

## September 2018 Monthly Washington, D.C. Report



**To:** Steve Heminger, Executive Director

**From:** Tom Bulger, President GRI

**Date:** September 30, 2018

**RE:** Monthly Report for September 2018

- **FY 2019 Federal Spending Bill**
- **Positive Train Control Hearing**
- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill Approved**
- **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Bus Grants**
- **Coming and Going**

### **FY 2019 Federal Spending Bill**

The House and Senate Conference Committee could not resolve differences on the Department of Transportation (USDOT), Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies spending bill by the September 30, 2018 deadline. Congress passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) on September 26, 2018 to extend funding to December 7, 2018 at FY 2018 funding levels. The President signed the CR on September 29, 2018.

Because USDOT requires a full year's appropriation package to issue grant awards in FY 2019 this could delay future awards.

### **Positive Train Control Hearing**

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on the State of Positive Train Control on September 13, 2018. Stacey Mortensen, Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) Executive Director testified. She indicated that with luck, ACE will be compliant by the end of 2018. However, Caltrain may need to request an alternative schedule to complete Positive Train Control installation and testing.

### **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill Approved**

The Congress finally passed a long-term, five- year FAA reauthorization bill (H.R. 302) in September. Highlights include:

- Stable Airport Improvement program funding for planning and development
- Removal of Passenger facility Charge (PFC) restrictions to allow airports to raise PFC amounts
- Direction to FAA to set minimum leg room and length requirements for passenger seats

### **Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Bus Grants**

In September, the Bay Area received two FTA Bus & Bus Facilities Grants: \$1.8 million for the City of Santa Rosa for zero emission buses and \$3.6 million for San Francisco MUNI for modernization of the Woods Bus Maintenance Facility, which maintains the majority of the agency's hybrid electric bus fleet.

### **Coming and Going**

Alex Herrgott is named Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. The Council was established in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, to act as a one-stop-shop coordinating permits across 15 Federal Departments and federal agencies. We have worked with Alex when he was a lead aide at the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for over a decade.