



# FEDERAL UPDATE

DECEMBER 18, 2019



## ANNUAL FUNDING - FY 2020

- funding provided by CRs since Oct. 1 (also repealed the \$7.6B rescission of hwy CA)
- FY 20 text released Monday night, likely passed ~by Dec 20 deadline
- a few highlights IF CURRENT TEXT IS ENACTED:
  - FAST Act increase for FY 20 formula programs
  - plus extra GF money (total is 28% less than FY 19) - STBG, bridges airports, transit
  - *suspends* the 12% cut to transit formula funds in FY 2020
  - Port Development Program change: for FY 20 includes inland river ports

# REAUTHORIZATION (THE MULTI-YEAR POLICY/PROGRAM BILL)

- current multi-year reauthorization bill, the FAST Act, expires Sept. 30, 2020
- Senate
  - highway title - out of committee (unanimously)
  - transit title – no word
  - rail/motor carrier title – no word

## REAUTHORIZATION (CONT.)

- House - to be written mostly by T&I, likely out early 2020
  - DeFazio (chairs T&I) says the bill will:
    - address climate change (in all subcommittees)
    - include “robust” transit provisions
    - “prepare the country for the VMT era”
    - hopefully add more funds for freight-related projects

*At least one extension likely due to lack of consensus on revenue*

# RRURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TRANSP. FOR ECON. SUCCESS

- rural transportation networks are critical for us all
  - 44% of rural passenger vehicle traffic is urban residents traveling elsewhere
  - 60% of rail freight originates in rural areas
  - 47% of truck VMT takes place in rural areas

## R.O.U.T.E.S.

- rural transportation networks can have unique challenges. Nationwide:
  - nine times the roadway per capita
  - more wear-and-tear from heavy trucks
  - limited multimodal options, especially for seniors and those with disabilities

## R.O.U.T.E.S.

- competitive federal funds represent an important resource for rural projects
  - over the last decade, USDOT has awarded \$7.1 billion in competitive grants to more than 500 projects

## R.O.U.T.E.S.

- rural stakeholders submitting applications for federal funds can face additional hurdles, including lack of resources for:
  - capital improvements
  - completing grant applications



## R.O.U.T.E.S. – WHAT IT WILL DO

- ROUTES will help overcome those hurdles by:
  - collecting input from rural stakeholders on 1) the benefits of rural projects (safety, economic, etc.), and 2) the type and degree of federal funding assistance that would be more valuable
  - providing rural communities with user-friendly information about available grants
  - improving DOT's data-driven approaches to assessing the needs and benefits of rural projects

## STATUS OF GRANTS - BUILD

### FY 19

- \$1 billion - awarded Nov. 12, 2019
- two awards in Iowa:
  - Central Iowa Water Trail (Des Moines MPO) - \$25 million (the maximum)
  - Northwest Arterial/John Deere Road Corridor (Dubuque County) - \$5.45 million  
(not funded: Iowa DOT application for Iowa 2 flood-related and bridge work)

## BUILD GRANTS – FY 19 MODAL DISTRIBUTION

- 55 projects in 35 states
  - Road/bridge 68.3%
  - Port 14.6
  - Transit 9.6%
  - Rail 5.5%
  - Aviation 2.1%
  - Bike/ped 0

## BUILD GRANTS – HISTORY OF “RURAL” AWARDS

BUILD program “rural” awards -

- 2010-2016: 28% rural (average)
- 2017: 64%
- 2018: 70%
- 2019: 50% (mandated by Congress)

*(definition of “rural” changed for FY 19 round – everything not in a UA of 200,000+)*

# BUILD – NEXT ROUND

FY 20

- \$1 billion
- highways, bridges, transit, passenger and freight rail, ports (incl. inland), bike/ped
- 50% rural / 50% urban (rural = everything not in a UA of 200,000+)
- planning set-aside: \$15 million
- no use of non-federal revenue as a criterion

## STATUS OF GRANTS – AIRPORT DISCRETIONARY (ADDED GF)

### FY 19

- \$500 million
- awarded Nov. 22
- two Iowa awards for taxiway reconstruction projects:
  - Mason City - \$3.05 million
  - Newton - \$2.45 million

# AIRPORT DISCRETIONARY GRANTS - OVERVIEW

- 131 projects in 49 states and territories
- grant size: \$75,000 - \$10 million

# AIRPORT DISCRETIONARY GRANTS – NEXT ROUND

FY 20

- \$400 million
- similar distribution – “discretionary grants to airports”



## STATUS OF GRANTS – BUS DISCRETIONARY (AUTH + ADDED GF)

### FY 19

- \$423 million
- awarded Nov. 25
- two Iowa awards:
  - Des Moines DART - \$17.3 million (the maximum)
  - Iowa statewide - \$9.4 million (replace 107 vehicles at 21 public transit systems)

Iowa had the highest award total!

# BUS DISCRETIONARY GRANTS - OVERVIEW

- nationwide:
  - 94 projects in 42 states
  - rural areas did well

## STATUS OF GRANTS – FRA’S “CRISI”

### FY 19 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program

- applications were due in October
- at least three Iowa applicants:
  - CRANDIC
  - Iowa Interstate
  - Iowa Northern



QUESTIONS?