

November 2016 Monthly Report for MTC



To: Steve Heminger, Executive Director MTC

From: Tom Bulger, President GRI

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Re: Monthly Report for November 2016

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Election 2016

I confess to entirely missing my election predictions that I offered at the Legislation Committee in mid-October. I did get that the Democrats would only pick up six House seats. Thank goodness I'm not a professional pollster who missed Donald Trump's election and the Senate remaining in Republican majority.

Trump's Infrastructure Ideas

President elect Trump has said on numerous occasions that he wants to shore up the nation's Infrastructure with a \$550 Billion program. How this will be financed is still unclear. Repatriation of off shore U.S. corporate taxes at a lower rate has been floated. An Infrastructure Bank that could make loans is another idea. Finally, the always mentioned Public-Private Partnerships P3s has surfaced. Stay tuned

Congressional Reorganizing

The House Republicans elected their leadership team on November 15, 2016. Rep. Paul Ryan (Wis.) will remain as the Speaker. Rep. Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) will stay as the Majority Leader. House Democrats delayed their elections until November 30, 2016. Rep. Tim Ryan (OH) challenged Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) for the top Democratic job, but Pelosi prevailed on a 134 to 63 vote and will remain Minority Leader.

Senator Mitch McConnell (Ky.) will be the Majority Leader, and Senator John Cornyn (TX) will stay as the Majority Whip.

Senator Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) was chosen as the Minority Leader. One positive note, Senator Tom Carper (Del.) will take Senator Barbara Boxer's (Calif.) slot as Ranking Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Continuing Resolution (CR) Extended

The current CR for FY 2017 expires on December 9, 2016. The new CR will now extend to March 31, 2017. That would nearly be 50 percent of the FY 2017 apportionment. Besides another extension, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT's) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, Fastlane, Buses etc. will be delayed because these discretionary programs require a full-year appropriation bill.

Meetings

- I attended a U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting with USDOT officials concerning the FAST Act's five-year Local Empowerment for Accelerating Projects pilot program.
- I attended a. Intelligent Transportation Society of America meeting to meet their new staff.

Coming and Going

The majority of this activity has been associated with trying to discern the President Elect interest in an Infrastructure plan and the USDOT transition team. I can only say that there has not been much to report.