

June 8, 2020

A look at transportation funding in the House surface bill

The House Transportation Committee released its surface transportation bill on June 3 – a five-year, \$494 billion proposal to fund highways, bridges, transit and rail, along with a focus on climate mitigation and resiliency. The committee plans to mark up the legislation June 17 with the goal of bringing it to the floor for a vote on July 1. The bill would create a raft of new discretionary grant programs for federal and tribal lands, electric vehicle charging, climate innovation projects and more. Single-year grants target gridlock, rural community needs and truck parking.

Here are highlights of allocations in the bill.

A breakdown of the \$494 billion and some distribution highlights

\$319 billion

Federal Highway Administration

Funds the following federal-aid highway programs:

- National Highway Performance
- Surface Transportation
- Highway Safety Improvement Program
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement
- National Highway Freight
- Metropolitan planning
- Railway crossing
- Predisaster Mitigation
- Carbon Pollution Reduction



\$105 billion

Federal Transit Administration

Public transit programs



- \$100M per year** Grants to increase bus frequency and ridership in cities
- \$5B** Formula grants for buses
- \$1.7B** Zero-emission bus grants
- \$1.6B** Bus facility and fleet expansion grants
- \$50M per year** Grants for rural counties with a poverty rate above 20 percent since 1990
- \$12M** Creation of workforce training center
- \$20M** Transit Oriented Development Planning grants

FORMULA GRANTS

Grant amounts are awarded to predetermined recipients and calculated based on a distribution formula that includes population and other demographic data.

- \$28B** Bridge repair and rehabilitation
- \$8.35B** Carbon pollution reduction
- \$6.25B** Resilience and emergency evacuation planning
- About \$49B** For local transportation needs
- \$750M, \$100M and \$895M per year** Tribes, U.S. territories* and federal lands

*Puerto Rico would receive \$210M per year.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Grant awardees are selected based on merit and eligibility.

- More than \$9B** Projects of National and Regional Significance
- \$600M per year** Community Transportation Investment grants
- \$400M per year** Federal Lands and Tribal Major Projects Program
- \$50M per year** Tribal High Priority Projects
- \$350M per year** Electric Vehicle Charging and Hydrogen Fueling Infrastructure grants
- \$250M per year** Community Climate Innovation grants
- \$750M** Metro Performance Program

SINGLE-YEAR GRANTS

Grants awarded to recipients once.

- \$250M** Gridlock Reduction grants
- \$250M** Rebuild Rural grants
- \$250M** Active Transportation Connectivity grants
- \$250M** Commercial Motor Vehicle Parking grants

\$60 billion

Rail programs



- \$29.3B** For repair and development of passenger railroad Amtrak
- \$19B** Passenger Rail Improvement, Modernization and Expansion grant program to improve and expand passenger rail transportation
- \$7B** Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant to fund passenger and freight rail projects
- \$2.5B** Grant funding for rail safety
- \$150M** Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program

\$5.3B

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Highway safety programs



- \$1.9B** To states for state highway traffic safety
- \$35M per year** Discretionary grant for states to implement state traffic safety law
- \$300M** For high-visibility national traffic safety enforcement campaigns, such as electronic message boards, signage and patrol presence
- \$2B** Grants focusing on traffic safety targeting distracted and alcohol-impaired driving, novice driver licensing

\$4.6B

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Motor carrier safety programs



- \$1.6B** Motor Carrier Safety Assistance grants
- \$300M** High Priority Activities grants
- \$232M** Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation grants
- \$4.3M** Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators grants
- \$1.5B** To modernize FMCSA's information technology and information management systems of motor carrier safety operations