

Memorandum

From: Capitol Transportation Consulting and Pavluchuk & Associates

To: James Corless, Executive Director

Date: August 23, 2025

Subject: Federal Policy Monthly Report

Advancing Green Means Go

The federal team continues to look for opportunities to advance SACOG's Green Means Go (GMG) program. While GMG was included as an integral part of the region's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, the grant application was ultimately not selected by the EPA. We continue to seek other opportunities to fund GMG, including through the HUD program, known as PRO Housing. This is an important new program (in its second year) that can support a variety of measures to improve housing, including inclusive zoning policies, program development and infrastructure projects. We were able to include MPOs as eligible entities in that program and we continue to seek other opportunities to improve the program to make it more accessible for GMG projects and to support larger infrastructure projects.

We are also beginning work to develop transportation policies that can advance SACOG's priorities, including GMG. These policy proposals are intended to be adopted into the federal surface transportation bill that Congress will begin drafting next year.

FY 2025 Appropriation Update

The FY 2025 Appropriations process is in full swing. On July 25, 2024, the Senate Committee on Appropriations approved the fiscal year 2025 S 4796 - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (THUD) Appropriations Act, which includes significant funding for various transportation programs; including the HUD PRO Housing grant program.

The Senate and House versions of the THUD bill have notable differences in funding allocations and priorities. For example, the House version of the bill which passed July 10, 2024 did not include any funding for the HUD PRO Housing program, but we anticipate that there will be substantial funding when the final bill becomes law. The two versions of the THUD bill need to be reconciled before they can become law. We anticipate this work will conclude over the next few months with the bills moving to the floor before the end of the year. An extension of current funding will be necessary at the end of September.

Grants Programs

- FHWA is accepting applications for its Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) discretionary grant program. The CFI Round 2 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) offers up to \$1.3 billion in funding to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work in addition to designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. CFI Program investments will make modern and sustainable infrastructure accessible

to all drivers of electric, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas vehicles. Applications are due by August 28, 2024.

- The final deadline for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grant applications is Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. ET. Applicants are encouraged to review the NOFO amendment, published on April 16, 2024, for the latest updates on the SS4A FY24 funding opportunity.
- FHWA is accepting applications for its Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP), a competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs), while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. Applications must be submitted electronically through grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on September 4, 2024.
- FHWA has made available at least \$196 million for FY2023 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) grants as part of the FY23-26 Culvert AOP NOFO. The National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert AOP Program) is a competitive grant program that awards grants to eligible entities for projects for the replacement, removal, and repair of culverts or weirs that meaningfully improve or restore fish passage for anadromous fish. Anadromous is the term that describes fish born in freshwater who spend most of their lives in saltwater and migrate back to freshwater to spawn. The deadline to apply is September 23, 2024, at 11:59 p.m., ET.
- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is accepting applications for its Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) Grant Program and Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Grant Program. The RCE Grant Program is dedicated to improving railroad crossing safety and efficiency, investing in projects that construct grade separations, upgrade safety devices at crossings, or close at-grade crossings where roads and train tracks intersect. Applications for the RCE Grant Program are due by September 23, 2024. The R&E Grant Program assists with operating costs for eligible projects that will establish service on new routes, restore service on routes that formerly had intercity passenger operations, and enhance service on existing routes. Applications for the R&E Grant Program are due by September 30, 2024.
- More than \$600 million is available for capital construction and community planning grants through the third round of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program. The RCP Program focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation; fostering equitable development and restoration; and providing technical assistance to further these goals. Learn more in the RCP Program NOFO. The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, September 30, 2024.

Congressional Outlook

We are full swing in the Presidential election season, which means Congress will have trouble passing any significant legislation until after the November election. At a minimum, Congress will have to extend the current appropriations bill to continue funding most federal programs. This is a fairly typical process in non-election years but may be more contentious this year. Both sides will likely want to avoid a government shutdown, but there may be threats. There are also very few working days to resolve this issue as government funding expires at the end of September and members typically return to their districts in early October ahead of the elections.