

MEMO

To: ITA

From: Gerry Hope, Chair
ITA Governance Committee

Date: August 12, 2021

RE: ITA Governance Committee zoom meeting notes.

DRAFT

Attended: MaryBeth Frank-Clark, Jonah Begay, William Willard, Myrna Chaney, Anthony Broncho, Richard Rolland, Paula Peterson, Kenneth Martin (Senate EPW Committee), Brittany Lundberg (House T&I Committee) and Gerry Hope – Committee Chair

Meeting began at 9:05am (AK Time)

Only one agenda item; Legislative Update – led by Kenneth Martin and Brittany Lundberg.

Meeting summary:

The meeting reported on the Senate bipartisan bill, H.R. 3684 Infrastructure Bill.

Based on NCAI's analysts, Kenneth and Brittany reviewed the summary, as follows.

The bipartisan Senate Bill will go to the House "side", with little to no ability for the House to change (add or subtract) the Senate's Bill. A side note, there is a separate/larger Bill of around \$3.5T that cannot add funding and **there will not be a conference committee to the H.R. 3684 Infrastructure Bill.**

- \$3.01B for the Tribal Transportation Program
- \$887.5B for Tribal projects from the Nationally Significant Federal Lands & Tribal Projects Program
- \$270M for BIA Roads Maintenance Program
- \$229.1M for Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program
- \$150M for Tribal High Priority Projects Program

- \$100M for the Bridge Investment Program – Tribal set aside
- \$28M for a transportation resiliency program set aside (see PROTECT grants)
- Various other programs expanding Tribal sovereignty and Tribal applicant eligibility to receive funding for transportation, environmental sustainability, fuels, freight, and rail programs
- Establishment of an Office of Tribal Government Affairs in the U.S. Department of Transportation and elevates the Deputy Assistant Secretary to Assistant Secretary.

The restoration of the Obligation Limitation on the TTP was not addressed in H.R. 3684 and is highly unlikely it will be addressed now. The approach to address the amount the Ob Limit takes out (annually) from the TTP is to request adding an estimated amount the Ob Limit would take out. For example, if the TTP is funded \$578M for FY22 and the Ob Limit deducted (took away) \$70M, Tribes would request adding that amount to the \$578M, making it \$648M for FY22 through the reconciliation process. ITA should consider a coordinated effort for Tribes to reach out to Congress regarding adding additional TTP funding through the reconciliation process. On the Senate side Senators to reach out to Senate EPW Committee members who have Tribes in the states, such as, Senator Merkley (OR), Senator Kelly (AZ), Senator Padilla (CA), Senator Stabenow (MI). And House T&I Committee members such as, Congressman Stanton (AZ), Congressman Johnson (GA), Congressman Young (AK), Congresswoman Sharice Davids (KS), and any Representatives or Senators who have Tribes in the Districts would be good to contact. **With the message, any additional funds for the TTP to offset the funding taken out due to the Ob Limit, additional funds will help.**

In addition, it will be important to follow up on inquiring about the need for a budget for the administrative costs for the Office of Tribal Government Affairs in the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Adjourned at 10:53am (AK Time)

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Hope