

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Legislation Committee**

**December 13, 2019**

**Agenda Item 4a**

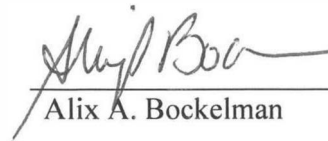
**Tom Bulger's Report**

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**Subject:** November 2019 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

**Recommendation:** Information

**Attachments:** Attachment A: Tom Bulger's Report – November 2019

  
Alix A. Bockelman

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## November 2019 Monthly Washington, D.C. Report



**To:** Therese W. McMillian, Executive Director

**From:** Tom Bulger, President GRI

**Date:** November 23, 2019

**RE:** Monthly Report for November 2019

- Another Short-Term Continuing Resolution (CR)
- Highway Recession Repealed
- Coalition to Support Increased Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP) Funding Launched
- Metro Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Report Released
- Fuel Standards Split Auto Industry
- Coming and Going
- Meeting

### **Another Short-Term Continuing Resolution (CR)**

As reported in October 2019, Congress and the Trump Administration avoided another government shutdown and agreed to another short-term CR through December 20, 2019.

This is the second CR for Fiscal Year 2019 which ended September 30, 2019.

### **Highway Recession Repealed**

The CR also repealed the pending rescission of \$7.6 billion in the Federal-Aid Highway Program contract authority which would have taken effect next July 1, 2020.

### **Coalition to Support Increased Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP) Funding Launched**

I attended a Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP) funding coalition meeting, which was hosted by the United States Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, and National Association of Regional Councils. Over 20 Washington local government representatives attended. The purpose of the coalition is to gauge support and consensus to advocate for increased STP formula funding shares to metropolitan areas in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's surface transportation authorization proposal. The next meeting is in early December at the County's offices.

### **Metro Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Report Released**

The Mayor's released their "Metro Areas: Engines of the Nation's Economy" report in November 2019. U.S. metro account for 85.9% of the U.S. population, 88.1% of the nation employment, 89.3% of personal income, 91.8% of wage income and 91.1% of overall GDP.

The Bay Area's combined metro's regarding San Francisco-Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa would put our region ahead of Chicago as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest metro economy.

### **Fuel Standards Split Auto Industry**

On October 29, 2019, I attended a House Oversight Committee hearing on the Trump Administration's ongoing effort to roll back Obama-era fuel economy standards and the ensuing fight with California over a voluntary deal with select auto manufacturers to achieve fuel efficiency targets. General Motors, Toyota, and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles have sided with the Administration. This is part of the larger Trump Administration SAFE Vehicles Rulemaking which would also revoke California's authority to set its own rules under the Clean Air Act, effective November 26, 2019.

### **Coming and Going**

The Impeachment inquiry is dominating almost every aspect of the nation's Capital.

### **Meetings**

- On November 15, 2019, I met with Robert Puentes, President and CEO of the Eno Center for Transportation who publishes EnoTransportation Weekly.