

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, 2017 Omnibus Agreement Summary

The following are highlights of the FY2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

The final agreement provides \$57.651 billion in discretionary spending, which is a \$350 million increase above FY2016 and more than \$5.5 billion below the President's budget request. The bill also provides \$928 million in emergency funding in response to natural disasters.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The agreement includes \$18.5 billion in FY2017 discretionary appropriations for the Department of Transportation (DOT). Within this amount, funding is prioritized on programs to make the transportation systems safe, efficient, and reliable.

TIGER Grants – \$500 million, equal to the FY2016 enacted level, for TIGER grants, which are also known as National Infrastructure Investments.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – \$43.27 billion from the Highway Trust Fund for the Federal-aid Highways Program, consistent with the authorized level in the FAST Act. An additional \$528 million is provided for the Emergency Relief program. The bill continues a provision to allow old, unused earmarks to be repurposed for transportation projects that can be built today.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – \$16.4 billion in total budgetary resources for the FAA, \$127 million above the FY2016 enacted level and \$508 million above the request. This will provide full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including controllers, engineers, maintenance technicians, safety inspectors, and operational support personnel. The bill fully funds the Contract Towers program and also provides more than \$1 billion in the FAA Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen) to help ease future congestion and reduce delays for travelers. Additional flexibilities are provided to the FAA in order to prevent delays to the modernization of the air traffic control system. The agreement includes more than \$40 million over the FY2017 request to further support the integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) – \$1.85 billion, an increase of \$173 million above the FY2016 enacted level. The bill includes \$98 million in rail grants to support the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC), make rail infrastructure improvements, and restore or enhance passenger rail service. Amtrak is provided \$328 million for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.17 billion to support the National Network. The bill also provides \$258 million to support rail safety and research programs, including inspectors and safety personnel to help ensure the safety of passengers and local communities.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – \$12.4 billion in total budgetary resources for the FTA, including \$9.7 billion for transit formula grants from the Highway Trust Fund. The bill provides a total of \$2.4 billion for Capital Investment Grants (“New Starts”), fully funding all current “Full Funding Grant Agreement” (FFGA) transit projects, as well supporting new projects anticipated to receive FFGA awards. Funding is also provided for the Expedited Delivery Pilot Program which promotes public-private partnerships for local transit projects.

National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau – \$3 million for the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau, which was created by the FAST Act to promote efficiency by creating a “one-stop shop,” consolidating the administration of several DOT programs (TIFIA, RRIF, PAB, and FASTLANE grants).

U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) – \$523 million, \$123 million above the FY2016 enacted level, for MARAD to increase the productivity, efficiency and safety of the nation’s ports and intermodal water and land transportation. The Maritime Security Program is funded at the authorized level of \$300 million. The agreement includes \$35 million for State Maritime Academies, including \$6 million to develop a replacement vessel for the six SMA training ships that are essential for continuing a strong merchant marine workforce. The agreement also provides \$5 million for the Marine Highway program to help mitigate landside congestion, \$10 million for the Assistance to Small Shipyards Program, and \$24 million for decommissioning of the Nuclear Ship *Savannah*.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) – \$644 million for the FMCSA.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) – \$911 million in total budgetary resources for the NHTSA, including a \$17 million increase in funding for the Office of Defects Investigation to address concerns with vehicle recalls.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) – The agreement includes \$264 million for the PHMSA. The agreement includes funding to ensure the safe operations of underground natural gas storage facilities.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The agreement includes a total of \$38.8 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition to the amount otherwise provided to HUD, \$400 million is provided in emergency funding in response to natural disasters to support states and local governments in rebuilding communities.

Section 8 Rental Assistance – \$31.1 billion for tenant-and-project-based Section 8 rental assistance. This funding is critical to maintain existing rental assistance for the nearly 3.5 million households who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness.

Public Housing – \$6.6 billion for public housing programs. These programs meet the housing needs of 1.1 million families and individuals, of which 53 percent are elderly and or disabled. The agreement also increases the number of public housing units that can participate in the Rental Assistance Demonstration to 225,000.

Preserving Housing for the Elderly and Disabled – \$648.6 million to continue existing housing projects in the Section 202 and Section 811 programs, which provide housing targeted to elderly and disabled households. The agreement also includes \$10 million for new incremental vouchers for disabled households, as well as \$10 million for the development of new elderly housing.

Housing and Community Development Needs of Native Americans – \$721.2 million for housing and community development programs for Native American tribes. The agreement includes \$7 million for training and technical assistance to improve program delivery for Native American families.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – \$3 billion for the CDBG formula program. CDBG provides grants to state and local governments to support efforts to create locally driven solutions to community and economic development challenges. Instead of a top-down approach, where the federal government tells grantees how to use these funds, CDBG's broad framework can be adapted to local needs and solutions for developing viable urban and rural communities and expanding economic opportunities and improving quality of life for persons of low- and moderate-income.

Combatting Homelessness – \$2.4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, which includes \$43 million for grants to end youth homelessness in urban and rural areas. The bill also includes an additional \$10 million for Family Unification vouchers targeted to youth exiting foster care and at risk of homelessness and \$40 million for new VASH vouchers for homeless veterans. VASH vouchers have been critical to reducing veterans' homelessness by 47 percent since 2010.

Lead Paint Hazards – \$145 million for the Lead Hazard Reduction program. The agreement also provides \$25 million in the Public Housing Capital Fund to remediate 1,500 public housing units and makes studios and efficiency apartments eligible for remediation grants.

HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) – \$950 million for the HOME program to create affordable housing for low-income households.

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) – \$356 million for the HOPWA program. This funding level ensures that grantees do not lose funding as a result of the recent formula change which better reflects the HIV/AIDS epidemic today.

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