

Federal Update

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District

Steve Palmer
February 8, 2023



VAN SCOYOC
ASSOCIATES

Overview

- Congress after mid-term elections
 - Republican control of House
 - Changes in East Bay delegation
- New congressional committee leadership
- Legislative Outlook
 - Debt ceiling
 - FY 2024 appropriations - earmarks
- Department of Transportation (DOT) / Federal Transit Administration (FTA) competitive grant opportunities
- Calendar

Mid-Term Elections and Balance of Power

- Outcome of election: Divided government
 - House: Republicans hold a 222-213 majority (1 vacancy)
 - Net gain of 12 seats
 - Almost identical to Democratic majority last year
 - Senate: Democrats hold 51-49 majority
 - Net gain of 1 seat
- Last July Board Meeting:
 - Party in power struggles in mid-term elections
 - Typical losses in House: 26 seats
 - Typical losses in Senate: 4 seats

New Congressional Delegation

- New AC Transit delegation
 - Reps. Lee, Swalwell, Khanna... and Garamendi
 - Senators Feinstein and Padilla
- Possible changes on the horizon
 - Will Senator Feinstein retire in 2024?
 - Possible Senate candidates – Reps. Lee and Khanna
- Impact on future committee assignments
 - Senator Feinstein and Rep. Lee on Appropriations
 - Rep. Garamendi on House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I)

Appropriations Committee Leadership

118th Congress

- House Republicans
 - Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) Full Committee Chair
 - Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) THUD Subcommittee Chair*
- House Democrats
 - Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) Full Committee, Ranking Democrat
- Senate Democrats
 - Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) Chair*
- Senate Republicans
 - Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) Ranking Republican*

** New in position*

Public Transportation Committee Leadership

118th Congress

- House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee
 - Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO) Chair*
 - Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA) Ranking Democrat*
- Senate Banking Committee
 - Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) Chair
 - TBD Ranking Republican*

** New in position*

Legislative Outlook for 2023

- Divided government could mean legislative gridlock
- Debt Limit – Need to raise by 2nd Quarter of 2023
 - Democrats want clean extension
 - House Republicans want spending cuts
 - Cut entitlements (e.g., Social Security, Medicaid)
 - Roll back annual appropriations to 2022 levels
 - Would translate into \$131 billion cut
 - Domestic spending could be cut by 18 percent
- FY 2024 Appropriations
 - Earmarks will be continued
 - Waiting on guidance from House Republicans

Implementation of Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)

SR 23-015

Att. 1

- Infrastructure funding in IIJA will not be cut
 - Senate D/R and President Biden will oppose cuts
- DOT/FTA “Notice of Funding Opportunities” (NOFO’s) that have been released
 - *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity* (RAISE) grant
 - \$2.275 billion in FY 2023
 - Bus/Bus Facilities and Low/No Emissions grant
 - \$1.5 billion in FY 2023
- Future NOFO’s
 - Safe Streets for All – April NOFO expected
 - *Strengthening Mobility & Revolutionizing Transportation* (SMART) grants for technologies/systems to improve efficiency and safety – September NOFO expected

2023 Calendar

- Earmark submissions due – late February/early March
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference
 - March 12-15
 - Congress will not be in session
- Opportunities for congressional visits/tours
 - February 10-25: President's Day recess
 - April 1-15: Easter/Passover recess
 - June 24-July 10: July 4th recess
 - August recess

Questions