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| **Wednesday, March 20, 2013130320-1****In this Issue:****U.S. Senate Adopts Stop-Gap Funding Bill for Remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 – Boosts Transportation Funding to MAP-21 Levels** |

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| **U.S. Senate Adopts Stop-Gap Funding Bill for Remainder of Federal Fiscal Year 2013 – Boosts Transportation Funding to MAP-21 Levels** Today, in a welcome development, the U.S. Senate adopted a six-month stop gap funding bill for the federal government. The measure (H.Res.933), which provides funding through September 30, 2013, now moves to the U.S. House of Representatives, where it is expected to be swiftly adopted in a bi-partisan vote. The Senate bill included language that aligned the level of funding for federal transportation programs with the amounts authorized for those programs under the newly adopted surface transportation bill, MAP-21. Under the previous stop gap funding bill that covered the first six months of Federal Fiscal Year 2013, the Congress ignored MAP-21 funding levels and kept the funding for federal transportation programs at the lower level provided in Federal Fiscal Year 2012. Initial estimates of this change in policy indicate that federal transportation programs will receive a boost of $385 million dollars of regular discretionary budget authority for the balance of Federal Fiscal Year 2013. For the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program, the increase in funding to MAP-21 levels is particularly important, given that the program received a nearly ten-fold increase in funding in the new surface transportation bill. The White House has indicated that President Obama will sign H.Res.933 into law. Staff is currently analyzing the Senate bill, which was adopted this afternoon, to fully understand the specific fiscal impact the bill will have on our agency. Our agency is deeply appreciative of the efforts of U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) for ensuring that H.Res.933 included funding equal to the amounts authorized for federal surface transportation programs under MAP-21. |
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