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| **America Fast Forward Included In Transportation Conference Report - Full Text Of Conference Report Released**  The full text of the surface transportation conference [report](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) has been released this morning. The conference report 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. Our staff is currently reviewing the final text of the conference report, which was released hours ago, to analyze its impact on our agency.  U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and James Inhofe (R-OK) have issued a joint statement regarding the final conference [report](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Majority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=31747c9e-802a-23ad-4f5e-032b1c1ef157&Region_id=&Issue_id). The chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, John Mica (R-FL) also issued a [statement](http://transportation.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1661) on the eve of the conference agreement. |
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