

TAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Background

Congress is considering several bills which may ultimately affect transportation, transportation financing and transportation planning

- **Climate Change.** The House has passed its version of Climate Change legislation, The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, HR 2454. The bill contains several provisions that affect transportation planning, including:
 - Requiring greenhouse gas reduction targets and strategies be included in transportation planning after national targets have been established by the EPA and DOT
 - MPOs must “develop, submit, [and] publish” emission reduction targets and strategies
- The Senate’s Environment and Public Works Committee is expected to act on its version of the bill before the end of September. It remains unclear when a bill would be considered by the Senate.
- **Surface Transportation Reauthorization.** The House wants to reauthorize the Surface Transportation program in the near term, and the Administration and the Senate prefer an 18 month extension of the current bill
- The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has published a draft version of the bill. It proposes a \$500 billion six year bill, with the funding is split with \$337 billion going to highways, roughly \$100 billion going to mass transit, roughly \$13 billion going to highway and motor carrier safety, and \$50 billion going to develop high-speed rail corridors.
 - Within the \$450 billion dedicated to things other than high-speed rail, \$50 billion is set aside for “Metropolitan Mobility and Access” in an effort to “unlock the congestion that chokes major metropolitan regions” and
 - \$25 billion is set aside for “Projects of National Significance to enhance U.S. global competitiveness by increasing the focus on goods movement and freight mobility.”
- The House Committee has not identified how to finance the bill
- Again, the Senate prefers an extension of the current bill
- **Transportation Appropriations.** The annual appropriations bills are continuing through the legislative process. The Transportation Appropriations Bill has been passed by the House and by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill must be passed by the Senate and then the Conference Committee before it becomes law.

Current Situation

- All legislation will likely be impacted by the ongoing health care reform debate.

Action Required

Information only