



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5a

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: November 6, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: SAFETEA Extension

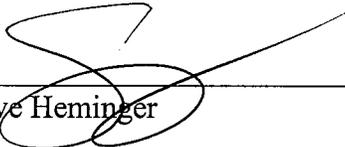
With the federal transportation authorization having ended on September 30, 2009 and no formal extension in place, the federal transportation program is now subject to short-term omnibus appropriations bills needed to keep the federal government funded. The existing stop-gap omnibus funding measure to fund all federal departments ends on December 16, 2009.

While the Senate appeared poised to bring a six-month surface transportation extension bill to the floor this week, Senate leaders announced that the next items of business for the Senate floor will be the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, followed by the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. With health care legislation also on deck for the Senate floor, an extension of the transportation bill in the near term looks very unlikely.

A short-term extension of up to 18 months has been formally supported by the Obama Administration, as well as by members from both sides of the aisle in the Senate.

Nevertheless, the Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Jim Oberstar (D-MN), remains committed to a formal six-year authorization action. Thus, the outcome is a stalemate at this time.

We will update the committee with any other breaking news at the November 13 Legislation Committee meeting.



Steve Heminger