

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

March 14, 2025

Agenda Item 4a

Washington D.C. Legislative Update

Subject:

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

Issues:

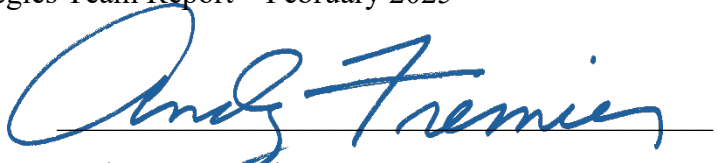
None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – February 2025



Andrew B. Fremier



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Summit Strategies Team Report – February 2025

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director

Date: March 11, 2025

Subject: February 2025 Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **House Reconciliation Package Advances**
 - **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 Reconciliation Package Advances

On February 25, 2025, House Republicans approved a budget framework that will address border security, taxes, and energy permitting reform. This framework is a first step for Congress to advance pieces of President Donald Trump's ambitious legislative agenda through budget reconciliation, a special process that allows Congress to pass legislation that impacts the federal budget with a simple majority in the Senate, avoiding the usual 60-vote threshold. Passing the budget framework marks a victory for Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), who earlier in the day had cancelled the vote on the package. However, after a multi-hour whip effort that saw President Donald Trump call Republican holdouts, Johnson was able to secure passage of the measure on a 217-215 vote that mostly followed party lines. Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) was the lone GOP no vote. Despite the House's passage of the framework, there is a long road ahead to passing the final package. GOP fiscal hawks are concerned that there are not enough spending cuts in the package, while moderate republicans are worried about potential cuts to Medicaid. The Senate will also need to weigh in on the legislation. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (S-SD) has expressed concern that the House budget blueprint, which only allows for \$4.5 trillion in net tax cuts, will not permanently extend the tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

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 met with the Offices of Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA), Representative Sam Liccardo (D-CA), Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) to give an update on how Trump's executive orders are impacting MTC.

The DC Team met with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Democrats and Republicans) to discuss surface transportation reauthorization ahead of a hearing on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The DC Team met with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (Democrats) to discuss surface transportation reauthorization.

The DC Team had multiple discussions with the Office of Representative Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) to review how the Bay Area spent the last two years of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding and answer questions on this topic.

The DC Team reached out to the Office of Representative Lateefah Simon (D-CA) to discuss MTC priorities.

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [University of Oregon professor investigates how climate change affects public transit usage and ridership \(Mass Transit\)](#)

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/bus/press-release/55269495/university-of-oregon-university-of-oregon-professor-investigates-how-climate-change-affects-public-transit-usage-and-ridership>

- [Hochul says she will continue to fight Trump on congestion pricing \(Politico\)](#)

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/23/hochul-continue-fight-trump-congestion-pricing-00205633>

- [Most Uber and Lyft trips replaceable by public transit, says study \(CitiesToday\)](#)

<https://cities-today.com/most-uber-and-lyft-trips-replaceable-by-public-transit-says-study/>

- [U.S. Transportation Secretary Duffy directs FRA to review California High-Speed Rail Project \(Mass Transit\)](#)

<https://www.masstransitmag.com/rail/infrastructure/article/55270151/us-transportation-secretary-duffy-directs-fra-to-review-california-high-speed-rail-project>