



## Federal Transit Appropriations: the Independence Day Update

July 1, 2016: In case you were wondering where things stand with respect to federal transit funding in the next fiscal year (FY 2017, which begins on October 1, 2016), here's the status:

Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have completed their work on FY 2017 Transportation/HUD Appropriations. While the next step is a relatively simple floor vote in each chamber (these are non-controversial bills, honoring the FAST Act's authorizations in the DOT title), it's not at all clear when (or if) floor action will take place. Since this is an election year, the Congressional work schedule has very few days remaining: a couple of weeks this month before the party conventions, and a few weeks in September. Since House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) has been favoring "open rules" for House consideration of all spending bills, getting these measures through the House is not a quick or easy process. So, don't be surprised to see if a bunch of appropriations measures, including the Transportation/HUD bill, get folded into a catch-all measure, or maybe a continuing resolution, this autumn.

In any case, all indications are that the FAST Act authorizations will be the amounts that are appropriated for next year. If so, elements of the FY 2017 FTA program would include the following:

- Section 5307 Urban Transit Formula Grants: \$4.6 billion, not including Section 5340 funding
- Section 5310 Seniors/Individuals with Disabilities Formula Transit Grants: \$268.2 million
- Section 5311 Rural Transit Grants: \$632.4 million, not including Section 5340 funding
- Section 5339 Bus & Bus Facilities Grants: \$720.0 million
- Section 5340 Growing States & High Density States Formula Grants: \$544.4 million, which is added to Section 5307 and 5311 apportionments to states and urbanized areas

In general, FTA's appropriation would see a 3.3 percent increase from this year's levels. Section 5307 would get a 5.3 percent increase, Section 5310 would get a 2.0 percent increase, Section 5311 would get a 2.0 percent increase, and the bus and bus facilities program would get a 3.5 percent increase over current appropriations.