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| **Tuesday, July 30, 2013130730-01****In this Issue:****House Prepares to Consider Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Spending Bill** |

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| **House Prepares to Consider Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Spending Bill**Today, the U.S. House of Representatives is slated to begin consideration of H.R. 2610, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2014. Last week, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) outlining the Obama Administration’s criticism of 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 cited 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 and the U.S. Senate’s transportation spending bill for Fiscal Year 2014, would fund our agency’s two New Starts projects (Purple Line Extension and Regional Connector). As currently drafted, the House transportation bill would offer no federal funding for these same projects. The SAP also criticized 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 under an open rule, permitting Members of Congress to offer amendments to modify the measure. Our government relations staff will continue to closely monitor House consideration of H.R. 2610 and the U.S. Senate’s transportation spending bill for Fiscal Year 2014. |
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