



Advocacy Update

Receive and File

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Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

An update on federal and state legislative activities.

2. Recommendation:

None, this item is for information only.

3. Background/Analysis:

Congress returns from recess in September. October 1, 2020, marks the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. The state legislature adjourned on August 31, 2020.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

When Congress returns after Labor Day, they face the looming deadline of the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2020. In addition to needing to reach an agreement on the budget for Fiscal Year 2021, they must also consider reauthorization of surface transportation programs due to the September 30, 2020, expiration of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. It appears that there might be an agreement on passing a budget continuing resolution to continue existing funding levels as negotiations continue, although the details are not yet public. It is likely we will see a similar course for surface transportation reauthorization. Negotiations appear stalled on the next coronavirus relief bill.

In Sacramento, the state legislature adjourned the end of the 2019-2020 legislative session on August 31, 2020. Two bills SACOG supported are headed to the governor's desk, SB 288 (Wiener), which establishes a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption for specific sustainable transportation projects, and SB 1291 (Committee on Transportation), which removes the requirements that the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submit a Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) to the United States Secretary of Transportation for 2020 and that a metropolitan planning organization or transportation planning agency submit a Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) to Caltrans for 2020. Attachment A contains a status update of all legislation on which SACOG has a position.

Funding for the Green Means Go program remains under consideration by the Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery. The state budget did not include a specific allocation for Green Means Go, despite strong regionally coordinated lobbying including significant efforts by many of the SACOG Board of Directors. This regional effort continues to focus on the Governor's Task Force as it considers potential

opportunities for Green Means Go.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

SACOG's advocacy activities and lobbying contract are paid for through member dues.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Goal 3 : Vibrant Places