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| |  | | --- | | **Tuesday, June 26, 2012 120626-1**  **In this Issue:**   * **Transportation Re-Authorization Gains Momentum** * **U.S. House of Representatives to begin Floor Consideration of Transportation Appropriations Bill** | | |
| **Transportation Re-Authorization Gains Momentum**  Over the last week, members of both the Senate and House of Representatives have become wildly optimistic on a new Transportation Authorization bill. With speculation only weeks ago that a 10th extension of SAFETEA-LU was inevitable, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) met with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conference Committee (Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Representative John Mica (R-FL) respectively) and a serious push began to finalize an extension early this week. Metro's Federal Relations team is closely monitoring all developments and will continue to advocate for Board policies as talks continue.  **U.S. House of Representatives to begin Floor Consideration of Transportation Appropriations Bill**  Later today, the U.S. House of Representatives are set to begin consideration of H.R. 5972, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2013. This Authorization bill does not contain enough funding for Metro's two New Starts Projects, and also has no money associated with TIGER grants, which Metro has benefited from before. The bill, which is under an "Open Rule", allows for an unlimited amount of amendments, and is expected to have many series' of votes over the next two days. Metro's Federal Relations team has met with key appropriations staff to convey the lack of funding, and have been told that this issue won't be taken up by a Conference with the U.S. Senate until after the November elections. |
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