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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee  
DATE: September 5, 2014

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy  
W. I. 1131

RE: H.R. 5021: Extension of MAP 21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)

On July 31, 2014, Congress enacted H.R. 5021, transferring \$10.8 billion from the General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and extending the authorizations for transit, highway and highway safety programs funded by the HTF through May 2015. This transfer allows current federal funding levels to be sustained and postpones until at least next year any serious discussion or action regarding the successor to Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP 21). If history is any guide, however, we should expect a lot more short-term extensions (the predecessor to MAP 21, SAFETEA-LU, was extended 10 times spanning a period of almost three years while its predecessor, TEA 21, was extended 12 times over almost two years.)

With this latest transfer of funds, the HTF has received \$62 billion in bailouts since 2008 to prevent insolvency and the subsequent stalling of transportation projects and associated job losses. While the lack of a comprehensive long-term solution is disappointing, it is a relief that both sides of the aisle recognized the necessity of preserving HTF solvency and met the August 1 "transportation fiscal cliff" deadline widely publicized by the U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx. Senate Democrats pushed for a shorter time horizon for the extension (prior to 2015) to create an opportunity to enact a long-term bill during the lame duck session. That effort fell short, making it highly unlikely Congress will turn its attention to transportation reauthorization before spring 2015.

  
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Alix Bockelman