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| **Thursday, July 18, 20131307018-01****In this Issue:****House Transportation Spending Bill Slated to be Considered by Committee on Rules****U.S. Senate Confirms President Obama’s Nominee for Labor Department** |

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| **House Transportation Spending Bill Slated to be Considered by Committee on Rules**Today, the House Committee on Rules is slated to consider (3:00pm EST) the rule under which H.R. 2610, the transportation appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2014 will be considered by the full House next week. The House bill is notable because it does not provide funds for new full funding grant agreements, provides no funding for the TIGER grant program, and includes no funding for High Speed Rail and a prohibition on directing funds to the California High Speed Rail Authority. The U.S. Senate’s transportation appropriations bill, which may be considered by the full Senate as early as next week, includes full funding for the federal New Starts program at $1.98 billion, which is enough to fully fund the President’s recommendation for our two New Starts projects ($65 million for the Purple Line Extension and $65 million for the Regional Connector). The Senate transportation spending bill includes $550 million for the TIGER grant program to support significant transportation projects, both transit and highway, and also provides $100 million for Capital Assistance for National High Performance Passenger Rail Grants. We are deeply appreciative of the bi-partisan work of the Chair and Ranking member of the Senate’s Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) who serves on this subcommittee, for fully funding the New Starts account. Language regarding Buy America requirements was also included in the legislation adopted by Senate’s Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. Staff will continue to monitor both the House and Senate transportation spending bills and will provide additional details as they become available.**U.S. Senate Confirms President Obama’s Nominee for Labor Department**Today, the United States Senate voted to confirm Thomas E. Perez as Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Labor. The Senate vote to confirm Mr. Perez was on a party-line vote, 54-46. Our staff and federal advocates will continue their work with the Labor Department to attempt to favorably resolve the PEPRA/13c concerns that have impacted our federal transportation grants.   |
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