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| **U.S. Senate Committee Considers Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Spending Bill**  This morning , the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation Housing and Urban Development held a mark-up to consider its Fiscal Year 2014 spending bill.  The mark-up, which was concluded in a matter of minutes,  provides significantly more funding than the House transportation spending measure approved last week.  The bill approved today by the Senate appropriations subcommittee includes full funding for the federal New Starts at $1.9 billion (the House bill included only $1.8 billion for the New Starts account).  Unlike the House, which eliminated funding for the TIGER discretionary grant program, the Senate bill includes $550 million to support significant transportation projects, both transit and highway.  Like the House bill, the Senate measure funds the federal Highway account at levels consistent with those set by MAP-21. In a departure from the House bill, which included no funding for High Speed Rail and a prohibition on directing funds to the California High Speed Rail Authority, the Senate bill provides $100 million for Capital Assistance for National High Performance Passenger Rail Grants.  Language regarding Buy America requirements was also included in the legislation adopted by the Subcommittee on Transportation Housing and Urban Development this morning. Staff will continue to review the legislation and provide additional details as they become available. |
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