

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

April 12, 2024

Agenda Item 2c

Washington DC Legislative Update

Subject:

March 2024 Report from Washington, DC advocate.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summit Strategies Team Report – March 2024



Andrew B. Fremier



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Summit Strategies Team Report – March 2024

From: Summit Strategies Team

To: Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director

Date: March 28, 2024

Subject: March Federal Policy Monthly Report

- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Appropriations Completed**
 - **Biden Releases FY 2025 Budget**
 - **Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress**
 - **National Transportation News Roundup**
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Below is a status update on issues of interest to MTC and the actions that we have taken to date.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Appropriations Completed

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, President Joe Biden signed a six-spending bill legislative package totaling nearly \$460 billion. Included in the spending package are the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies; Interior Environment, and Related Agencies; Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies; and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies spending bills.

The 2024 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) spending bill will provide more than \$106 billion in budgetary resources for the US Department of Transportation, an increase of \$16 billion from FY 2023. This is in addition to \$37 billion in discretionary spending from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Of the \$106 billion, \$61 billion will go to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for formula programs, and \$2 billion will go to highway infrastructure programs and projects. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will receive \$17 billion, including \$14 billion for Transit Formula Funds, \$2 billion for Capital Investment Grants, and \$252 million for transit infrastructure grants and projects.

On Saturday, March 23, 2024, President Biden signed the remaining FY 2024 appropriations spending bills into law, officially funding the government until October. The \$1.2 billion package passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, ending a multi-month negotiating process that included several stopgap funding measures. Congress will now turn its attention to FY 2025 appropriations.

Biden Releases FY2025 Budget

On Monday, March 11, 2024, the Biden Administration released its budget for FY 2025. The budget includes transformational investments for the US Department of Transportation, including \$22 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), \$63 billion for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and \$17 billion for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Of the \$17 billion for the FTA, \$14 billion would be for Transit Formula Grants, and nearly \$2.5 billion for Capital Investment Grants (a 7 percent increase over the final FY 2024 level contained

in the recently enacted appropriations bill). Of the \$63 billion for FHWA, \$30 billion would be for the National Highway Performance Program, \$3 billion for the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and \$102 million for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The budget also proposes eliminating additional discretionary appropriation for the RAISE grant program and congressional directed spending. The RAISE program would continue to have \$1.5 billion in advanced appropriations provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act available. Congress is very likely to reject the elimination of congressionally directed spending.

Supporting MTC Priorities in Congress

With the FY 2024 appropriations package finally completed, the DC Team thanked the Bay Area delegation for their support of Yes In My Backyard (YIMBY) and other measures in the appropriations bills, reaching out to Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler and Representatives Ro Khanna, Barbara Lee, Mike Thompson, and Doris Matsui, among others. For grants, the DC Team reached out to the Office of Representative Nancy Pelosi and others to secure letters of support for MTC's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainably and Equitably (RAISE) grant application for the West Oakland Link project. The DC Team also continued to push to get House and Senate support letters for the Bay Skyway RAISE grant application. The DC Team also continues to monitor the status of outstanding MTC grant applications with the US Department of Transportation.

In preparation for MTC's May trip to Washington, DC, the DC team has started planning for the California Transportation Reception and other events. The DC Team is working on a guest list for the reception and securing dinner reservations.

Finally, the DC Team continues to keep the Bay Area delegation up to date on regional transportation revenue measures and other regional issues. In the past month, the DC Team has been in contact with the Offices of Representatives Kevin Mullin, Anna Eshoo, Zoe Lofgren, Jimmy Panetta, John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, and Mike Thompson, and Senator Alex Padilla about regional funding legislation going through the California state legislature. The DC Team has been in contact with the Offices of Representatives Mark DeSaulnier, John Garamendi, Mike Thompson, Barbara Lee, Jared Huffman, and Senator Alex Padilla on the clipper card.

National Transportation News Roundup (links to articles)

- [California Senators Float Plan to Plug Bay Area Transit Budget Gaps \(Yahoo\)](https://finance.yahoo.com/news/california-senators-float-plan-plug-130000637.html?guccounter=1)
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/california-senators-float-plan-plug-130000637.html?guccounter=1>
- [Rep. Rick Crawford Pursues T&I Chairmanship \(Transport Topics\)](https://www.ttnews.com/articles/rick-crawford-ti-chairman)
<https://www.ttnews.com/articles/rick-crawford-ti-chairman>
- [Baltimore's Key Bridge collapse is expected to disrupt supply chains \(NPR\)](https://www.npr.org/2024/03/27/1241134460/baltimore-bridge-collapse-supply-chains-auto-imports)
<https://www.npr.org/2024/03/27/1241134460/baltimore-bridge-collapse-supply-chains-auto-imports>
- [NYC congestion pricing plan passes final vote, will bring \\$15 tolls for some drivers \(CBS\)](https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/nyc-congestion-pricing-mta-vote-today/)
<https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/nyc-congestion-pricing-mta-vote-today/>