

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

May 10, 2019


Agenda Item 5g

Tom Bulger's Report

Subject: Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Tom Bulger's Report – April 2019



Therese W. McMillan

April 2019 Monthly Washington, D.C. Report



To: Therese W. McMillian, Executive Director

From: Tom Bulger, President GRI

Date: April 26, 2019

RE: Monthly Report for April 2019

- **House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Calls for Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Policy Recommendations**
- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Notice of Funding**
- **FY 2020 Transit Funding Faces a 12% Cut**
- **House Adopts FY 2020 Spending Plan**
- **Meetings**
- **Coming and Going**

House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Calls for Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act Policy Recommendations

The T&I Committee is seeking recommendations from all House Members on policy recommendations to include in legislation renewing the FAST Act as well as legislation in the nation's broader infrastructure. Members have until April 30th to submit FAST Act recommendations and May 1st concerning broader infrastructure recommendations. Additionally, the T&I Committee will hold a Member's Day Hearing on May 1st on infrastructure.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Notice of Funding

In April 2019, the USDOT announced that \$900 million in Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant funding. Applications are due by July 15, 2019. The FY 2019 BUILD funding requires a 50-50 split between urban and rural grantees. No more than 10% of the funding can be awarded for projects in a single state. The FY 2019 Omnibus Appropriations Bill makes \$15 million available for planning grants.

The primary selection criteria include:

- Economic Competitiveness;
- Environmental Sustainability;
- Innovation and Partnership;
- Quality of Life;
- Safety; and
- State of Good Repair

FY 2020 Transit Funding faces a 12% Cut

On April 10, 2019, the Treasury Department said that the Mass Transit Account of the Highway trust Fund failed its solvency test for FY 2020. Unless Congress passes new legislation to fix this problem, apportionments in FY 2020 for the mass transit formula account will be cut by 12% below the FAST Act levels.

House Adopts FY 2020 Spending Plan

The House adopted a resolution (H.Res.293) giving the House Appropriations Committee a spending total for the FY 2020 twelve appropriations bills. House Democrats failed to actually pass an actual bill, because progressive Democrats oppose the bill (H.R. 2021) because it would spend too little on non-defense. Moderate Democrats thought the bill would spend too much overall.

Meetings

Meeting with the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit's (BART) Washington Representative concerning BART's Capital Investment Grant Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant that awaits approval into Engineering. BART was meeting with FTA this past week.

Coming and Going

On March 28, 2019, Nicole R. Nason was confirmed as the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.