



SACOG Board of Directors

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Meeting Date: 8/16/2018
Agenda Item No.: 2018-August-16.

Subject: Federal Advocacy Update (Est. time: 0 minutes)

Receive and File

Prepared by: Christina Lokke

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

Federal Advocacy Update

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

Congress is in the process of developing the federal budget for fiscal year 2019 (FY 2019). They are also working on the 2018 farm bill reauthorization.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

Federal FY 2019 Budget

Since the last Board of Directors meeting in June, the full Senate approved its FY 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill. The full House has yet to consider its version. While differences remain between the Senate and House versions, both measures reject the cuts contained in the President's proposed budget. Attachment A provides an overview of the current year's transportation funding levels, along with each of the FY 2019 proposals by the House, Senate, and President.

Farm Bill Reauthorization

A conference committee on the farm bill reauthorization package is preparing to reconcile the differences between the Senate and House versions. The farm bill sets the national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy and typically covers a five-year period. The current farm bill expires September 30, 2018. The House and Senate versions contain significant differences, with the Senate version generally maintaining the structure of current law and the House version making significant changes to most provisions. Each bill also includes new provisions, including programs intended to address rural health,

programs to promote broadband expansion, a wood innovations grant program, and a grant program to support partnerships that plan and develop a local or regional food system, which could include a food hub. With the House on recess for the month of August, there is relatively little time to resolve the differences and pass a reauthorization before the current law expires.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

This item has no direct fiscal impact.

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

3. Assist Economic Development Strategies, 6. Help the Region Advance a Vision for "Next Generation Transit", 7. Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Attachment A Comparison between Transportation Budgets

Comparison Between FY18 Enacted Transportation Budget and FY19 Proposed Transportation Budgets*

Transit Programs					
Program		FY18 Enacted	President's Proposed FY19 Budget	House FY19 Appropriations	Senate FY19 Appropriations
Formula Funds (Mass Transit Account)		\$9,733	\$9,940	\$9,940	\$9,900
Supplemental Grants (General Fund)		\$864	\$0	\$800	\$800
Capital Investment Grants		\$2,600	\$1,000	\$2,614	\$2,555
New Starts	With a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA)	\$1,000	\$0	\$836	\$1,315
	New	\$500	\$0	\$500	
Core Capacity	With a FFGA	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$568
	New	\$515	\$0	\$550	
Small Starts		\$401	\$0	\$505	\$568

Rail Programs					
Program		FY18 Enacted	President's Proposed FY19 Budget	House FY19 Appropriations	Senate FY19 Appropriations
Amtrak (Northeast Corridor)		\$650	\$200	\$650	\$650
Amtrak (National Network)		\$1,292	\$538	\$1,292	\$1,292
Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair		\$250	\$0	\$500	\$300
Consolidated rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvement Grants		\$593	\$0	\$300	\$255
Restoration & Enhancement Grants		\$20	\$0	\$0	\$10

Other Programs					
Program		FY18 Enacted	President's Proposed FY19 Budget	House FY19 Appropriations	Senate FY19 Appropriations
Highway Funds (from Highway Trust Fund)		\$44,234	\$45,269	\$45,269	\$45,700
Highway Supplemental Appropriation (from General Fund)		\$2,500	\$0	\$4,250	\$3,300
BUILD (Formerly TIGER)		\$1,500	\$0	\$750	\$1,000

*in millions