

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

June 13, 2025

Handout - Agenda Item 4b

Washington D.C. Legislative Update

Subject:

May 2025 Report from Washington, D.C. advocate.

Issues:

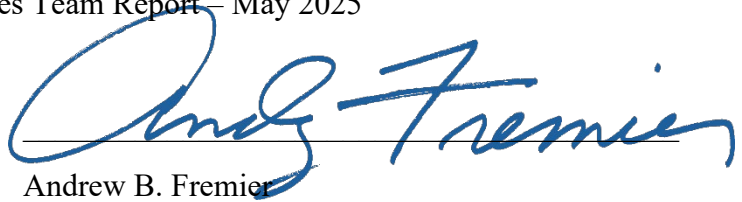
None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – May 2025



Andrew B. Fremier



SUMMIT
STRATEGIES

440 1st Street, NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 638-3307 main
www.summitstrategies.us

Summit Strategies Team Report – May 2025

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director

Date: June 9, 2025

Subject: May 2025 Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **House Republicans Pass Big Beautiful Bill**
 - **President Trump Releases Budget Details**
 - **DOT Announces More Grant Agreements**
 - **Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress**
 - **National Transportation News Roundup**
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Below is a status update on issues of interest to MTC and the actions that we have taken to date.

House Republicans Pass Big Beautiful Bill

In May, House Republicans secured a major legislative victory when they passed H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, with a 215 to 214 vote. After weeks of negotiations, only two Republicans voted against the measure, with one Republican voting present. H.R. 1 passed after a marathon House Rules Committee meeting that made several changes to the bill text, including raising the State and Local Taxes (SALT) deduction cap to \$40,000 and expediting the timeline to phase out Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) tax credits.

The massive tax cuts and spending package will now go to the Senate. Several Senate Republicans have vowed to vote against the measure as it currently stands, arguing that it does not do enough to reduce the deficit, meaning the package will need to see significant changes to secure passage in the chamber. However, any changes to the package risk jeopardizing support in the House, where Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA) will need to rally support to pass the Senate-approved version of the bill. Congress has only a few weeks to negotiate before they hit their self-imposed July 4, 2025 deadline.

President Trump Releases Budget Details

In May, President Donald Trump released further details on his proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget. The budget calls for \$144 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), a 2.4 percent increase from FY 2025, with major funding boosts for aviation. While the budget requests an increase in overall spending at U.S. DOT, it does make a few significant cuts, including repealing all unobligated balances from the Charging and Refueling Corridor program and the National Electric Vehicle Charging Formula program. However, aside from cuts to these programs, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will not see modifications to existing programs and receive its scheduled 2.2% increase in contract authority. The lone plus-up of a FHWA program is an additional \$770 million for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program.

Unexpectedly, the budget does not ask for any major cuts to transit. In fact, it calls for \$17 billion in annual appropriations, a 2 percent increase from FY 2025. This is in addition to \$4.25 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) advanced appropriations. No changes were proposed to any contract authority under the Transit Formula Grants account, which receives a \$360 million boost in the budget request. The Capital Investment Grants program received a \$2.2 billion dollar budget request. This is in addition to the \$1.6 billion provided in BIL advanced funding.

Other agencies are not as lucky as U.S. DOT. President Trump's budget calls for large cuts across agencies, including a \$33 billion cut to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

U.S. DOT Announces More Grant Agreements

In May, U.S. DOT approved 256 previously awarded infrastructure grants totaling \$3.8 billion. The announcement marks the latest development as U.S. DOT tries to get through an estimated backlog of 3,200 projects. To date, the Trump Administration has approved more than 400 projects. Of the 256 grants that were recently approved, 17 were Bridge Investment Program (BIP) projects, 42 were Low or No Emission (Bus) Grant projects, and 7 were Tribal Transit projects, among others.

Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress

Your DC Team has been hard at work and has communicated with several congressional offices and agencies over the last month. This list includes:

The DC team organized MTC's annual Washington, D.C., fly-in May 19-22, 2025, as well as scheduled meetings for MTC staff who were visiting D.C. earlier in the month.

MTC staff was in D.C. in early May. The DC Team organized meetings with the Offices of Representatives Sam Liccardo (D-CA), Lateefah Simon (D-CA), John Garamendi (D-CA), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Kevin Mullin (D-CA). The DC Team also organized meetings with the Office of Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and majority staff for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

During the second fly-in trip, which took place from May 19 to May 22, 2025, the DC Team organized meetings with National Association of Counties (NACo), Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO), the Senate Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee (Bipartisan), the House Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee (Bipartisan), the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Bipartisan), Eno Center for Transportation, the Office of Representative John Garamendi (D-CA), the Office of Representative Eric Swalwell (D-CA), the Senate Banking Committee (Bipartisan), the Office of Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA), Representative Kevin Mullin (D-CA), the Office of Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Representative Sam Liccardo (D-CA), Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA), Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA), the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Highways and Transit Subcommittee (Democrats), the Office of Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), the Office of Representative Jared Huffman (D-CA), and Representative Lateefah Simon (D-CA). The DC Team also assisted in planning the California Transportation Reception with guest speaker Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA). Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA), Dave Min (D-CA), and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) also attended the reception.

The DC Team also helped MTC submit its surface transportation reauthorization requests.

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [Judge Temporarily Blocks White House From Ending Congestion Pricing \(The New York Times\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/nyregion/nyc-congestion-pricing-trump.html)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/nyregion/nyc-congestion-pricing-trump.html>
- [CA: New California budget could slash \\$1.5 billion from transit \(Mass Transit\)](https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/news/55292613/ca-new-california-budget-could-slash-15-billion-from-transit)
<https://www.masstransitmag.com/management/news/55292613/ca-new-california-budget-could-slash-15-billion-from-transit>
- [Broadway Junction \\$500M overhaul sparks hope and fear in Brooklyn transit hub \(CBS\)](https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/broadway-junction-overhaul-brooklyn-transit-hub-ada-compliant/)
<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/broadway-junction-overhaul-brooklyn-transit-hub-ada-compliant/>

- [New Jersey Transit and Engineers' Union Agree to Deal to End Strike \(The New York Times\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/18/nyregion/new-jersey-transit-strike-agreement.html)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/18/nyregion/new-jersey-transit-strike-agreement.html>

- [L.A. Metro's GoPass reaches 500,000 enrollment milestone \(Mass Transit\)](https://www.masstransitmag.com/technology/fare-collection/press-release/55293002/los-angeles-county-metropolitan-transportation-authority-metro-la-metros-gopass-reaches-500000-enrollment-milestone)

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/technology/fare-collection/press-release/55293002/los-angeles-county-metropolitan-transportation-authority-metro-la-metros-gopass-reaches-500000-enrollment-milestone>