



**Government Relations and Public
Affairs Committee**
Meeting Date: 10/8/2018
Agenda Item No.: 2018-October-11.

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:

September 30, 2018, is a key deadline for Congress, marking the end of the current federal fiscal year. Government funding expires on this date, along with the current farm bill and numerous other federal programs that have yet to be reauthorized.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Congress is in a rush to pass numerous pieces of legislation with deadlines tied to the end of the federal fiscal year. This when the Senate is focused on a number of high profile votes and the House is looking to potentially recess by September 28, 2018, so that its members can return home with ample time before the November 2018, election. As of September 24, 2018, there was no official announcement of the schedule.

The Senate and House are currently in conference negotiations on a number of appropriations bills, including the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriation bill. This bill includes funding levels for all discretionary transportation programs, including the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program and Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grants. The House and Senate have agreed to a Continuing Resolution (CR) to extend government funding in the new fiscal year through December 7, 2018, for the remaining federal agencies awaiting appropriations. The Senate has already passed the CR and, as of September 24, 2018, the House was expected to pass it before recessing. Staff will provide an update at the October 8, 2018, committee meeting.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no direct fiscal impact.

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

8. Build out our Council of Governments Functions, 9. Better Connect and Communicate with Members and Regional Electeds