
FEDERAL UPDATE

MARCH 27, 2019



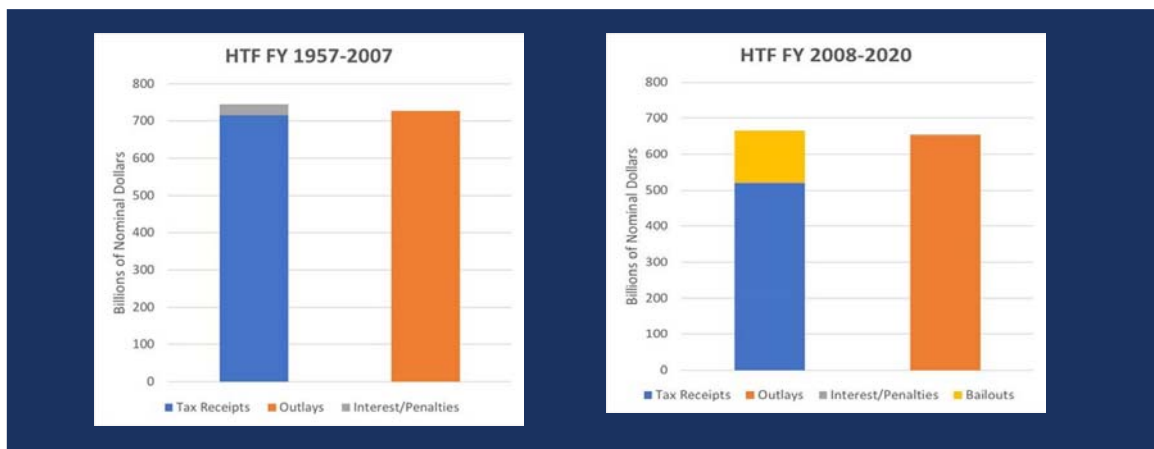
116TH CONGRESS – COMMITTEES FOR NEW IOWA MEMBERS

- Abby Finkenauer (D) from Iowa 1 – **Transportation and Infrastructure**
- Cindy Axne (D) from Iowa 3 - **Agriculture**

UPCOMING PRIORITY: A NEW FAST ACT

- Surface Transportation Reauthorization
 - Current five-year bill, the FAST Act, expires Sept. 30, 2020
 - Funded via the Highway Trust Fund (topped off with General Funds)

THE PROBLEM



NEW MULTI-YEAR BILL NEEDED TO:

- reauthorize funds that will go to state and local projects
- retain formula-based program structure
- ensure *HTF solvency*
- repeal the upcoming \$7.6 billion rescission (*\$80 million Iowa impact*)

CONGRESS ON REAUTHORIZATION

- Numerous hearings – a good sign
- HTF solvency
- Multi-year bill
- formula-based funding
- Slowly rising bipartisan support for increasing the federal fuel tax
- Much interest in per-mile road user charges

ALSO POSSIBLE: A SEPARATE “INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE”

- Administration’s request:
 - \$200 billion in federal funds (how allocated?)
 - Goal: leverage ~\$1 trillion
- Congress:
 - “HR 2” - placeholder

FY 2019 ANNUAL FUNDING BILL - OVERVIEW

- H.J.Res. 31 signed Feb. 15
- state and local government funding meets levels authorized in the FAST Act
 - highway, transit, aviation
- plus \$10 billion in **extra funds** (from the budget deal) added to many programs

FY 2019 ANNUAL FUNDING BILL – EXTRA FUNDS FOR HIGHWAYS

- \$3.25 billion extra for state and local highway projects, such as:
 - \$2.8 billion via STBG formula (\$34 million for Iowa)
 - \$475 million for rural bridges via a new formula (\$25 million for Iowa)

FY 2019 ANNUAL FUNDING BILL – EXTRA FUNDS FOR TRANSIT

- **FY 19 annual appropriations bill – extra funds for TRANSIT**
- \$700 million extra for transit, such as:
 - \$40M added to rural formula
 - \$160M added to bus and bus facilities formula
 - \$160M added to bus and bus facilities competitive

FY 2019 ANNUAL FUNDING BILL – EXTRA FUNDS FOR AIRPORTS

- \$500 million for airports via discretionary grants

STATUS OF GRANTS - BUILD

For road, rail, transit and port projects

- FY 19
 - \$900 million
 - no NOFO yet (out by ~April 15?)
 - change from last year: now 50% urban / 50% rural
 - up to \$15 million for planning projects

STATUS OF GRANTS - INFRA

For nationally significant freight and highway projects

- FY 19
 - \$950 million
 - applications were due March 4, 2019
 - Iowa DOT – lead applicant on a joint application (nine other states providing match) requesting \$200.1 million for “Safe Acceleration of Automated Freight Infrastructure Readiness”

STATUS OF GRANTS—COMP. BRIDGE 2018 (FORMULA IN 2019)

For rural bridges

- FY 18
 - \$225 million
 - deadline was Dec. 4, 2018
 - No word yet on Iowa application for bridges (68 county, 5 municipal, 4 state)
- FY 19
 - \$475 million distributed via **FORMULA**, not competitively
 - Notice March 15, 2019: \$25.3 million to Iowa (“poor” bridges outside 200K, no details)

STATUS OF GRANTS – LOW OR NO EMISSION BUS PROGRAM

For low or zero emission transit buses, and also for support facilities

- FY 19
 - \$85 million
 - NOFO March 18
 - deadline May 15

EARMARKS?

- No earmarks in next funding bill (FY 2020)
- If/when they return, likely to see:
 - New limits on recipients
 - Increased transparency