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| |  | | --- | | **Friday, June 29, 2012 120629-2**  **In this Issue:**   * **U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Slated to Vote on Surface Transportation Bill Today - America Fast Forward Included in Bill** | | |
| **U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Slated to Vote on Surface Transportation Bill Today - America Fast Forward Included in Bill**  Later today, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate are expected to consider and vote on the surface transportation conference [report](http://simplesend.com/simple/t.asp?S=336&ID=55334&NL=4423&N=69621&SI=2084469&URL=http://www.rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_2/LegislativeText/CRPT-112hrpt-HR4348.pdf) (Moving Ahead For Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) that was released yesterday. The conference report (H.R. 4348) includes an innovative finance section entitled America Fast Forward that includes $1.7 billion in lending authority through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program ($750 million in Fiscal Year 2013 and $1 billion in Fiscal Year 2014). In addition, the TIFIA program is substantially reformed in ways that reflect our agency's America Fast Forward initiative. The conference report shares that the America Fast Forward program will "help communities leverage their transportation resources and stretch Federal dollars further than they have been stretched before". The America Fast Forward initiative was championed by our Board Chairman and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and our Board of Directors. The conference report keeps funding for federal highway programs at current levels with a small inflationary adjustment. In addition, the conference report includes language that will serve to streamline the federal New Starts program, which has been an issue advanced by our agency with Members of Congress and the Federal Transit Administration. The conference agreement provides for expenditure authority through September 30, 2014, after which time Congress will need to adopt a new surface transportation bill or extend MAP-21. Please find [attached](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/120629_Transportation_Conference_Report_California_Summary.pdf) an analysis of the California-specific funding impacts of H.R. 4348 that was prepared by the office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-38), who serves as a member and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.  [**http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB\_Attachments/120629\_Transportation\_Conference\_Report\_California\_Summary.pdf**](http://libraryarchives.metro.net/DB_Attachments/120629_Transportation_Conference_Report_California_Summary.pdf) |
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