

# 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

## 118<sup>th</sup> 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

## 118<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> recess
  - August recess

# Questions