



**Government Relations and Public
Affairs Committee**

Meeting Date: 6/11/2018

Agenda Item No.: 2018-June-10.

Subject: Federal Advocacy Update (Est. time: 5 minutes)

Information

Prepared by: Christina Lokke

Approved by: Erik Johnson

Attachments: No

1. Issue:

Federal Advocacy Update

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

This month, President Trump sent Congress a budget rescission request. Additionally, Congress is in the process of considering transportation funding for federal fiscal year 2019.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Rescission

President Trump sent Congress a \$15.4 billion rescission request this month, as was rumored in March after the President signed a \$1.3 trillion spending bill. However, the requested cuts are not to the recently passed bill, but rather funds previously allocated by Congress that have not yet been spent. Most of the funding is already expired or can no longer be used. Enacting the proposed cuts would remove Congress' future spending authority for those amounts.

Transportation Funding Bills for Fiscal Year 2019

The House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development funding bill on May 23, 2018. The bill provides \$27.8 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Transportation, \$542 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$11.7 billion above the President's request. This includes the following allocations of note:

- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program - \$750 million to fund transportation projects that provide a significant local or regional impact. Funding is evenly distributed between rural areas (areas with a population of less than 200,000), urbanized areas (population above 200,000), and port related projects.
- Highways – \$46 billion from the Highway Trust Fund to be spent on the Federal-aid

Highways Program.

- Rail - \$3.2 billion for federal investments in rail infrastructure and safety programs. The bill includes funding prohibitions related to high-speed rail in California.
- Transit – \$13.6 billion in total for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Within this amount, \$2.6 billion is included for Capital Investment Grants (CIG), of which \$1 billion is included for current Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGAs), and \$1 billion is dedicated to new projects.

The Senate Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies subcommittee is expected to consider its appropriations bill the week of June 4.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no direct fiscal impact.

This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:

#3 - Assist Local Economic Development Strategies

#6 - Help the Region Advance a Vision for "Next Generation Transit"

#9 - Better Connect & Communicate with Members & Regional Electeds