Congress Passes Transportation Bill With No Limit on Funds for CA, NY

(September 17) Both houses of Congress have now passed versions of a bill - HR-2084 - that would provide \$49.5 billion for the nation's transportation agencies.

As passed by the Senate on a 95-0 vote, the bill no longer contains a provision requiring a 12.5 percent cap on federal transportation funding for California and New York. Senators from both states had threatened a filibuster if the Senate had insisted upon keeping the cap in the bill.

The bill now will be discussed in a House-Senate conference committee.

The House version of the bill earmarks a total of \$64.8 million for the MTA. This amount includes \$50 million for completion of the North Hollywood segment of the Metro Red Line, \$5 million for preliminary engineering design and environmental work on the Mid-Cities and East LA transportation corridors, \$7 million for Metro Bus purchases, \$1.8 million for intelligent transportation system deployment projects, such as signal synchronization, and \$1 million in job access and reverse commute grants.

The Senate has named its 13 committee conferees. The House is expected to name its conferees next week.

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