Preparing for the Transportation Reauthorization

Policies, Programs and Timelines

October 2019
Surface Transportation Reauthorization

What Does an Authorizing Act Do?

- A law that establishes or continues one or more Federal agencies or programs, establishes the terms and conditions under which they operate, authorizes the enactment of appropriations, and specifies how appropriated funds are to be used.
- Authorization bills create, modify, and/or extend agencies, programs.
- Limited in duration.
Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Components of the STR

- Highway Trust Fund
- Mass Transit Account
- Grant Programs
- Safety Provisions
- Special Policy Provisions
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Amtrak - National Network</td>
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Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008

- **Funding**: Set annual funding levels for Amtrak’s capital and operating accounts (no dedicated revenue)
- **Safety**: Established requirement and deadline for Positive Train Control
- **Special Policy Provisions**: Created Next Generation Equipment Committee (Sec. 305)
Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008

- Special Policy Provisions / Funding: Directed Amtrak to create methodology for allocating costs to States cost of providing intercity service on routes under 750 miles (Sec. 209)
- Special Policy: Directed Amtrak and FRA to develop metrics and minimum standards for measuring the performance and service quality of intercity passenger train service (Sec. 207)
Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015

- Included Intercity Passenger Rail for the first time
- Funding: Restructured Amtrak’s annual grant from [Capital/Operating] to [Northeast Corridor/National Network]
- Funding: Created three new grant programs—Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement, Federal-State Partnership for Good Repair, Restoration and Enhancement
Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015

• Special Policy: Expands Amtrak board (9 members to 10).
• Special Policy: Amtrak shall develop and begin implementing a plan to eliminate the operating loss associated with providing food and beverage service on board Amtrak trains.
Studies and Committees and Reports and Studies and Committees and Reports

- PRIIA Amtrak Pioneer and Sunset Restoration Studies
- PRIIA Amtrak Route Improvement Studies
- Gulf Coast Working Group
- National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure
- USDOT Shared-Use Study
- NEC Commission Through-Ticketing and Procurement Study
- Amtrak OIG Report on Amtrak Boarding Procedures
- Competitive Passenger Rail Service Pilot Program
- USDOT RFP for Performance-Based HSR Proposals
Nominal Reauthorization Timeline for 2019

February: New Chair and Committee assignments

March: Relevant Committees begin initial round of hearings

April: Rail Passengers Day on the Hill

May: Bill introduced into House

May: Bill referred to Committee Ways and Means

June: Bill passes full House

July: Received in Senate

July: Bill referred to Committees on Finance

July: Senate passes bill

September: Conferees resolve differences

September: Final passage into law
Actual Timeline of the Last Surface Reauthorization

- February 2009: New Chair and Committee assignments
- March: Relevant Committees begin initial round of hearings
- May: Bill introduced into House
- May: Bill referred to Committee Ways and Means
- June: Bill passes full House
- July: Received in Senate
- July: Bill referred to Committees on Finance
- August: Process Collapses
- September 2009: SAFTEA-LU expires
- Six Years and Three Short Term Extensions
- The FAST Act is Passed in December 2015
The CBO projects the trust fund’s cumulative deficits will grow from $21 billion in fiscal year 2022 to $108 billion by fiscal year 2026.

The Budget Control Act lowers domestic discretionary caps by $71 billion in FY 2020.