

## November 2017 Monthly Washington, D.C. Report



**To:** Steve Heminger, Executive Director

**From:** Tom Bulger, President GRI

**Date:** December 4, 2017

**RE:** Monthly Report for November 2017

- Congress Passes Tax Bills
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
- Stopgap Federal Spending Bill
- Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Legislation
- Congressional Reception in 2018
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### **Congress Passes Tax Bills**

This past month, the House and Senate each passed their respective tax bills. Both bills have differences that can and will be reconciled. Congressional leadership have stated their intention to send a final bill to the President before the end of the year. Unfortunately, the current versions of both bill adversely affect transportation. Specifically, the House tax bill (H.R. 1) eliminates tax exempt private activity bonds and both bills eliminate advanced refunding bonds.

### **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit**

In November 2017, we were asked to distribute a position letter from the Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA) concerning preserving the 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. The letter was distributed to Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) and the Bay Area's Congressional Delegation.

### **Stopgap Federal Spending Bill**

Federal spending that would keep the Government open expires on December 8, 2017. House Republicans are divided over the terms of another stopgap plan and whether the government will be shut down. As of today, it looks like another two-week extension beyond December 8, 2017 will be approved. To approve this extension, the Republican leadership will likely need Democratic support.

It has been reported that the President has privately expressed that a shutdown of the Government could be good for him.

### **Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Legislation**

In November 2017, we worked with MTC staff and Senator Feinstein's staff on language to further clarify the federal-state-local roles in AV deployment thorough the Senate Commerce Committee's AV START Act (S. 1885). On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the Commerce Committee released their report language which further defined the term "performance of future autonomous vehicles" to exclude compliance with state and local traffic laws.

### **Congressional Reception in 2018**

The Congressional reception will be held on March 13, 2018. We have secured the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Room through the Committee staff. We have also discussed the reception with our sub-contractors re. caterer etc.

### **Coming and Going**

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Senate voted 90 to 7 to confirm Derek Kan as the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) number three political appointee. Mr. Kan will be the USDOT Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

We are still waiting on who will be the Federal Transportation Administration Administrator.

### **Meetings**

- Numerous meetings at the US Conference of Mayors on private activity bonds, advanced refunding bonds and state and local property tax deductibility.
- Conference call with Sonoma County concerning Disaster Relief supplemental federal funding.