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

Receive and File
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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. The House passed as slightly modified version of the proposal on June 7, 2018.

Transportation Funding Bills for Fiscal Year 2019
The House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 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...
• 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.

On June 7, 2018, the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved its HUD funding bill for fiscal year 2019. It provides $26.6 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Transportation and focuses priority on programs that improve the safety, reliability, and efficiency of the transportation system. The bill includes the following funding proposals:
• BUILD program - $1 billion to fund transportation projects that provide a significant local or regional impact. Requires 30 percent of the funding to go to projects in rural areas.
• Highways – $46 billion from the Highway Trust Fund to be spent on the Federal-aid Highways Program.
• Rail - $2.8 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration, $255 million for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement grants program, $300 million for Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair grants, and $10 million for Restoration and Enhancement grants.
• Transit – $13.5 billion in total for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Within this amount, $2.6 billion is included for CIG, including fully funding all FFGAs and providing funding for new projects.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:
This item has no direct fiscal impact.

This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Goals:
#6 - Help the Region Advance a Vision for "Next Generation Transit"
#7 - Deliver Key High-Profile Transportation Projects