



Policy Update

September 22, 2022

US Congress/Appropriations – Congress has tentatively set an expiration date of December 16 for a continuing resolution (CR) keeping the Federal government open past September 30. However, an agreement on environmental permitting legislation is holding up the legislative process in the Senate. Sen. Manchin (D-WV) and Senator Schumer (D-NY) agreed to include Senator Manchin's Federal permitting legislation in the CR in exchange for his vote on the Inflation Reduction Act that passed Congress under reconciliation rules (needing only a simple majority vote in the Senate) a few weeks back. That agreement has upset the environmental community and many in Congress because it would speed development of fossil fuel projects, as well as clean energy ones. A CR will need 60 votes in the Senate and a majority vote in the House, and currently neither chamber has the votes to pass a CR and avoid a government shutdown. With two weeks left in the fiscal year and less than 50 days to the mid-term elections, the game of chicken has commenced as to which faction will blink first to avoid a government shutdown.

Grants

- One more reminder that the SMART grant Notice of Funding (NOFO) is open now and can be found at www.grants.gov. Applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM EDT on Friday, November 18, 2022. For more information visit <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SMART>
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [announced \\$59 million](#) in grant awards to address highway-railway grade crossing safety in California, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. The grants are made possible by the FHWA's Commuter Authority Rail Safety Improvement (CARSI) program, which has been funded by general funds appropriated for the last two years.
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of \$6.5 million in research funding for innovative transit bus automation demonstration projects that will improve safety and efficiency. The NOFO can be found [here](#).
- The [NOFO](#) for the Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment (ATTIMD) Program also known as Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Program was released. Up to \$60 million in Federal funding will be awarded to eligible entities to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment.
 - Applications are due by November 18, 2022.
 - Eligible Applicants include States or local governments, transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), or other political subdivisions of a State or local government (such as publicly owned toll or port authorities), or a multijurisdictional group or consortia of research institutions or academic institutions. The program permits partnerships with the private sector or public agencies, including multimodal

and multijurisdictional entities, research institutions, organizations representing transportation and technology leaders, or other transportation stakeholders but applicants are required to include a partnership plan in the technical application.

- Federal share is 80%.
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will host an Informational Session regarding this funding opportunity on October 12, 2022 EST. This session will be conducted as a virtual forum and will focus on specific topics to help potential Applicants gather additional information and ask specific questions. According to the NOFO registration information is forthcoming.

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - Competitive Grant Programs | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

[Grants | US Department of Transportation](#)

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law | FTA \(dot.gov\)](#)

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - FHWA | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant Programs | US Department of Transportation](#)