

FY2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill Omnibus Agreement Summary

The following are highlights of the FY2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

The final agreement provides \$57.301 billion in discretionary spending, which is a \$3.53 billion increase above FY2015 and more than \$5 billion below the President's budget request. Additionally, \$300 million in CDBG disaster relief is provided for 2015 storms in Texas and South Carolina. Given reduced offsets caused primarily by a \$1.1 billion decline in Federal Housing Administration receipts and a \$2.3 billion increase in the cost of maintaining existing rental housing vouchers, the overall bill actually represents an increase of only \$131 million above current levels.

U.S. Department of Transportation

The bill includes \$18.65 billion in FY2016 discretionary appropriations for the Department of Transportation, \$847 million above the FY2015 enacted level and \$2.7 billion below the President's request (disregarding the Administration's request to shift more than funding in certain programs from discretionary to mandatory spending.) Within this amount, funding is prioritized on programs to make the transportation systems safe, efficient, and reliable.

TIGER Grants – \$500 million, equal to the FY2015 enacted level, for TIGER grants, which are also known as National Infrastructure Investments.

Highway Trust Fund – \$42.36 billion from the Highway Trust Fund to be spent on the Federal-aid Highways Program, consistent with the recently-passed authorization in the FAST Act. The bill also allows \$2.1 billion in old, unused earmarks for infrastructure projects to be used on other important transportation projects.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – \$16.28 billion in total budgetary resources for the FAA, \$564 million above the FY2015 enacted level and \$445 million above the request. This will provide full funding for all air traffic control personnel, including 14,500 air traffic controllers, and more than 25,000 engineers, maintenance technicians, safety inspectors, and operational support personnel. The bill also makes investments in the FAA Next Generation Air Transportation Systems (NextGen) and the Contract Towers program to help ease future congestion and to help reduce delays for travelers in U.S. airspace. In addition, the bill rejects the administration's proposals for new passenger facility charge fees and transfer authority.

Federal Railroad Administration – \$1.68 billion, an increase of \$52 million above the FY2015 enacted level. This includes \$289 million for Amtrak operations and continued service for all current routes, and \$1.1 billion for capital grants. The bill also promotes necessary reforms to Amtrak, and repurposes \$19 million in old, unobligated rail funding to support the Northeast Corridor. The bill includes \$288 million to support rail safety and research programs, including inspectors and safety personnel to help ensure the safety of passengers and local communities. This funding also includes \$50 million for rail safety grants, to support the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) and improve rail infrastructure, such as track, tunnels and bridges.

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – \$11.76 billion, consistent with the recently-passed authorization in the FAST Act. The bill provides a total of \$2.177 billion for Capital Investment Grants (“New Starts”), fully funding all current “Full Funding Grant Agreement” (FFGA) transit projects, as well supports new projects anticipated to receive FFGA awards. Also \$50 million is provided for core capacity projects, and \$353 million for Small Starts projects.

U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) – \$399 million, \$58 million above the FY2015 enacted level, for MARAD to increase the productivity, efficiency and safety of the nation’s ports and intermodal water and land transportation. The Maritime Security Program is funded at the authorized level of \$210 million. The bill includes \$33.6 million for State Maritime Academies, including \$5 million to develop a replacement vessel for the six SMA training ships. These training ships are essential to continuing a strong merchant marine workforce. The bill includes \$5 million for the Marine Highway program to help mitigate landside congestion as well as \$5 million for the Assistance to Small Shipyards Program.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration – \$580 million for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The agreement includes several key safety provisions, including a requirement that the Department complete its final rule on Electronic Logging Devices and its proposed rule on Speed Limiters.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration – \$869 million in total budgetary resources for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, including an increase in funding for the Office of Defects Investigation to address concerns with vehicle recalls.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration – \$251 million for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to address safety concerns related to recent pipeline and crude oil by rail accidents. The bill includes language that will help develop web-based curriculum for local emergency responders

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

The final agreement includes a total of \$38.3 billion for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an increase of nearly \$2.7 billion above the FY2015 enacted level and \$2.3 billion below the budget request.

Community Planning and Development – \$6.65 billion, \$173 million above the FY2015 enacted level, for Community Planning and Development programs. The bill provides \$3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant formula program, \$2.25 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants, and \$950 million for the HOME program.

Emphasis on Youth Homelessness – The bill includes several provisions to expand and improve the delivery of HUD housing and services for homeless youth. A total of \$42.5 million is provided to test comprehensive efforts to end youth homelessness in urban and rural areas, as well as to better count the number of homeless youth and evaluate the effectiveness of current programs.

Moving-to-Work Expansion – The bill permits an additional 100 public housing agencies to participate in the program, which will enable innovative approaches to reduce the cost of housing assistance, improve program efficiency, and promote family self-sufficiency.

Section 8 Vouchers and Public Housing – \$26.89 billion is provided for Public and Indian Housing, a \$447 million increase above the FY2015 enacted level and \$1.86 billion below the budget request. This funding will continue assistance to all families and individuals currently served by these programs.

Preserving Rental Assistance – Other assisted-housing programs within the bill are funded at \$11.28 billion, an increase of \$930 million above the FY 2015 enacted level. The bulk of this increase is needed to provide a full year of funding on all project-based rental assistance contracts and continue assistance to all those currently served by these programs. Included in this amount is \$432.7 million for Housing for the Elderly, which is \$12.7 million above the FY2015 enacted level, and \$150.6 million for Housing for Persons with Disabilities, an increase of \$15.6 million above the FY2015 enacted level.

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