



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5c

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: July 1, 2011

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I. 1131

RE: Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Bill Update

There have been few public signs of progress on legislation authorizing the federal surface transportation programs, though news reports indicate that Senator Boxer intends to introduce legislation sometime this month. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chair John Mica, R-Fla., has also pledged to release his draft reauthorization bill the week of July 4 and will hold a committee markup as early as July 12.

In addition to differences in policy and funding levels between the two houses, there is also likely to be a dispute about the length of the legislation. Rep. Mica has indicated a strong interest in a six-year bill that forces the program to live within its existing Highway Trust Fund (HTF) resources; however, given the HTF cannot sustain even *current* funding levels, many would prefer a two-year bill that funds the program through the 2012 Presidential election but allows an earlier opportunity for consideration of new revenue sources that could support a substantially larger federal program.

Staff will update you on the latest developments at your July 8 meeting.



Ann Flemer