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| **President Obama Threatens To Veto Transportation Appropriations Bill – Cites Lack Of New Starts Funding In House Bill**  Today, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) outlining the Obama Administration’s criticism of the House transportation appropriations bill (H.R. 2610). The SAP affirmed that if the President were presented with H.R. 2610 that his advisors would recommend that he veto the legislation.  The White House criticism of the House transportation spending bill focused on, among other issues, its lack of funding for the Federal Transit Administration’s New Starts program. The SAP cites the fact that the House bill would “halt the pipeline for any new construction on larger New Starts or Core Capacity Projects.”  Importantly, the New Starts funding recommended by President Obama in his Fiscal Year 2014 Budget would fund our agency’s two New Starts projects (Purple Line Extension and Regional Connector) while the House transportation bill, as currently drafted, would offer no federal funding for these same projects. The SAP also criticizes the House transportation bill for eliminating funding for the popular TIGER grant program and for prohibiting the use of federal funds for the California High Speed Rail project. The House transportation bill is expected to be considered by the full House later this week. Please click [here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/legislative/sap/113/saphr2610r_20130722.pdf) to view a copy of the OMB’s SAP issued earlier today.  <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/legislative/sap/113/saphr2610r_20130722.pdf> |
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