



**Government Relations and Public  
Affairs Committee**

**Meeting Date:** 8/6/2018

**Agenda Item No.:** 2018-August-4.

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

**Information**

**Prepared by:** Christina Lokke

**Approved by:** Erik Johnson

**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 (FY) 2019. They are also working on the 2018 farm bill reauthorization.

**4. Discussion/Analysis:**

**Federal FY19 Budget**

Both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees have approved their Fiscal Year 2019 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related (THUD) Appropriations bill. While differences remain between the two bills, both measures reject the cuts contained the President's proposed budget. Attachment A provides an overview of the current year's transportation funding levels, along with each of the Fiscal Year 2019 proposals by the House, Senate, and President.

**Farm Bill**

Congress is preparing to send a farm bill reauthorization package to conference committee 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, and a wood innovations grant

program.

Congressional leadership must now appoint a conference committee to negotiate a compromised version that addresses the differences between the two packages. House leadership has appointed 47 members to the conference committee and the Senate is expected to name its members the week of July 23, 2018. With the House's upcoming recess during 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\***

<b>Transit Programs</b>					
<b>Program</b>		<b>FY18 Enacted</b>	<b>President's Proposed FY19 Budget</b>	<b>House FY19 Appropriations</b>	<b>Senate FY19 Appropriations</b>
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

<b>Rail Programs</b>					
<b>Program</b>		<b>FY18 Enacted</b>	<b>President's Proposed FY19 Budget</b>	<b>House FY19 Appropriations</b>	<b>Senate FY19 Appropriations</b>
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

<b>Other Programs</b>					
<b>Program</b>		<b>FY18 Enacted</b>	<b>President's Proposed FY19 Budget</b>	<b>House FY19 Appropriations</b>	<b>Senate FY19 Appropriations</b>
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