-emission-based-mileage-fee-to-raise-transportation-revenue)
(<https://www.masstransitmag.com/technology/miscellaneous/press-release/55041363/latest-mineta-transportation-institute-survey-finds-51-percent-of-americans-support-pollution-emission-based-mileage-fee-to-raise-transportation-revenue>)
- [How \\$3.4B in federal aid will help in effort to connect Caltrain and high-speed rail to SF \(ABC\)](https://abc7news.com/post/34b-federal-aid-connect-caltrain-high-speed-rail/14849510/)
(<https://abc7news.com/post/34b-federal-aid-connect-caltrain-high-speed-rail/14849510/>)

- [FY25 Transportation Bill on House Agenda \(Transport Topics\)](#)
(<https://www.ttnews.com/articles/fy25-transportation-house>)
- [To see California in a new way, a journalist took a 38-hour trip on public transport \(NPR\)](#)
(<https://www.npr.org/2024/05/27/nx-s1-4974931/to-see-california-in-a-new-way-a-journalist-took-a-38-hour-trip-on-public-transport>)