

## March 2017 Monthly Report for MTC



**To:** Steve Heminger, Executive Director MTC

**From:** Tom Bulger, President GRI

**Date:** March 29, 2017

**Re:** Monthly Report for March 2017

- President Trump's FY 2018 Budget
- MTC's Washington, D.C. Meetings
- House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Approve Bill to Repeal Metropolitan Planning Organization Consolidation
- Meetings
- Coming and Going

### **President Trump's FY 2018 Budget**

The President's FY 2018 Budget request proposes an immediate nine percent increase in defense spending, with an 11 percent decrease in non-defense appropriations. Within the affected United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) accounts, the Federal Aviation Administration will not be savaged because of the air traffic control system. This leaves only Amtrak, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants and the Federal Transit Administration New Starts and Small Starts program. These budget proposals only cover programs from the discretionary budget authority account or about 29 % of the total federal budget.

The USDOT FY 2018 Budget would reduce the discretionary USDOT Budget by \$2.4 billion. Therefore, Authorizations under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act's Contract Authority from the Highway Trust Fund for the remainder of FY 2017 and FY 2018 are relevant unless amended.

### **MTC's Washington, D.C. Meetings**

The Commissioners and staff were in Washington, D.C. in March, 2017 for Congressional and Administration meetings. The following meetings were conducted:

- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Senior Staff;
- Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Senior Appropriations staff;
- Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) Chief of Staff;
- Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.);
- Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Senior Staff;
- Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Senior Staff;
- House Appropriations Committee Minority Staff;
- Senate Appropriations Committee Majority and Minority Staff;
- Senate Banking Committee Majority and Minority Staff
- House T & I Committee Majority and Minority Staff;
- Senate Environment & Public Works Majority and Minority Staff;
- Rep. Daniel Lipinski (D-Ill.) Staff;
- US Conference of Mayors, Regional Councils, MPOs, County's League of Cities, American Public Transportation Association and the Intelligent Transportation Society of America;
- Federal Transit Administration; and
- Federal Railroad Administration

It should be noted that numerous Congressional meetings were cancelled due to a snowstorm.

Finally, the Annual California Transportation Congressional Reception was well attended even though we almost cancelled due to the snow storm.

### **House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Approve Bill to Repeal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Consolidation**

The House T&I Committee approved H.R.1346 that would repeal the Obama Administration's December 2016 rule requiring MPO's to consolidate. Hopefully, house leaders will substitute S. 496 not H.R 1346. If this happens it goes directly to the President.

### **Meetings**

- On March 24<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Transportation for America legislative strategy meeting.
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, I spoke at the Omniair Consortium with Andrew Fremier.

### **Coming and Going**

Jeffrey Rosen has been nominated to be the US DOT Deputy Secretary. He was US DOT General Counsel in the Bush Administration