

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Background

Congress is considering several bills which may ultimately affect transportation, transportation financing and transportation planning. The legislative calendar remains unclear as Congress considers health care reform and military activities in Afghanistan. Some of the legislation that may affect transportation is:

- **Climate Change.** The Senate's version of climate change legislation has been introduced, but has not been scheduled for a hearing. The bill authored by Senators Kerry and Boxer contains provisions that require MPOs to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and work towards their reduction.
- **Appropriations.** The FY 2010 Transportation Appropriations Bill is being considered by the Conference Committee of the two chambers.
- **Transportation Authorization.** The government and the surface transportation program are currently operating under a 30-day extension or a "continuing resolution." Appropriations measures must be passed to fund the government for the next year before October 31, 2009 or further continuing resolutions will be required. Additionally, either a surface transportation bill or another extension of the surface transportation program must be passed before October 31, 2009. The rescission of unobligated balances that was included in SAFETEA-LU has been executed because it was not repealed in the extension of the transportation authorization.

In other news, DOT received 1,380 applications totaling \$56.5 billion for the TIGER grant program. Notably, the TIGER grant program is funded at \$1.5 billion.

The TIGGER grant, not to be confused with TIGER grants, recipients have been announced and Texas had one successful applicant, VIA Metropolitan Transit in San Antonio.

Current Situation

All legislation will likely be impacted by the ongoing health care reform debate and the debate about operations in Afghanistan.

Action Required

Information only